

**LA PORTE PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
BOARD MINUTES
FEBRUARY 19, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by President Mitch Felkes who also led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. Also attending the meeting were Denise Bealor, Nicole Messacar, Mark Schreiber, Cole Smith, Kyle Cashmer, Gregory Pietsch and Roberta Mumaw.

RECOGNITIONS

None

MINUTES

The minutes from the previous month's meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Denise Bealor, seconded by Nicole Messacar.

BILLS AND CLAIMS

The bills and claims in the amount of \$189,596.06 were unanimously approved on a motion by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Denise Bealor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mark Schreiber presented the Park Departments 2024 Annual Report. He also noted that park appropriations show a negative balance of \$36,000. This is due to the transfer from the general fund of \$50,000 to Beechwood Capital Non-Reverting. The motion to accept the 2024 Annual Report was unanimously approved on a motion by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Denise Bealor.

Mark Schreiber presented the designs for the wellhouse that will be constructed at the Soldiers Memorial Park wellfield site. Once constructed the facility will be painted brown to blend in with the environment. The motion to accept the well house designs was approved unanimously on a motion by Denise Bealor, seconded by Nicole Messacar.

Mark Schreiber updated the board on the ongoing repairs to the elevator at the Civic Auditorium. The elevator has been down since July due to a bad hydraulic pump and valve. This was needed and did help, however the rails on the elevator are bad and triggering the safety switch causing the elevator to stop. Gregory Pietsch is currently working on getting a price to replace the rails. The repair is option 1, option 2 would be to replace with a whole new lift, option 3 would be a complete tear out with a newer model elevator. There is some funding within the city if we opt for a new elevator. There has been discussion regarding adding a second elevator that would service the main floor and the balcony, with the old elevator used more as a service elevator. There are grants available for a new elevator, but not to repair. The city has COVID dollars available that could potentially be used to cover a new elevator but cannot be used for repairs.

Mark Schreiber requested permission to spend up to \$40,000 to secure the headliner for Lakefest. The motion was made by Denise Bealor to spend up to \$40,000 to secure the

headliner for Lakefest. Nicole Messacar inquired as to what fund would be used for this expense. Mark Schreiber stated this will come out of Park Non-Reverting with funds generated through sponsorships and earned income. Motion passed unanimously.

Mark Schreiber requested board approval to sign a contract with Pyrotechnico for the fireworks show for Lakefest as well as July 3. Each show will cost \$17,000. These are supported by sponsorships. The motion to approve the contract with Pyrotechnico for fireworks on July 3 and July 27 in the amount of \$17,000 each was unanimously approved on a motion by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Denise Bealor.

Kyle Cashmer requested Board approval to attend the annual PGA Conference in Muncie on February 24 and 25. The hotel fee will be \$130 per night plus \$150 for the conference fee. The request by Kyle Cashmer to attend the 2025 PGA conference was unanimously approved on a motion by Denise Bealor, seconded by Nicole Messacar.

BOARD MEMBER/DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Mark Schreiber credited the staff for a great Winterfest. The downtown ice rink was well attended with approximately 1,480 skaters. This is an increase this year thanks to the sponsors who supported our free skate Fridays and the BOGO Sundays.

Gregory Pietsch updated with upcoming Civic events:

February 21 Purple Xperience – A tribute to Prince with IPOP as the opener
 March 7 Artimus Pyle Band -Lynard Skynyrd tribute band
 March 21 Rumours

The motion to adjourn was made by Denise Bealor, seconded by Nicole Messacar. Motion passed unanimously.



Mitch Felkes, President



Roberta Mumaw, Secretary

Approved: 3-19-25