LA PORTE PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
BOARD MINUTES
APRIL 15, 2026

The meeting was called to order by President Mitch Feikes who also led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. Also in attendance was Ryan Seaburg, Sam Carmel, Jeff Starkey, Nicole Messacar, Mark Schreiber, Kyle Cashmer, Evan Miller, Rhonda Ashcraft, Karyl Feikes and Roberta Mumaw.

RECOGNITIONS

This is not considered a formal recognition, however Mark Schreiber introduced our newest board member Jeff Starkey. Jeff is the appointee from the Library Board. Jeff is married with 6 children, loves the parks and is looking forward to being on the park board.

MINUTES

The minutes from the March meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Ryan Seaburg, seconded by Nicole Messacar.

BILLS AND CLAIMS

The motion to approve the bills and claims in the amount of $124,889.04 was made by Ryan Seaburg, seconded by Nicole Messacar. Mitch Feikes asked if the Park Department will be paying for the fireworks. Mark Schreiber stated that the Park Department oversees the July 3 fireworks, however they are fully funded by the Convention and Visitors Bureau. The motion to approve the bills and claims was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Mark Schreiber updated the Board on the Civic Auditorium Elevator. We have received the release of funds from the HUD office. Approximately $241,000 in CBDBG COVID funds. Bids were sent out twice with no bids received either time. With no bids coming in we can now work directly with a general contractor to oversee the project. We are currently in conversation with a couple of local general contractors that will hopefully be able to work with an elevator company. The funds will need to be spent by the end of July.

NEW BUSINESS

Mark Schreiber informed the Board that he has recently spoken with the project manager for the Soldiers Memorial project. Most of the restoration should be complete by next week with paving to begin after. Once the paving is complete, bidding will begin for the mountain bike trailhead project(restroom/parking) once those bids are in the bidding for the multi-use trail extension from Craven to Orchard will be sent out in June. These projects will be paid through Health Foundation monies. Nicole Messacar requested that the proper stormwater protection be put in place.

Mark Schreiber stated the ACOA will remain at its current location for an additional year. The rent/utilities will remain the same at $2270.12 per month. Since the ACOA has been in it's current location Meal on Wheels has used a portion of the area to distribute meals. Currently they are using 2 rooms. They have been using the area at no charge. We are currently looking at charging them 10% of the monthly rent, which would be approximately $227 per month.

At this time Mark Schreiber is requesting permission to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Meals on Wheels that would allow us to charge the monthly rate for the use of their space. Mark Schreiber also stated that he is on the Meals on Wheels Board. The motion to approve signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Meals on Wheels was made by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Ryan Seaburg. La Porte Hospital has given authorization to sublet the area. Mitch Feikes states that the rental rate for that commercial space is a phenomenal rate. Motion passed unanimously.

Evan Miller informed the board that he is currently working with the owner of Reform Pilates to hold Pilates in the park. There will be 3 different sessions offered with the first one beginning in May and then continuing through July. Each session will be held weekly on Wednesday, and each month will be at a different park. The May session will be at Unity Park, June they will meet at Fox Park Amphitheater and July will be determined at a later data. The fee will be $20 per class or $70 if signing up for all 4 classes. The motion to approve the rates for pilates in the park was made by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Sam Carmel. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mark Schreiber is requesting permission to dispose of 2 pieces of equipment:

2004 Chevy 1 ton 1GBJK34UX4E349760

2011 Electric think car (received from transport)

Neither are operational nor have no value.

The motion to dispose of the 2 pieces of equipment was unanimously approved on a motion by Ryan Seaburg, seconded by Jeff Starkey.

BOARD MEMBER/DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Mark Schreiber reminded the Board that the Park Foundations Earth Day 5K is coming up on April 25. Currently there are 180 registered for the event.

Rhonda Ashcraft updated the board on the upcoming Civic events:

4/18 La Porte Symphony – Remember When Rock was Young _ Elton John Tribute

4/25 Knotfest

4/21 Microsoft - general open house

Kyle Cashmer stated that the course is open and has been busy on nice days.

The motion to adjourn was made by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Ryan Seaburg. Motion was approved unanimously.

Mitch Feikes, President

Roberta Mumaw, Secretary

Approved: 5-20-24