LA PORTE PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
BOARD MINUTES
AUGUST 19, 2026

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

RECOGNITIONS
None

MINUTES
The minutes from the July 15, 2026, meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Ryan Seaburg.

BILLS AND CLAIMS
The bills and claims in the amount of $115,327.29 were unanimously approved on a motion by Ryan Seaburg, seconded by Nicole Messacar.

PUBLIC COMMENT
John Dysart
3782 W. Joliet Road
La Porte, IN 46350
Mr. Dysart is on the committee for the Door Village Festival that raises money for the Door Village park improvements. The festival this year is September 12 – 13, 2026. Mr. Dysart is asking permission to place a farm wagon with their advertising sign for their upcoming festival at the Dennis F. Smith Amphitheater for the upcoming Arts in the Park concert featuring Cripple Creek to be held Thursday August 20, 2026. Mark Schreiber cautioned the board that if this was approved, they would be opening the door for requests from other organizations. The motion to allow the wagon with the Door Village Festival advertisement at the amphitheater was made by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Ryan Seaburg. Ryan Seaburg asked if Arts in the Park would be ok with the wagon with advertising being parked at the park during their event would this be an issue with the Park Department. Mark Schreiber stated if the wagon was parked during the Arts in the Park event between the hours of 5pm – 9pm it would not be an issue. The previous issue was that the wagon was parked all day with no permission asked. The motion did not pass.

SUB-COMMITTEE
None

OLD BUSINESS
Mark Schreiber updated the Board on the progress with the Civic elevator. Delivery was expected on August 10; however, Otis Elevator did not take delivery at that time. After reaching out to the elevator build company it was found out that they are still 3-6 weeks out for parts. With this delay it puts installation in sometime during the month of November.

Mark Schreiber has received word that the YMCA will no longer need the requested area in Fox Park for their community center.

NEW BUSINESS
Evan Miller is requesting board approval to increase the pay for youth baseball umpires for the major and minor league levels. The increase would be between $3-$5 dollars. The rate

has not changed for several years. The motion to increase the requested umpire pay was made by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Ryan Seaburg. These fees are paid with non-reverting funds. The motion passed unanimously.

Mark Schreiber is requesting permission from the board to allow participants and volunteers participating in the Dunebrook Dragon boat races to park off the roadways. The motion to allow the request was made by Ryan Seaburg, seconded by Sam Carmel.

Mark Schreiber is requesting approval to reimburse our lifeguards for the open water certification that they received. Our guards are certified in deep water; however, this was an additional certification. We have 5 lifeguards that would receive the reimbursement of $129. The motion to approve the request was made by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Ryan Seaburg. Motion passed unanimously.

BOARD MEMBER/DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Mark Schreiber informed the board that due to the storm we lost approximately 100 trees and large branches down throughout the parks with Beechwood also losing about 30 trees. Fortunately, there was no major structural damage. Our staff has done a tremendous job getting all areas cleaned up. There will be an arborist checking the tree canopy at Fox park and Cummings Lodge.

Mark Schreiber stated that our Lakefest event this year was well attended. It is estimated that there were over 4000 people for the Uncle Kracker concert on Saturday.

Nicole Messacar appreciates that Mark Schreiber diligently posts the bacteria postings that are done through the Health Department for our local lakes. Nicole also stated that if there are any questions regarding the levels in the lakes anyone may contact her.

Rhonda Ashcraft gave an updated list of upcoming events at the Civic Auditorium:
August 28 Ten Band – Pearl Jam Tribute Band
September 12 – Hoosier Star
September 18 – AC/DC Tribute Band
September 25 – Country Line Dancing

Kyle Cashmer thanked his staff and volunteers for all the efforts during storm clean up. He also stated that Dave Pendergast provided funding for a new cart path on #16. Jeff Workman donated the labor for the project, with the only other cost being the concrete. There is also a fill project that will begin next week on #17.

Ryan Seaburg thanked the staff for all their efforts during the storm. He is proud of how the community has come together.

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

Mitch Feikes, President

Roberta Mumaw – Secretary

Approved: 9-16-26