LA PORTE PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
BOARD MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 16, 2026

The meeting was called to order by President Mitch Feikes, who also led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. Also in attendance were Sam Carmel, Murrell (Jr) Francis, Nicole Messacar, Mark Schreiber, Evan Miller, Kyle Cashmer, Rhonda Ashcraft, Karyl Feikes, and Roberta Mumaw.

RECOGNITIONS
None

MINUTES
The minutes from the August 19, 2026, meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Murrell Francis.

BILLS AND CLAIMS
The bills and claims were unanimously approved on a motion by Murrell Francis, seconded by Sam Carmel.

PUBLIC COMMENT
None

SUB-COMMITTEE
None

OLD BUSINESS
Mark Schreiber updated the board on the status of the replacement of the elevator at the Civic Auditorium. The current delay in the process is due to the custom doors that need to fit a 32-inch opening, this is due to a somewhat dated Indiana Code. Delivery may not be until the end of October. The new schematics are complete but have not been sent out for manufacturing. Otis Elevator will be back onsite to continue any type of tear out that is required. We have received an extension from HUD until October 30 for submitting any invoices.

NEW BUSINESS
Mark Schreiber informed the board that the decision has been made to discontinue offering the downtown ice rink. This decision was based on several things such as lagging business and community support, and the dramatic cost of utilities and other expenses. It was decided it is best to put our resources into other amenities and programs. The rink has also been a strain on our staff as well as our park non-reverting budget. The last 5 years have been a great experience, and we thank those that have supported the rink. We will weigh out the options of what the future holds for the rink, with options being to relocate the rink or sell it and the 300 pairs of skates that are included with the rink.

Mark Schreiber requested board approval for himself and Evan Miller to attend the IPRA conference November 3-4 in Ft. Wayne. Registration is $370 per person plus 2 hotel rooms for the 2 days. The request was unanimously approved on a motion by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Murrell Francis.

BOARD MEMBER/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Mak Schreiber updated the Board on the storm recovery process. The City has contracted with a company to remove any downed brush from residents as well as anything that is still down within the parks. The City is currently working with a consultant who will assist us in working with the state to recover storm funds through FEMA. Beechwood still has several trees down; however, they are out of play. These will have to wait until the course firms up to prevent any damage to the course. Mitch Feikes asked if there were any outside contractors used. Mark Schreiber stated there were 2 contractors used to remove trees and limbs that were to large for our staff to remove.

Upcoming Civic Auditorium events:
September 18 All female AC/DC Tribute Band
September 25 Country Line Dancing
October 9 Rumors – Fleetwood Mac Tribute Band

The motion to adjourn was unanimously approved on a motion by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Murrell Francis.

Mitch Feikes, President

Roberta Mumaw, Secretary

Approved: 10-21-26