

MINUTES

PARK BOARD MEETING

May 20, 2014

PETE THORN CENTER ACTIVITIES ROOM 5:15

The Warsaw Parks & Recreation Board met for its monthly meeting on May 20, 2014 at 5:15 PM at the Pete Thorn Center Activities Room. Attendance was noted as follows:

PRESENT: Board Members Bill Baldwin, Steve Haines, Rick Paczkowski, Michelle Boxell, Larry Ladd & Diane Quance. Also present: Park Superintendent Larry Plummer, Jr., Maintenance Director Shaun Gardner, Recreation Director Staci Young & Secretary Sheila Wieringa.

ABSENT: None.

GUESTS: Mayor, Joe Thallemer.

CALL TO ORDER: Board President Baldwin called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Superintendent Plummer requested a change in the April 15, 2014 minutes, adding the word "style" in the first paragraph of "New Business" directly after "Little Tykes". The minutes were approved, pending this change, on a motion by Board Member Haines, seconded by Board Member Paczkowski, all in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mayor Thallemer was in attendance to discuss the Buffalo Street project. He began by giving a brief overview of the project. The old Indiana American Water building (IAW), along with three residential buildings along Buffalo Street, have been purchased as part of the Hyatt-Palma Study, whose goal is to connect the downtown and Center Lake areas via Buffalo Street. In 2009, a Boulevard concept was drawn up for mixed use and attraction to the lake. He explained this is all in the planning stages with the redevelopment commission and they are working toward the project, but there is nothing concrete at this time. There are possibilities of moving administrative offices and the boat ramp. Mayor Thallemer is requesting input from the park board. Key points discussed were:

Funding: TIF funding that may need to be used and can be used toward project. These funds expire in 2025. If the project plans are set by July 1, 2015, TIF can be extended to 2040.

Office: The office & maintenance locations are to be determined through the planning process, however it was recommended by the Board that it stay in the Central Park campus area.

Public Feedback: This concept began when the Ball State Charette did a study about livable communities and there was an interest in that.

Residential vs. Commercial space: The space down Buffalo St. will be mostly residential, possibly with store fronts on first floor and condos above. This is still in the planning phases.

Demolition: The demolition of the old IAW will not be done this year, as originally planned. It will be put in with the master plan for Buffalo St. and paid for with project money.

At the April meeting, approval was given to remove the spiral slide from the beach at Kiddieland. Maintenance Director Gardner reported the slide has been removed, along with the concrete bases and the holes filled with sand.

Maintenance Director Gardner also reported the roof at the Firemen's Building has been stripped and replaced with a new metal roof.

NEW BUSINESS:

Superintendent Plummer reported that removal of the Noah's Ark play structure will begin soon, as well as removing the small "A frame" play structure. He presented to the Board a "Jam Box" 2 piece structure that will fit in the available space when the "A frame" structure is removed (see attached literature). The piece was approved on a motion by Board Member Haines, Seconded by Board Member Boxell.

Superintendent Plummer also reported that the benches and tables at McKinley Park are in the process of being replaced. The existing equipment there is 22 years old and is starting to show metal rot. There is some existing concrete that must be removed, and then the project can be completed.

An issue was brought to the Board's attention regarding a recent shelter rental, where the shelter was used for a "yard sale" type fundraiser and the renters left the unsold items for the park to dispose of. Superintendent Plummer asked the Board for input on how to approach the issue in the future. President Baldwin requested the Board take some time to think it over and be ready to discuss at the June meeting.

In other matters, Maintenance Director Gardner reported to the Board that all the flower planting in the parks is complete and the downtown will be finished up tomorrow.

Seven dead Cleveland Pear trees were replaced this week in the downtown beds due to the unusually brutal winter.

Willie 103.5 will be holding the first Willie Chili Dogs in the Park tomorrow from 11-1 at the West Shelter. There is no charge for this program.

Superintendent Plummer reported he received all the necessary entertainment permits for the 2014 season and passed with no violations.

The Center & Pike Lake Beaches will open for the season this Saturday, May 24.

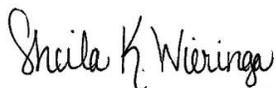
A Thank You letter was received from Larry Pepple of the Kiwanis group from their annual Pancake Breakfast that was held in the Center Lake Pavilion April 19th. Please see attached.

Board Member Paczkowski mentioned to the Mayor that he was very pleased with the Park Personnel and the passion they put into their work, trying to keep everything functioning and looking better each time they go out to complete a job. He stated he is proud to be on a board that has people who take pride in their job. The community is very fortunate to have such loyal employees taking care of our parks.

Recreation Director Staci Young reported that the Mommy Son event had 50 people in attendance, which is up slightly from last year. Also, the 2014 Friday evening Concert Series at the Central Park Plaza begins this Friday night.

There being no further matters to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Board Member Haines, seconded by Board Member Paczkowski, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sheila Wieringa
Secretary