

MINUTES

PARK BOARD MEETING
FIREMEN'S BUILDING
April 19, 2016, 5:15 P.M.

The Warsaw Parks & Recreation Board met for its monthly meeting on April 19, 2016, at 5:15 PM at the Firemen's Building. Attendance was noted as follows:

PRESENT: Board Members Steve Haines, Diane Quance, & Rick Paczkowski. Also present: Park Superintendent Larry Plummer, Jr., Maintenance Director Shaun Gardner, Recreation Director Sheila Wieringa, & Secretary Heather Frazier

GUESTS: Pat Brown, SiteScapes, Inc & Marcie Franks, WCS

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes were approved on a motion by Board Member Paczkowski, seconded by Board Member Haines, all in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Pat Brown from SiteScapes, informed the Park Board that in reference to the 5-year master plan, that we are currently a month ahead of schedule, even including being able to provide a sample survey. The survey consists of roughly 5-6 questions ranging from park maintenance to park quality. Within the next 24 hours or so the surveys will be available both in hard copy and on Survey Monkey, an internet based site. To help get a better response on the surveys, the Park's Department will be utilizing their Facebook Page, attaching the survey with utility bills, and other local and internet options. In prior years, most of the surveys were passed out or mailed by hand and after sending roughly 4600 surveys out, there were only approximately 400 that were returned with feedback. So hopefully by making it easier to complete by making it more accessible more individuals will be willing to complete it. After a few changes/additions to the survey questions, a final draft will be completed and available to the public on April 20, 2016. Also attached was the Park's Department's mission statement, which Brown advised should be revisited every 5 years to update or adjust accordingly.

NEW BUSINESS:

Superintendent Plummer informed the Board that Danielle Brown had rescheduled from this Park Board Meeting to the next one in May.

Marcie Franks from the WCS Food and Nutrition Services had presented to the board and requested that for the 10th year, the WCS be able to use the Bixler Shelter at Center Lake for their summer meal program. The lunches would start no earlier than June 6, 2016, and ending no later than July 29, 2016. There would be no meals served the week of July 4, 2016. Typically, the number of meals served ranges from 100-150 per day; however, last summer they saw the highest number reaching over 160 meals and had to request for additional help in serving the meals. The meals are available for free for children under the age of 18 and adults have an opportunity to purchase a meal, however, pricing has yet to be determined. "Our purpose in making this program available to more children is to help meet basic nutritional needs and to help lower income children return to school ready to learn." Due to a lack of quorum, no vote could be taken. However, a motion to approve the program will be revisited at the next Park Board Meeting in May 2016.

Superintendent Plummer provided both park playground equipment and exercise equipment samples on what the Park's Department is considering to replace the outdated equipment at Lucerne Park, which is originally from

the 1980s. Some of the samples included playground equipment such as spider climber for children, a tilted wheel, slides, climbing walls, and even handicapped accessible equipment. The playground sets could be purchased as individual items, ultimately being able to customize a playground fit to meet the needs specifically for Lucerne Park. Some of the options looked more rustic, which matches Lucerne Park's charm. The only playground equipment that will remain at Lucerne Park, is the big swing set and spiral slide; however, all other equipment will be replaced. To help with installation, it would be ideal to get the new equipment ordered as soon as time allows due to increased summer staff.

Plummer also provided two very different options for exercise equipment, where one option consisted of several different machines all targeting separate muscle groups and the other a single unit, Apollo, which was one structure adapted to provide several different types of exercises. Plummer reinforced that the Board should ultimately decide which area they would like to focus on more, strength building or cardio. The Apollo, would be ideal at a maintenance standpoint and due to the fact that the structure was originally built to be placed in jails, making vandalism more difficult. No matter what choice the Board fully makes, the ultimate goal of the exercise equipment is to make it available to those in the community who are unable to afford a gym membership but still wish to receive the health benefits from it. Due to a lack of quorum, no vote could be taken. However, a motion to approve both the playground and exercise equipment will be revisited at the next Park Board Meeting in May 2016.

OTHER MATTERS:

Plummer informed the Park Board that the Park Department has started training on the BoardPaq and after some changes are incorporated training for Board Members will be given. This could either be at a separate time or staying a little later after the monthly Park Board Meetings.

Recreation Director Wieringa informed the Board that the new Central Park Banners were being installed at the park earlier in the day and are expected to be finished the following day. The Park's Department is pleased with the finished product along with the collaboration with Big Picture Imagery.

Earlier in the day, both Superintendent Plummer and Maintenance Director Gardner had met with Tim Hori from Warsaw Fiber to get the Wi-Fi or hotspot installed at the Pike Lake Campground. Hopefully, within the next few days everything will be installed and ready to use. The Wi-Fi will not only help with Park Board Meetings, especially once the transition to using the BoardPaq is finalized, but also gives campers the opportunity to stream music, check emails, and other miscellaneous searches. As time progresses and a need for it arises, campers may have the opportunity to purchase additional data to stream movies. That along with improvements to the campground have already proven beneficial to the now 29 seasonal campers at the campground.

The Mantis Skate Park is now officially open and the improvements made there, as well, have received positive feedback from those utilizing the park. The park has been there since 1995 and continues to be a safe and positive influence for many children.

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Heather Frazier
Secretary