



## MINUTES

**City of Warsaw  
Parks and Recreation Board  
Regular Meeting (Parks)  
Tuesday, September 19, 2017, 5:15 pm - 6:15 pm  
Pete Thorn Youth Center**

### In Attendance

Bill Baldwin; Heather Frazier; Jill Beehler; Joe Thallemer; Larry Ladd; Larry Plummer; Michelle Boxell; Shaun Gardner; Sheila Wieringa; Steve Haines

### Not In Attendance

Diane Quance

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Board President Steve Haines called the meeting to order.

### II. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES

The August 2017, minutes were approved on a motion by Board Member Boxell, seconded by Board Member Baldwin.

Move: Michelle Boxell Second: Bill Baldwin Status: Passed

### III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### 1. *Oath of Office Jill Beehler*

Mayor Joe Thallemer sworn in new Park Board Member Jill Beehler. Jill is the new representative for the Library Board.

## IV. NEW BUSINESS

### 1. *Request for Chess/Checker Boards*

Steven Lockridge, a community resident, approached the Park Board and introduced an idea he had about placing a permanent checkerboard in the parks, ideally Central Park. He advised it would ultimately be a permanent table and bench combination, where those who want to utilize the new feature would have to bring the pieces in order to play. Steven is looking at raising funds for the feature, which ultimately costs approximately \$2000 for both the table and bench/seats.

Steven is ultimately looking for approval from the Board for once he finds adequate funding to come back to the Park Board to propose and discuss the location of the item.

Steven requested a motion to re-approach the Park Board to discuss placement of the checkerboard feature after adequate funding is established, which was approved by Board Member Baldwin, seconded by Board Member Boxell.

Move: Bill Baldwin Second: Michelle Boxell Status: Passed

### 2. *Review Rates for Facilities*

Superintendent Plummer, reviewed a handout with Park Board members reference the current rental rates of all park facilities, shelters, tables, and the campground. Plummer wanted to give the Park Board ample time to review these rates for a discussion about possible adjustments for the October Park Board meeting.

### *3. Maintenance Report*

Maintenance Director Gardner informed the Park Board that the maintenance staff has begun going through the holiday displays to make sure that all lights are working correctly and if not to start repairing them. The new restroom footer will be poured at Richardson-Dubois tomorrow (9/20/17). Phase 1 of the LED replacement has begun at PTYC and will gradually be continued throughout the facility until completed.

Superintendent Plummer took some time to inform the Park Board about some of the new progress at Kelly Park reference the sledding hill, a new feature currently being built there. In collaboration with G&G Hauling and Excavating, the Storm Water Project, and other future projects the parks department is able to incorporate this feature so far at no cost. This is tremendous as it was in our 5-year master plan; however, was not a high priority compared to other necessary projects. Because of these projects, this new feature is literally growing before our eyes. The hill is only about half way completed. The south side of the hill is constructed; however, the north and west side still require more dirt in order to complete. As G&G has available dirt from projects, they will complete the hill. Within the next few weeks we will be planting grass seed on the hill so that it can be used this winter for sledding. As dirt is added, more grass seed will be planted until completion.

### *4. Recreation Report*

Recreation Director Wieringa reviewed past events and upcoming events. Wieringa informed the Park Board that as she has previously stated one of her goals was to help encourage participation and expand the Mantis Skate Park and it was accomplished. Participation numbers, park visits, and attendees have more than tripled when compared to last year's totals. With that being said, Wieringa advised that they had a trial basis with allowing scooters in the park. What they had found is that the older siblings who were comfortable on their skateboards were able to bring their younger siblings, who weren't ready for that yet, but had scooters. All were able to participate at the skate park without any problems, there was no damage, and safety rules applied to both those who used skateboards and those who used scooters.

Wieringa asked the Park Board's permission to modify the pre-existing skate park rule that states "all bikes and scooters are prohibited" to allow the use of scooters, at the discretion of park employees. A motion accommodate this change was approved by Board Member Ladd, seconded by Board Member Baldwin.

Move: Larry Ladd Second: Bill Baldwin Status: Passed

## V. OTHER MATTERS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Mike Metzger and numerous other Pickle Ball supporters addressed the Park Board and asked for consideration of removing a tennis court from Kelly Park and converting it to house permanent Pickle Ball Courts. Metzger provided the Board with 2 quotes, the lesser of the quotes being around \$8000, to paint and possibly resurface the existing tennis courts to accommodate the change. President Steve Haines asked Metzger if he has sought funding or how he plans to budget the project and Metzger advised that no funding at this time has been sought.

After numerous questions it was ultimately decided that the Park Board and Park Staff will need to find out how frequent the tennis courts at Kelly Park get used and advised that funding along with location issues (pending on how frequent the tennis courts are used) may be an issue.

## VI. MEETING REVIEW

## VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further matters to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Move: Larry Ladd Second: Bill Baldwin Status: Passed