

MINUTES

**City of Warsaw
Parks and Recreation Board
Regular Meeting (Parks)
Tuesday, September 17, 2019, 5:15 pm - 6:15 pm
Council Chambers**

In Attendance

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Park Board President Steve Haines called the meeting to order.

II. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES

1. *Approval of June 2019 Minutes*

The June 2019, minutes were approved on a motion by Board Member Beehler, seconded by Board Member Boxell.

Move: Jill Beehler Second: Michelle Boxell Status: Passed

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. *Campground Manager*

Park Superintendent Plummer advised that we have a "new" campground manager for the Pike Lake Campground. Ira had worked for the Parks Department for roughly 18 years prior as well. He has expressed interest in returning for the 2020 season.

2. *Amphitheater Progress/Fees*

Plummer informed the Board the Lucerne Park Amphitheater is moving along smoothly. Roche is completing the project and is expected to have it finished at the end of this month. Once

Roche has completed their end of the project, park employees will come in and run electrical, place the ornamental lights, and also apply grass seed. The ribbon cutting for the area will be done in the spring time.

Because of the large improvements, Plummer asked the Board to consider the fees they would like to see the facility rented for. The past rental fee for the amphitheater was \$26.75. Plummer stated he thinks the rental fee should be comparative to what we charge for the Central Park Plaza. We would like to get these fees locked in no later than December, so we can start to schedule reservations for the 2020 rental season.

3. Kelly Park Parking Lot Progress

As a continued process to improve Kelly Park, G&G will be starting to install a new parking lot next Monday on the south side of the park. This will be located right off Baker Street to help add additional parking for both the park itself but also for the sledding hill.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. K21 Grant Opportunity Discussion

Mayor Thallemer advised that both KYLA and the K21 Community Foundation have expressed the need for more outdoor community involvement during the winter months. To help push this initiative, the K21 Foundation's Board voted and approved a contribution of 1 million dollars for an ice skating facility. Due to the large amount of the grant being offered, Mayor Thallemer advised he felt it was worth further consideration.

There are numerous locations near and around Central Park that could possibly be the site for the facility. Possible locations could include Bixler Park at the North end or where the tennis courts are currently located, near Nye Park or where Buffalo and Indiana Street connect, incorporated into the mixed use building

proposed where our office was located in Central Park, or even possibly a different park within Warsaw City Limits. Mayor stated he understands one of the biggest deterrents when the ice facility was last proposed was the cost of maintaining the facility as well as labor costs associated with running it. With that being said, Mayor advised he may have access to an endowment fund, which would be specifically used for winter time recreational use.

The Mayor asked the Board thinks about possible locations and encourages the Board to reach out to Rich Haddad from K21, to see if he could come to the next Park Board meeting to discuss the grant opportunity and possible locations for the ice skating facility.

2. Park Office Temporary Location

Superintendent Plummer advised that the Park Office has moved to our temporary location at the Pete Thorn Youth Center, 800 N Park Avenue. All other contact information will remain the same.

3. Maintenance Report

Maintenance Director Gardner stated that since our last Park Board Meeting, the Parks Department has installed the playground at Kelly Park, which was quite the large undertaking. We also held the ribbon cutting for both the new playground and the pickleball courts on September 4, 2019. Gardner advised that a few days following the ribbon cutting he took his family to Kelly Park and their were about 20 kids playing on the playground. He stated that numerous people were walking from the nearby neighborhoods and believes the park is a great contribution to the South side of town.

Park employees are gearing up for fall. Around October 1st, we will start the winterization process with the parks by removing the picnic tables, closing the restrooms, and blowing out the water lines for the sprinkler system. We've also started checking some Christmas lights.

4. Mantis Relocation-Conceptual Design

Recreation Director Wieringa informed the Park Board she had contacted American Ramp Company to put together a conceptual design for the relocation of the Mantis Skate Park. The conceptual design will include an overall design of a new skate park facility at Richardson-Dubois Park. This process was initially part of both the 5 Year Master Plan as well as the Stellar Project.

5. Recreation Report

Recreation Director Wieringa reviewed the participation of the summer events and advised all summer staff is done, with the exception of the skate park employees. Fall and winter programs are starting to gear up. Additionally, she has started working on the sponsorship guides and then starting next month, she will start to review bands for the 2020 concert season.

Park Board Vice President Larry Ladd had asked if we had heard of any issues regarding the shortage of lifeguards on our beaches. Plummer stated that he does not recall hearing about any issues, as it is a nation wide issue. He did advise that our insurance company had contacted the department and voiced concerns over the pier when lifeguards were not present. Due to these concerns, we have placed signs on the piers that ask park patrons to not swim or jump off the piers when lifeguards are not present. Additionally, the insurance company also asked that we eliminate the diving boards at both Pike Lake and Center Lake.

V. OTHER MATTERS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

VI. MEETING REVIEW

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Move: Larry Ladd Second: Jill Beehler Status: Passed

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Heather Frazier".

Heather Frazier
Park Board Secretary