

MINUTES

**City of Warsaw
Parks and Recreation Board
Regular Meeting (Parks)
Tuesday, October 19, 2021, 5:15 pm - 6:15 pm
Council Chambers**

In Attendance

Diane Quance; Jill Beehler; Larry Ladd; Larry Plummer; Michelle Boxell; Shaun Gardner; Stephanie Schaefer; Steve Haines; Suzanne Stokes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Park Board President Steve Haines called the meeting to order.

II. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES

The September 2021 meeting minutes were approved by the Board with a motion by Board Member Michelle Boxell and seconded by Jill Beehler.

Move: Michelle Boxell Second: Jill Beehler Status: Passed

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. 5 Year Master Plan

Deb from Cornerstone PDS was in attendance to present the official draft of the 5 Year Plan. She explained the draft is the formal written document for viewing, reviewing, and tying up loose ends on the project. She noted that this 5 Year Plan was an update to the existing plan and noted public participation helped highlight the needs of the community. The common theme from community members is that they are appreciative of the efforts put forth by the Parks Department in the city already.

Deb spoke of programming trending toward doing more things virtually due to COVID and explained that gaming and e-sports have become popular program offerings. The gaming and e-sports is estimated to be a \$1.5 billion dollar industry, reaching two of the largest and growing demographics in Warsaw which are the 18-24 and 25-34 year olds. Studies show 85% of individuals over the age of 13 have or have interacted with a gaming device. Gaming and e-sports can create a sense of community with those who are differently-abled, too, who are often left out of traditional sports and events. Programming in these areas would engage those

demographics to interact with the Parks at a younger age and allow them to explore what the Parks offer as they grow. Deb also outlined maps showing park land deficiency areas, highlighting where to target for land acquisition within city limits.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Bixler Pickleball Courts Naming Consideration

Parks Superintendent Larry Plummer submitted a letter to the Board from Richard Haddad, K21 President and CEO. He stated that, when he went to sign paperwork for the grant from K21 for the Bixler courts project, the organization expressed interest in naming the courts after the foundation. Haddad stated that it would help further the mission of K21 to have their name posted publicly so that people could see the foundation's funds in action. Plummer stated this naming situation differed from previous naming requests as K21 has donated somewhere around \$85,000 for the courts and opened the floor for discussion on the matter.

Board Member Jill Beehler inquired if there would be people upset over the naming of the courts, but Plummer mentioned there have been other places named previously such as Glover Pavilion and Castaldi Fountain. Board Vice President Larry Ladd said K21 has always been supportive of the Parks system so he saw no issue in it. Plummer advised it could be a sign simply saying K21 Courts facing State Road 15. Beehler asked to clarify whether the naming would be just for the new pickle ball courts or all of the courts and Plummer said it would be all of them. Board Member Michelle Boxell supported giving K21 the naming rights and made a motion to allow K21 to rename the Bixler courts. Beehler seconded the motion.

Move: Michelle Boxell Second: Jill Beehler Status: Passed

2. Recreation Report

Recreation Director Stephanie Schaefer let the Board know that Fall Family Fun was a success with over 400 participants. Everyone was highly engaged and participating in the games, photo spots, and cabin activities. The ceramic take home kits sold out completely and Schaefer mentioned she was asked by someone if they could be made available more often. Imagination Station began again on October 18 and as of meeting time, only 3 of 50 craft kits remained unclaimed. November has a Paint in the Park event with people already signed up. Activities and offerings are being advertised through Facebook, flyers, and an information sheet in the Imagination Station bag with instructions on how to get the next kit.

3. Maintenance Report

Maintenance Director Shaun Gardner informed the Board that the Pike Lake Campground has been completely winterized with piers in and water lines blown. Improvements have begun on the last row that has not seen any work done yet, row B with manager spot. Sewer line repairs have been done and the grade of the ground is being raised to help with drainage. The concrete is going in for the manager spot and soon the lot will be grassed and strawed. Plummer added that the electrical at the campground is being revamped due to issues that caused a fire on the wiring previously. NIPSCO is setting individual meters for each row that can be shut off independently of one another. The Parks has never had the ability to do that before and now is the time to do that for safety reasons. G&G got a telephone pole for the project today so the Parks electrician is able to get all the pieces in place to complete the wiring when it becomes available. Gardner said he is happy with the way the things are going and anticipates managing projects will be easier with the new power independence.

Beyer Park has a lot of filling to do and timbers to be set. Weather has been the cause for the delay in the project. Gardner added that several boards have also been recently replaced on the boardwalk.

City Council and Board Member Diane Quance asked when the DNR piers will be removed for the season. Gardner stated that the DNR shows up and pulls them without any advanced notice to the Parks.

Board Member Jill Beehler asked if there were more campsites added with the Firemen's Building was finished. Plummer said it is in the plan to accomplish and discussions are being had with the Street Department to see what can be done in house, but expansion is likely 2-3 years down the road yet.

V. OTHER MATTERS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

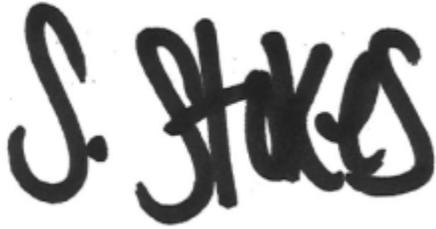
Board President Steve Haines inquired about the Park Board luncheon in December to make sure Linda & Ira from the campground as well as Dan from Hire Park were going to be invited. Confirmed the date of the luncheon is December 7, 2021 at the Firemen's Building with catering quotes forthcoming. Plummer expressed appreciation for the Board sponsoring the staff luncheon every year.

VI. MEETING REVIEW

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further matters brought before the Board, a motion was made to adjourn.

Move: Larry Ladd Second: Jill Beehler Status: Passed

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Stokes". The letters are bold and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a period.

Suzanne Stokes
Park Board Secretary