

## **MINUTES**

**City of Warsaw  
Parks and Recreation Board  
Regular Meeting (Parks)  
Tuesday, January 18, 2022, 5:15 pm - 6:15 pm  
Council Chambers**

### In Attendance

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

### Not In Attendance

Jill Beehler; Noemi Ponce

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Park Board President Steve Haines called the meeting to order.

### II. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 2021 MINUTES

A motion for approval of the November 2021 meeting minutes was made by Board Member Michelle Boxell and seconded by Board Vice President Larry Ladd.

Move: Michelle Boxell Second: Larry Ladd Status: Passed

### III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### 1. Adoption of the 5-Year Master Plan

Deb from Cornerstone PDS presented the 5 Year Plan for adoption. The next step is to send the plan to DNR for approval. The final version will likely be sent back in February 2022 due to processing times. Park Superintendent Larry Plummer thanked Deb for her work and diligence on constructing the 5 Year Plan for the Parks Department. A motion to adopt the 5 Year Plan as presented was made by Board Member Michelle Boxell and seconded by Board Vice President Larry Ladd.

Move: Michelle Boxell Second: Larry Ladd Status: Passed

### IV. NEW BUSINESS

## 1. Oath of Office Larry Ladd

Mayor Joe Thallemer presented Board Vice President Larry Ladd with the Oath of Office for another term on Park Board.

## 2. Election of Officers

The Park Board elected officers for the upcoming year. A nomination for Steve Haines to remain as Park Board President was made by Board Vice President Larry Ladd and seconded by Board Member Michelle Boxell. A nomination for Larry Ladd to remain as Board Vice President was made by Boxell and seconded by Haines.

## 3. Center Lake Beach and Amenities Discussion

Parks Superintendent Larry Plummer spoke on the master plan for Central Park wherein a boardwalk from Buffalo Street will connect over to Bixler Park and the large pier in Center Lake will be removed. Renderings of what the final project could look like were provided by City Planner Justin Taylor. The current large pier in Center Lake needs removed because it creates a warm spot for E. coli to grow and due to the decreased depth of the water, the insurance provider has asked the Parks not to have diving boards or swimmers jump off the pier for safety. In place of the large pier, two temporary fishing piers will be installed on either end of the beach. The pump house, which supplies water from the middle of the lake to irrigate the park, will be cut down to help fit one of these piers over it. Ropes would help define the swimming area instead of the pier and life guards would still be present.

The boardwalk itself will be a winding sidewalk that includes new lighting on the lake side of the Pavilion and a handicap ramp to access the back of that building. The new kayak kiosks will be installed along this boardwalk, too. An addition to the beach will be a beach volleyball area off to one side. Plummer noted that this project will help define the area and increase opportunities for outdoor activities while alleviating the problems with the current pier.

City Council Member Diane Quance asked if there would be anything between the two fishing piers other than beach. Plummer said no, but believes the boardwalk would improve the area and bring both ends of the park together.

## 4. Possible Park North of Airport Discussion

Parks Superintendent Larry Plummer noted that, per the 5 Year Plan, Warsaw is 40 acres below the recommended amount of community park area and that there is a need for a park on the north end of the city. The Airport Board of Directors is working with the Parks Department to help create a 60 acre park northeast of the runway. The proposed park would be on a plot of land that is already city-owned. City Planner Justin Taylor provided two designs with possibilities of several recreational activities the park could accommodate alongside a two mile long walking trail. He emphasized the designs were just schematics to see what all could fit in the area and/or how it would it all fit together.

Plummer asked the Board for suggestions on amenities or what might need to be removed from plan based on what the designs showed. City Council Member Diane Quance brought up the possibility of the new park being totally dog friendly or partially dog friendly, where dogs would be allowed on leashes only. Board Vice President Larry Ladd asked to clarify if whole park would be dog friendly or just a designated area. Plummer said that is a discussion to have, but that the design would have to be thoughtful and approved by the Board before going into construction.

Next steps to take include utilizing a professional park designer to make total plan and raising funds, possibly in phases depending upon the cost. Plummer asked for the Board's approval to pursue professional design for the park. Ladd mentioned that the city is growing north and recommended proceeding with development. This recommendation was seconded by Board Member Michelle Boxell.

Move: Larry Ladd Second: Michelle Boxell Status: Passed

## 5. Recreation Report

Recreation Director Stephanie Schaefer informed the Board that Light Up the Night was a success on December 3. A total of 500 goodie bags were handed out in 40 minutes, with roughly 1300 individuals in attendance that evening. She stated the Daddy's Little Sweetheart Dance has 10 tickets left for Friday, February 4 and that Saturday, February 5 is completely sold out. Contracts have been approved for the Art in the Park events; the macrame class, in particular, is filling up quickly.

Schaefer had applied for the Kosciusko County REMC Operation Round Up grant and was happy to announce the Parks Department will be receiving \$1500 to be used for the Family Carnival. Superintendent Larry Plummer added that the department is getting ready to secure final

contracts for the upcoming 2022 concert season. The announcement of performers will be coming soon.

#### 6. Maintenance Report

Maintenance Director Shaun Gardner advised the Board that the Christmas display is down and in storage. It was a successful year for the display thanks to the weather and many people came to enjoy it. Young Tiger Football donated the profits from the concession stand, totaling \$1452, for future displays. Gardner mentioned that the crew is halfway through the picnic table refurbishing process and will move onto benches and saw horse tables next, working through all the pieces before spring. The border for the playground at Beyer Park is complete now and the actual playground equipment will be able to be installed in early spring. The memorial benches for Ker Park were also finally received and completed for use.

#### V. OTHER MATTERS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

There were no other matters brought before the Board.

#### VI. MEETING REVIEW

#### VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no other matters to discuss, Board Member Michelle Boxell made the motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Vice President Larry Ladd.

Move: Michelle Boxell Second: Larry Ladd Status: Passed

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Stokes". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Suzanne Stokes  
Park Board Secretary