

MINUTES

PARK BOARD MEETING

June 19, 2012

PETE THORN YOUTH CENTER 5:15

The Warsaw Parks & Recreation Board met for its monthly meeting on June 19, 2012 at 5:15 PM at the Pete Thorn Youth Center. Attendance was noted as follows:

PRESENT: Board President Bill Baldwin, Board Members Dan Robinson, John Sadler, Steve Haines & Michelle Boxell, Council Member Jerry Frush. Also present: Park Superintendent Larry Plummer, Jr., Maintenance Director Shaun Gardner, Recreation Director Staci Young & Secretary Sheila Wieringa.

ABSENT: None

GUESTS: None

CALL TO ORDER: President Baldwin called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The April 17, 2012 minutes were approved on a motion by Board Member Boxell, seconded by Board Member Haines, all in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Maintenance Director Gardner reported the hoists at Glover Pavilion that hold the lights have been replaced. The previous hoists were worn and were not serviceable. He reported when the hoists were taken down, the seals had been leaking. They were replaced with "MY-TE Wenches" out of Indianapolis. These hoists are fully serviceable so when a piece does go bad, that piece can be replaced, instead of replacing the whole unit.

Maintenance Director Gardner also reported the work to fill cracks, reseal and remark the parking lots at Lucerne and Central Parks has been completed.

Parks Supt. Plummer reported to the board that on May 1st, the Department held an Arbor Day Event. Mayor Thallemer read the Arbor Day Proclamation and 6 trees were donated and planted by NIPSCO throughout the parks.

NEW BUSINESS: Park Supt. Plummer reported to the board that Andrea Nichols, Arbor Specialist with NIPSCO had planned to attend this board meeting, however was deployed to Texas and unable to attend. She is planning on attending the Tree City USA round table meeting scheduled for July 12, 2012 at 2 p.m. at Center Lake Pavilion. Forrester Pam Louks will also be in attendance. She is responsible for all the Tree City USA applications and will be available to answer any questions.

Recreation Director Young gave the activities report, outlining the following programs.

- The Classic Rock Concert was Friday, June 15 and it is believed to be the biggest ever with an estimated 6,000-7,000 in attendance and ran smoothly. She reported there were some adjustments made to the seating area and front of the stage to comply with the new state stage regulations.
- The Department used the new canoes on June 5th for the new Community Canoeing program at Center Lake. The public is welcome to use the canoes during open community canoeing times. There were approximately 50 participants.
- The first kids canoeing clinic also took place with 9 participants. They were taught the basic skills of canoeing, how to paddle and how to steer.
- Session 1 swim lessons began June 18 with 43 children participating. Session 2 registration is still open.
- The Kids Corner Program has seen exceptional growth from having 10 kids participating weekly in the past to 30-50 kids participating weekly so far in 2012.
- Art camp began last week and registration remains open for the future sessions.
- Junior Golf Tour and Teen Canoe Clinics begin this week.

- The skate park is seeing very high attendance, being very busy every day. Currently the park is open 7 days a week. There is a competition on June 30 with a prize given to the skater with the best trick.
- The aquatics department has been very busy so far this season with the lifeguards working 7 days a week.

In other activity news, Park Supt. Plummer reported the Tennis Association has 189 children participating in their summer program.

Park Supt. Plummer provided to each board member a copy of the proposed 2013 budget and reviewed it. Please see attached.

In other matters, Park Supt. Plummer reported to the board that the department recently caught 99 geese, which were removed from the grounds, and oiled over 300 eggs earlier in the spring.

He also reported himself, Council member Frush and President Baldwin met with Police Chief Whitaker and Mayor Thallemer in regard to park patrol/park safety. Park Supt. Plummer requested from Chief Whitaker that park employees be able to write park ordinance violations and he granted that request. Because the police department is presently short on officers, a parks department employee has been working the evening shift, documenting all the things going on in the park during the evening hours and Park Supt. Plummer reported feeling as though we are making progress. There has been an increase of bike patrol in the park, some people evicted from the park for a calendar year and ordinance tickets written. He reported some of the issues that have come up were with bicycles, skate boarders, foul language, and groups of kids blocking the sidewalks. He reported getting 2-3 calls daily from people unable to use the park because of the acts of others. He stated that this is the first year there has been any contact between the Police Chief and Parks Supt. in regard to people who have been evicted from the park and now there is a booklet with names and pictures between the police and parks department so the ban can be upheld by both departments.

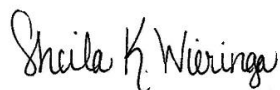
President Baldwin asked about the greenway trail and the new trailhead project near Winona Lake. Park Supt. Plummer added Staci Young in on the committee heading that project and when it comes to completion, upkeep on the property will become the Parks Department's responsibility.

Board Member Robinson asked about the status of the sale of the Boggs Building. Park Supt. Plummer reported the status of being the property has been sent out for bids and has received a bid from the local steel workers union for the appraised amount of \$90,000 with the stipulations of inspections and other miscellaneous. It was tabled at the last Board of Works meeting but he feels the items in questions will be ironed out and the sale will go through.

Board Member Boxell reported the Kiwanis club is interested in work that can be completed by the club at Kiwanis Park. Park Supt. Plummer stated it is in the 5 year master plan to paint that shelter. He also stated he would review the park and get back to her.

There being no further matters to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Board Member Boxell, seconded by Board Member Haines.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sheila Wieringa
Secretary