

MINUTES

PARK BOARD MEETING

August 19, 2014

PETE THORN CENTER ACTIVITIES ROOM 5:15

The Warsaw Parks & Recreation Board met for its monthly meeting on August 19, 2014 at 5:15 PM at the Pete Thorn Center Activities Room. Attendance was noted as follows:

PRESENT: Board Members Bill Baldwin, Steve Haines, Michelle Boxell, Larry Ladd, Rick Paczkowski & Diane Quance. Also present: Park Superintendent Larry Plummer, Jr., Maintenance Director Shaun Gardner, Recreation Director Liz McKinley & Secretary Sheila Wieringa.

ABSENT: None.

GUESTS: Pat Loeb.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A recommended change to the meeting date at the top June 17, 2014 minutes was requested by Secretary Wieringa and the change was approved on a motion by Board Member Haines, seconded by Board Member Boxell, all in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Maintenance Director Gardner reported to the Board that the Noah's Ark & "A" frame play structures at Kiddieland have been replaced with new equipment & safety mats. He also noted that a utility trimming service did some damage to an existing tree near the Kiddieland gazebo and it was replaced with 2 new trees and some burning bushes. The department will be replacing the gazebo roof this week. He invited the board to stop by and take a look at the new additions.

Superintendent Plummer reported to the Board on behalf of Jan Orbin with Warsaw Tennis Association that their summer tennis program is done for 2014 and they had 252 participants. She thanked the Board for their support.

Superintendent Plummer also reported to the Board on behalf of the YMCA summer camp Little Eagle that they had 117 participants broken down in to the following counts: 62 children were YMCA members and 55 were nonmembers, with 28 participants receiving financial aid to attend. The YMCA is planning to use space at the newly constructed facility to internally house their summer camp next year, freeing up Cabin 4 at Lucerne for the 2015 season.

NEW BUSINESS:

Superintendent Plummer introduced Liz McKinley, who replaced Staci Young, as Recreation Director July 14, 2014.

Warsaw resident Pat Loeb was present to voice concerns regarding the city ordinance of No Dogs in the Parks. He would like the Board to reconsider and make a recommendation to Warsaw City Council to amend or remove the ordinance which currently bans dogs from all city parks, with the exception of the Greenway trail & trail heads. The Board listened to Mr. Loeb and voiced concerns of their own, ending with a motion by Board Member Ladd that the Board members will explore this possibility individually and come back to the Board at the September meeting. Board member Boxell seconded this motion, with the caveat that the Board will receive copies of the five year plan (which included community interest in a leash free dog park) and the original study completed approximately 4 years ago by a designated Board to explore Warsaw dog park options. Vote was split with Board member Boxell, Ladd & Baldwin

voting yay and Board members Haines & Paczkowski voting nay. The Board invited Mr. Loeb to return to the September meeting for further discussion.

Recreation Director McKinley provided to the Board a handout consisting of a 2014 program review as of current, a picture collage and a bio of her work. She spoke on the program review, noting weather and attendance numbers. Please see attached.

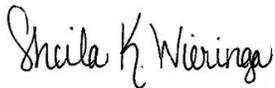
Superintendent Plummer provided to the Board a copy of the E. Coli Study completed by Grace College. He touched on the main findings and recommendations in the Study. Recommendations include “creating flow-through capacity for piers at both lakes; exploring gull population control measures at Center Lake; and exploring alternative beach raking methods to remove waterfowl waste at both lakes.” Please see attached.

In other matters, Superintendent Plummer noted that a \$100 donation was received from Paul Hines from Peru, IN & the Hines Family who have an annual reunion at Beyer Park. The department used the money to purchase and plant a tree, which is planted near the new restroom building at Beyer Park.

Council Rep Quance asked for the Board’s support in a budget matter, concerning the Boardwalk section of the greenway trail between KCH and Beyer trail head. She reported that there is currently no preventative maintenance being done and no department has ever been designated to maintain or repair the trails. She is proposing to the Council that funds be placed in the 2015 Park budget to handle repair & replacement of the Boardwalk and implement a preventative maintenance schedule to begin in 2015. Board member Haines made the motion to support adding \$10,000 to the already approved \$5,000 to begin a preventative maintenance program on the trail in 2015, seconded by Board member Paczkowski, all in favor.

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Sheila Wieringa
Secretary