

MINUTES

**City of Warsaw
Parks and Recreation Board
Regular Meeting (Parks)
Tuesday, March 16, 2021, 5:15 pm - 6:15 pm
Council Chambers**

In Attendance

Diane Quance; Heather Frazier; Jill Beehler; Larry Ladd; Larry Plummer; Noemi Ponce; Shaun Gardner; Sheila Wieringa

Not In Attendance

Michelle Boxell

I. CALL TO ORDER

Park Board President Steve Haines called the meeting to order.

II. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES

1. *Approval of February 2021 Minutes*

The February 2021 minutes were approved, a motion by Board Member Beehler, seconded by Board Member Ponce.

Move: Jill Beehler Second: Noemi Ponce Status: Passed

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. *Rick Swaim (Metzger Plaque)*

Rick Swaim virtually attended the Park Board meeting, where he presented a document, which displayed the plaque he would like to have at Kelly Park to honor pickleball enthusiast Mike Metzger. Additionally, Swaim advised they would like to plant a tree in the park as well. Swaim stated he had been contacted by several pickleball players who would like to donate to cover the cost of both the plaque and the tree.

Larry advised the best location for the plaque would be near the pickleball entrance, or the North side.

A plaque honoring Mike Metzger to be placed at Kelly Park was approved on a motion by Board Member Beehler, seconded by Board Member Ladd.

A motion to approve a tree being planted in Kelly Park to honor Mike was also approved by Board Member Ponce, seconded by Board Member Beehler.

Move: Jill Beehler Second: Larry Ladd Status: Passed

2. *Kelly Pond*

Superintendent Plummer advised they have been consulting with some local experts as well as James Emans from the Planning Department to revitalize Kelly Park pond. A detailed design will more than likely be done by the next meeting. The revitalization is scheduled to start this year. We are looking at adding fish, adding a walking loop to the area and possibly making the pond larger. Due to the size of this project, it may make parts of the park inaccessible but proper notices will be given to the public. This project is funded by Storm Water Funds.

3. *Pike Lake Shoreline Stabilization*

Superintendent Plummer informed the Park Board that continued efforts with the Pike Lake Shore Stabilization process are still in full swing. As in other areas of the project, additional native grasses and stones will be placed to help sustain the area and the shoreline. G&G was awarded the contract for the project.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. *Donation: Ker Park*

Plummer advised a few weeks back, he was contacted by Connie Ker (one of the last Kers in the area) about her interest in Ker Park. Plummer stated she asked if anything was needed for the park and if she could help in any way with it. After several conversations and several looks at different playground sets, benches, landscaping and more, Connie graciously donated \$13,360 for Ker Park. We are very grateful for the collaboration and donation from Connie Ker.

2. Playground Equipment: Beyer Park

Plummer provided 3 different playground options and layouts for Beyer Park. Additionally, he provided a cost analysis of each set, which ranged from \$53,000-\$44,000. Each design is a multi-purpose playground geared towards ages 5-12. The current playground at Beyer Park is about 20 years old.

Plummer asked the Park Board Members to review each design and to make a recommendation on the design they think is best fit at the April Park Board Meeting.

3. 5 Year Master Plan

Plummer informed the Board it is time to start the 5 year master plan again. The individual we had do this for us in the past, has now retired; however, he referred us to Debra Schumucker with Cornerstone. He and Debra have worked together in the past and he was actually able to send her some of our items he has done in the past. This has allowed us to fast track and already get working on the process.

Debra Schumucker introduced herself to Park Board Members. Schumucker advised the purpose of a 5 year master plan is to evaluate where you are and create a map for the future. The project will be about 5-6 months and is planning to have the project completed by the end of the year.

V. Madison Land Acquisition

Plummer advised he was contacted by a developer about the property by Madison School. The developer wanted to know if the park and the park board had any interest in the land near the school for a potential park property. If the Board is interested, additional information will be obtained and looked into. With approval and more information to be worked through, this could be a late project in 2022-2023. Plummer stated as far as he was aware, this would be a land acquisition, which would be a donation. Plummer informed the Board, it would be nice to have a park property on the West side of town to be able to provide recreational activities to that part of the community.

A motion to approve and accept the land by Madison School, pending additional information about the donation and acquisition process, was approved by Board Member Ladd, seconded by Board member Ponce.

Move: Larry Ladd Second: Noemi Ponce Status: Passed

1. Maintenance Report

Maintenance Director Gardner advised that the new park signs have been placed in the parks, with the exception of Nye Park. Gardner informed that we are waiting until the Buffalo Street Project is complete before we place the Nye Park sign to avoid having to replace it due to possible construction. The signs look great and mimic the look of some of the other signs located throughout the parks. The last few weeks, the guys have removed some old sidewalks, leveled the areas and placed grass seed.

Improvements at the Senior Center were continued with paint and replacing the tiles in the center storage room. This was all completed in time as the Senior Center is now open.

Repairs to the gutters at the Firemen's building have been completed as well as adding some snow rakes to the roof to prevent possible future ice build up. The guys are working on getting the mowers ready for the spring and summer season.

2. Recreation Report

Recreation Director Wieringa advised they are in full gear planning for spring and summer programs. She is working on completing the digital recreation guide. Additionally, we are still looking at hiring recreation leaders, skate park staff, lifeguards and just a few more labor positions.

VI. OTHER MATTERS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Dan Rumble approached the Park Board and asked for permission to place lights at Hire Park. Dan advised this is the 35th year Hire Park has been operating, with him being part of the process for 24 years. He informed the Board that practices and some event nights have been cut short due to lack of

light. By having these lights, they would be able to provide a safe space for practices or events to continue without the need to rush through them.

Rumple further advised he had applied for a grant from K21 to pay for the lights. These lights would be on no later than 10 PM on most occasions. However, if there is a national race, the lights may be on past that, which would only occur 1 time per year. The lights will be about 25 feet tall and would then point directly down to the track. There would be about 4 poles in total, with 4 lights on each pole. They are LED lights and the grant would cover installation as well as the purchase of them. This process is strictly contingent on being awarded the grant from K21.

A motion to approve the installation of the lights at Hire Park, if the K21 grant is awarded was approved by Board Member Ladd, seconded by Board Member Ponce.

Superintendent Plummer advised that we are looking to return to a normal programming year, with the programs we offer. These programs may look slightly different with additional safety protocols in place to help keep those participating as well as those working the event safe. With that being said, we are looking at continuing our Friday night concerts in the Central Park Plaza and Lucerne Park Amphitheater going throughout the summer. However, our 3 large concerts we are postponing and hopeful to have those return in 2022. With the logistics, large crowds and contracts needing to be done, it would be irresponsible to spend tax payer money with the probability of a cancellation, where we do not recoup our funds. Picnic table and sawhorse table rentals will all be resumed this year as well.

Parkview representatives have been working with the Mayor and other City officials to make the Pavilion a possible vaccination location. The logistics are still being worked out but in the meantime, we are only renting the Pavilion on Saturdays and Sundays to prevent a possible conflict.

Plummer sent his condolences to Board Member Michelle Boxell, who lost her mother last week.

Move: Larry Ladd Second: Noemi Ponce Status: Passed

VII. MEETING REVIEW

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Move: Jill Beehler Second: Noemi Ponce Status: Passed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H Vogts". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Heather Vogts
Park Board Secretary