

## MINUTES

**City of Warsaw  
Parks and Recreation Board  
Regular Meeting (Parks)  
Tuesday, September 21, 2021, 5:15 pm - 6:15 pm  
Council Chambers**

### In Attendance

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

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Park Board President Steve Haines called the meeting to order.

### II. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES

Move: Michelle Boxell Second: Noemi Ponce Status: Passed

### III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### 1. *5 Year Master Plan*

Superintendent Larry Plummer said the goal for the 5 Year Master Plan was to have the final draft of the plan at the October meeting. After the final draft is presented it will be sent to the DNR for approval with the hopes that it will be accepted by the Board in November. Plummer and Recreation Director Stephanie Schaefer are working on getting information and pictures dispersed to Deb with Corner Stone.

#### 2. *Beyer Playground & Donation*

Currently the old playground is in the process of being removed from Beyer Park with the intention of having the site prepped and ready for the installation of the new equipment when it arrives, per Superintendent Plummer. The goal is to have installation of the new playground begin in April. Marsha Smits reached out to Plummer stating the Warren family held their reunion at Beyer for many years and wanted to do something for the revitalization of the park. Plummer suggested the idea of benches and the Warren family has donated funds in the amount of \$2670.92 for the purchase. The benches are ordered but due to extended processing time

they will be shipped in November. Installation of the benches will coincide with the new equipment in April.

### 3. *Kayak Kiosks Update*

Adam with Rent Fun has informed Plummer that the products have shipped and are scheduled to arrive in port soon. He is estimating a mid-October arrival after inspections and customs are cleared. Rent Fun will come to put the kiosks in themselves, Plummer said. Rental time is too short this fall so kayaks and supplies will be stored until April when the program will launch.

### 4. *DNR Grant Update*

Superintendent Plummer advised the board the the DNR grant for the relocation of Mantis Skate Park was denied. Many applied for the DNR grant but the relocation did not meet enough of the criteria laid out for the scope of the project. We will be looking at applying for local grants next year to do the new park in phases. For now pieces at Mantis are going to be rearranged to avoid low areas and water spots. Water issues have prevented the park being open for hours at a time. The surfaces at the park are not bad but the frames of the ramps are. We will be separating the ramps to try to repair and refurbish them in-house. Plummer thanked the K21 Foundation for allowing us to apply for the DNR grant and matching funds, as well as Wildman and Andrew Scholl who donated toward the cause.

## IV. NEW BUSINESS

### 1. *Recreation Report*

Recreation Director Stephanie Schaefer informed the Board that the summer concert series is wrapping up. She received many compliments on Kennedy's Kitchen, the previous band, and hopes the last concert featuring Smooth Edge 2 goes well this Friday. Fall Family Fun is scheduled on October 8 and will be held outdoors. There were some cancellations due to COVID for vendors and she has since filled those spots. Imagination Station will resume this fall with take-home kits being available in October, November, and December. Schaefer and Recreation Assistant Heather Vogts are working on putting together ceramic painting kits for families to purchase and complete at home. The Recreation Department is working to keep things always moving forward in spite of outside circumstances.

### 2. *Maintenance Report*

Maintenance Director Shaun Gardner advised the board that the Beyer structure is removed for site preparation to begin. His team has been cleaning out the flower beds around the city with some of the parks and most of downtown being completed. Buoys and ropes are out of both swimming areas at this time. Beyer Farm Trail has been blown but more trimming of vegetation will be coming. October 1 marks the start of winterization for our outdoor facilities regardless of any nice weather that might occur. Board member Larry Ladd inquired as to if the same group of lifeguards would be coming back next year and Plummer replied that the offer has been extended to them, but that he also hopes to bring in that group plus more. Summer 2021 staff was young and Plummer said he hopes that they will continue to keep coming back.

## V. OTHER MATTERS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Superintendent Plummer stated he had applied for a K21 Foundation grant to refurbish existing courts at Bixler Park to accommodate for 4 pickle ball courts and 2 tennis courts. The grant was awarded for a sum of \$53,000 for this process. An additional \$29,540 of Parks funds will be put into it giving the project a total of \$82,540 for completion. He will be taking the grant before the Board of Works on October 1 in for acceptance. Phend & Brown might be able to do asphalt work yet this year on the courts but if not, it will all be done in the spring of next year. The Bixler courts will be lit and the east fence will be replaced. Currently there is a glass grid placed with the asphalt ovetop to prevent cracking and the courts have held up well. Plummer stated the goal is to provide new opportunities throughout the whole park system and to have multiple places for the community to use without having to go to a single certain location.

Kayla Metzger, widow of Mike Metzger, appeared before the Board to extend her appreciation for the sign placed for her late husband. Representing Warsaw's pickle ball players, she requested that the basketball courts at Kelly Park be striped to accommodate their group to play there as well if the current courts were full. She has her own striper and would provide the stripes at no charge if allowed. She also reiterated a previous request to put sidewalks down on the west side toward the shelter to tie it to the other sidewalks. Metzger informed the Board she has an anonymous donor willing to pay for the concrete and the labor for the project. Plummer deferred to the Board for any decision to be made on either request. Board President Steve Haines asked about the resolution to previous talks of striping the basketball court, stating it may cause possible problems and confusion with those wanting to use the basketball courts for their intended purpose. No further comment on sidewalk proposal.

Metzger asked about the expected completion of the Bixler Park pickle ball courts project with Plummer speaking again to the timeline as previously stated.

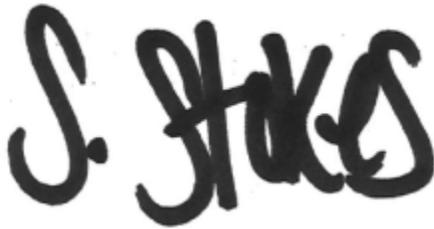
Ladd praised the incoming grant for the Bixler project and having new courts placed. Metzger asked about Winona Lake getting pickle ball courts but Plummer referred her to Rick Swaim who would have more information on any projects in their parks.

Metzger asked how long Kelly Park would remain unlocked. Plummer said until snow flies then they will take the nets down and Gardner recalled it was around November last year but it is weather dependent.

## VI. MEETING REVIEW

## VII. ADJOURNMENT

Move: Jill Beehler Second: Noemi Ponce Status: Passed

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Stokes". The letters are bold and stylized, with a cursive-like flow.

Park Board Secretary