

MINUTES

**City of Warsaw
Parks and Recreation Board
Regular Meeting (Parks)
Tuesday, April 19, 2022, 5:15 pm - 6:15 pm
Council Chambers**

In Attendance

Diane Quance; Jill Beehler; Joe Thallemer; Larry Ladd; Larry Plummer; Michelle Boxell; Steve Haines; Suzanne Stokes

Not In Attendance

Noemi Ponce; Shaun Gardner; Stephanie Schaefer

I. CALL TO ORDER

Park Board President Steve Haines called the meeting to order.

II. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES

Meeting minutes from the February 15, 2022 meeting were approved by the Board.

Move: Jill Beehler Second: Michelle Boxell Status: Passed

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Proposed Park at Airport

Parks Superintendent Larry Plummer advised the Board that on Thursday, April 21, 2022 he will be meeting with Deb from Cornerstone PDS for preliminary discussions on designs and timelines for the proposed park near the airport.

2. Kayak Kiosks

With regard to the kiosks, Plummer stated that the installation will finish tomorrow, Wednesday, April 20, at both Center Lake and Pike Lake. A technician from Rent.Fun will be coming up to attach solar panels, radios, locking devices, etc. to complete the process. The Rent.Fun app has gone live and is available for download from the app store. Kayaks will be able to be rented from 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM daily, seven days a week. The rates are set at 1 hour for \$15.00 and 4 hours for \$40.00. Social media is buzzing

about the kiosks and Warsaw is the first city in the state of Indiana to have them installed for their community. Plummer would like to again thank the KCCRVC Commission for their assistance with the project.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Central Park Pavilion Remodel

City of Warsaw Mayor Joe Thallemer presented information to the Board about the progress of remodeling the Center Lake Pavilion. The project started in 2018 with the original plan being to put the Parks offices above the Pavilion and opening up the rental facility by changing the back wall to windows so that patrons could see the lake. In a cost savings move, the decision was made to put the Parks offices inside the new maintenance facility instead; the maintenance and office facility is now set to be completed in 2023. Those changes and the pandemic, both, left the Pavilion improvements in limbo. The original estimate for remodeling was \$1.8 million in 2018. Mid-pandemic the estimated cost had risen to \$2.4 million in 2020. As of March 14, 2022, the estimated cost for improvements had reached \$3.17 million, with construction costs continuing to rise significantly.

Mayor Thallemer informed the Board that a donor, who will be identified in the future, had stepped forward to help assist with the remodel of the Pavilion. Through this donor the City has secured 2.5 million toward the completion of the project, as both sides understand how important the Pavilion is to the community. The City will be working out the final details and expectations in the memorandum of understanding for the renovation. Mayor Thallemer asked for permission to create MOU with the donor to bring back to the Park Board at a future date for final discussions. With construction costs up 30% since last November, it would be fiscally responsible to start the bid process sooner rather than later. The Mayor anticipates having the MOU back before the next Board meeting, with the potential of having a special meeting if things move along quickly.

Park Board member Michelle Boxell asked how long the Pavilion had been there and Superintendent Plummer answered that it was placed in 1935 to start, with a remodel happening in 1990. Park Board Vice President Larry Ladd stated there is an emotional attachment to the Pavilion in the community. This renovation will maintain the integrity of the facility while updating the building and its functionality, increasing the value to the community. The internal footprint will change to move the kitchen to the side and create new restroom areas in the front, as well as adding the windows to the back and a smaller rental space. Since there is no steel

involved in the project, that should help not only with the cost but also with the delivery time.

Ladd made the motion to allow Mayor Thallemer to create an MOU with the donor and it was seconded by Park Board member Jill Beehler.

Move: Larry Ladd Second: Jill Beehler Status: Passed

2. Permission to Remove Playground - Rarick Park

Superintendent Plummer requested permission from the Board to remove existing playground equipment at Rarick Park due to deterioration. The equipment was installed in 1993 and there are funds in the budget for replacement of the equipment this year. The 5 Year Plan included an independent survey showing that park patrons wanted some sort of walking path, a gazebo, swings, and individual play items over a new playground set. The basketball courts will stay in the park, as well. Plummer stated City Planner Justin Taylor is working to create a plan for filling of the area to help with flooding. Playground equipment is skyrocketing in cost; items that would have cost \$50,000 a year ago are going for \$75,000 - \$80,000 currently. Plummer would like the install to be in the late fall but it may need to happen in spring of next year.

Park Board member Michelle Boxell made the motion to allow the playground equipment to be removed from Rarick Park and Park Board member Jill Beehler seconded the motion.

Move: Michelle Boxell Second: Jill Beehler Status: Passed

3. Recreation Report

All the major summer concerts are back after being previously cancelled due to the pandemic and artists have been announced. The Rockin' for Riley Concert will feature Jefferson Starship on Friday, June 17, 2022. The Lakes Festival will have five different Blues performers with Jake Kershaw as the headliner on Saturday, July 9, 2022. The Country Concert for St. Jude headliner is Tyler Farr, who played several years ago as an opener, and will take place on Saturday, July 22, 2022. Vendor sign ups for events are coming in slowly; over 40 vendors have been reached out to so far. There are four signed up for rock, three for lakes, and three for carnival but there is only food so far at the rock concert and not the other two. Many food trucks are no longer active or otherwise obligated.

Recreation Guides have been printed and dispersed, and they are also available online on the city website. Both the recreation and skate park staff are looking good. There are 13 life guards incoming and there are still a couple maintenance positions to fill for the summer, but otherwise good.

Both scavenger hunts in March and April were a big hit, and the March macrame sold out all the spots. Thanks were given to the Park Board members who volunteered for the Eggstravaganza event in April. Park Board member Jill Beehler thanked Recreation Administrative Assistant Heather Vogts for the set up and attention to detail for Eggstravaganza that made it a huge success. Park Board member Michelle Boxell said participants came from as far as Rochester for the event, and there were a wide range of kids from infants to middle schoolers. The May watercolor event with Terry Armstrong is nearly at capacity, too, with 17 of 20 spots reserved. Touch-A-Truck will take place on May 14, 2022 and will have lots of opportunities for kids to check out equipment. And then on May 27, 2022 the Summer Concert Series will kick off for the year.

4. Maintenance Report

In the 5 Year Master Plan, Superintendent Plummer stated, one of the goals was to make improvements to the restroom facilities in the parks. So far 3 sinks, 16 toilets, 22 toilet seats, and 2 urinals have been installed, totaling around \$5300 for the equipment. The restrooms at Kelly Park were vandalized Sunday evening and efforts are being made to locate the individuals seen on the cameras. Plummer thanked the staff who stayed extra on Sunday to make sure that was cleaned up and squared away. There has previously been a lot of vandalism associated with the soap and hand sanitizer dispensers in the restrooms but Plummer is willing to try putting them out again for the benefit of the community. Warsaw Chemical has extra hand sanitizer in gallon jugs they've made available to the Parks and that is being used in the new sanitizer dispensers.

All four of the Lucerne Park cabins had issues identified and fixed before the season opened and paths were relaid in front of cabins. There was a split rail fence installed at the north end of Bixler Park near the boat ramp to help prevent people from driving up in the grass. New concrete cornhole boards were also installed at Bixler taking the place of the horseshoe pits, and boards were also placed at Beyer Park.

Pike Lake Campground is up and running for the season with the new numbering system using just numbers. Some tasks completed at the campground include new millings, grass planted, piers installed, fixed the raised manholes, and checked all the electrical. All of the split bolts have been redone. Due to supply issues, breakers for the electrical upgrade

were slow to arrive and running electric to the new breakers will now happen in October. By completing this project it will allow the campground to shut down one row and not the whole park. This gives the campground a better chance at fixing issues internally without disrupting service for all campers and needing to contact NIPSCO.

Mantis Skate Park is being asphalted by the Street Department so the ramps are being moved in order to do that. Some of the ramps are not doing well due to age and use, so they will be fixed when they are in their final resting place after asphalt project is completed. All downtown and park flower beds have been tilled and prepared for spring planting. The Beyer Farm Boardwalk was repaired from Pike Lake to Lincoln Edition, replacing bad boards. When the land dries up, Beyer Park playground will be installed and completed. In the upcoming week shore stabilization will be happening at Center Lake.

V. OTHER MATTERS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Superintendent Plummer added that Phend & Brown are intending to start at Bixler Park in May for pickle ball courts. All the posts and nets are pre-ordered, and K&M is ready to go for coloring the courts. The hope is that the weather cooperates to complete the project in a timely manner. Mobilization is set to begin in June for the new maintenance and office facility, but still looking at a completion date likely in 2023.

VI. MEETING REVIEW

Park Board President Steve Haines remarked that the renovation of the Center Lake Pavilion will be great for Warsaw and the surrounding community. Many positive projects going on for the Parks Department with the proposed new airport park and all the other items on deck.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Park Board Vice President Larry Ladd made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Park Board member Michelle Boxell seconded that motion.

Move: Larry Ladd Second: Michelle Boxell Status: Passed



Suzanne Stokes, Park Board Secretary