

MINUTES

PARK BOARD MEETING

April 17, 2012

PETE THORN YOUTH CENTER 5:15

The Warsaw Parks & Recreation Board met for its monthly meeting on April 17, 2012 at 5:15 PM at the Pete Thorn Youth Center. Attendance was noted as follows:

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

ABSENT: John Sadler, Dan Robinson & Recreation Director Staci Young

GUESTS: Andrea Nichols, Arbor Metrics

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The March 20, 2012 minutes were 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 replacement of the fascia & soffit on the Pavilion have been completed.

Park Superintendent Plummer reported to the Board that the playground equipment at Pike Lake Beach has been removed. This structure was deemed a Priority One hazard in the 2012 Playground Audit and in the March Park Board meeting it was suggested it be removed. Park Superintendent Plummer took the suggestion to the Board of Public Works and his request to remove the structure was granted. The equipment is budgeted to be replaced this year, however because of budget constraints, Superintendent Plummer stated it will be later in the year when it is completed.

NEW BUSINESS: Guest Andrea Nichols, a utility arborist with Arbor Metrics, presented to the Board the concept of Warsaw becoming a Tree City USA through the Arbor Day Foundation. Application requirements include participating in an Arbor Day event, the implementation of a tree ordinance by the City, completing a budget study for Warsaw, which would include any tree related activity within the city in any department, and Warsaw must sponsor an Arbor Day Event annually. Nipsco has committed to complete this step for the city for the next two to three years. She reported there is no cost to become a Tree City USA and by becoming a Tree City USA, Warsaw would receive many benefits including money from the US Forestry Service and IDNR for tree programs and management programs for storm response. Superintendent Plummer reported Nipsco will be planting six trees this year for the Arbor Day Event, two at Central Park by the East Shelter, one at Kelly Park east of the restrooms, two at Kiwanis Park and one outside the park office. Ms. Nichols reported that Nipsco will be providing and installing the trees. Superintendent Plummer invited all the Park Board members to attend the Arbor Day Celebration this year on May 1, 2012 at 9:15 a.m. at the east shelter at Central Park. Ms. Nichols reported the application deadline is December 31, 2012. Board Member Haines volunteered to work alongside involved department heads and Ms. Nichols to sponsor the tree ordinance. Motion to approve to support the efforts of the city to become a Tree City USA made by Board Member Boxell, seconded by Board member Haines, all in favor.

Park Supt. Plummer reported to the Board that the department has been given approval to install guttering on the lower half of the Center Lake Pavilion and also on the Glover Pavilion.

Park Supt. Plummer informed the Board that after having the current grid system on the Glover Pavilion inspected by Wire Rope and Sling of Fort Wayne, it was recommended the system, currently lifted by four separate wenches acting as hoists, be replaced. Board of Works has given approval to have a new grid & hoist system installed and work will commence the week of April 23.

Park Supt. Plummer also informed the Board there is money available in this year's budget for crack filling, sealing and striping of the lots at Central, Lucerne and the maintenance lot. The department hopes to have this done by Memorial Day.

Maintenance Director Gardner reported the campgrounds are open. The campground opens annually on April 15. Maintenance Director Gardner gave additional information regarding what work must be completed to have the campground ready to be opened every year. Park Supt. Plummer added that campground manager Earl Rogers is returning for his second year in this position.

In the absence of Recreation Director Young, Park Supt. Plummer gave a prepared handout outlining the success of Brunch with the Bunny for 2012. Please see attached. He also reported the 2012 Recreation Guide should be back from publication May 1st, however it is presently posted on the city website under Parks & Recreation. Lastly, the Mantis Skate Park is open for the year. Hours are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 4-8 p.m., Saturday 12-6 p.m. and Sunday 12-5 p.m. He reported they are having an overwhelming response of participants so far.

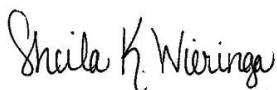
In other matters, Park Board President Bill Baldwin made a request to the other members of the board for Ambassadors for the Visitors Bureau for mid-June.

Park Supt. Plummer reminded the board the April 22 is Earth Day.

Council representative Frush asked Park Supt. Plummer the status of the sewer replacement at the Nye Youth Cabin. Park Supt. Plummer explained to the board the problems over the past few years with the sewer system there and that it had broken down in the middle of the run under the foundation of the building. It has been completely replaced and is ready for rental.

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