

**La Porte Park and Recreation Department  
Board Meeting  
June 17, 2020**

**Due to the COVID-19 virus, the June 17 meeting of the La Porte Park and Recreation Board was held via zoom.**

The meeting was called to order by President Mitch Feikes who led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Also present were Nicole Messacar, Drew Mullen, Karen Ellison, Kyleen Fuller, Jake Huelat, Mark Schreiber, Kyle Cashmer, Brett Binversie, Karyl Feikes, and Roberta Mumaw.

#### **Recognitions**

Mark Schreiber wanted to recognize a couple of groups that have recently done volunteer work in the Parks. A group of La Porte Cross Country team members worked at Kesling park spreading mulch on the nature trail, as well as a young adult group from First Church of God who worked on spreading fiber mulch at Fort La Play Porte.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes from the previous month's meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Karen Ellison.

#### **Bills and Claims**

The bills and claims in the amount of \$56,657.42 were unanimously approved on a motion by Karen Ellison, seconded by Drew Mullen.

#### **Public Comment**

None

#### **Sub-Committee Reports**

None

#### **Old Business**

Nicole Messacar updated the Board on the ongoing Kiwanis Teledyne project. John Richey with the Army Corp of Engineers is currently reviewing the project as we speak. Once permitting is in place the work will be scheduled. Nicole feels that there is a need for an additional floating island with plants. There is money available in the grant for the additional purchase. Kyleen Fuller would like to review the area and the existing island. Nicole will get information to the Board regarding the plants that will be placed in the new island. Mitch Feikes asked if the island could be anchored in the center of the inlet. Nicole stated that it was anchored at one time, but the anchors have broken, and it does need to get re centered and secured.

Mark Schreiber informed the Board that with the state entering Stage 4 of the Back on Track Indiana Initiative our playgrounds were able to open on June 12. League play for youth softball and baseball as well as tournaments have begun. Looking forward to stage 5 is when we will be able to have lifeguards in place at Stone Lake Beach, as well as concerts beginning at the Dennis F Smith Amphitheater. The City Band will begin on July 8, and Arts in the Park on July 9. Social distancing is still encouraged. There are a lot of people in the Parks with Stone Lake Beach seeing increased activity even without lifeguards.

Mark Schreiber spoke to the Board regarding the bids received for the upcoming renovations to the tennis courts at Kesling, Rumely and new construction at Allessee Park. The bid from Gariup Construction did come in as the low bid. The recommendation from Planned Environmental Associates is to award the contract to Gariup. All the bids were sent to the Board for review. There is still an amount that needs to be secured for funding and we feel that can be done through grants and donations. Mark Schreiber requested permission from the Board to award the bid for tennis court renovations/construction to Gariup Construction pending all funding is in place. A motion was made by Nicole Messacar to award the bid to Gariup Construction, seconded by Kyleen Fuller. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **New Business**

Mark Schreiber requested permission from the Board to enter into a lease agreement with the Maple City Bike Club for the 1<sup>st</sup> Street Building (Girl Scout Building) The facility would be used as a bike collaborative. The club would hold meetings, possible bike maintenance classes as well as at some point be able to rent bicycles.

The motion was made to enter into a lease agreement with the Maple City Bike Club at the 1<sup>st</sup> Street building by Kyleen Fuller, seconded by Drew Mullen. The interior has had renovations made, with the outside needing some additional renovations. The plan is to write a Health Care Foundation grant for this work. Motion passed unanimously.

Mark Schreiber would like to put together a committee with community members, key staff members from within the City as well as a park Board member to discuss safe roadway initiatives throughout the Parks. This would be to look at different safety measures for roads near parks or roads that run through them. This would be for the main parks as well as the neighborhood parks and would look at traffic calming measures, proper ordinances, proper speed limits as well as signage. Currently this is informational for the Board and does not require any action. Nicole Messacar feels this is a great idea and something that needs to be done. Karen Ellison feels better signage in certain areas is crucial. Drew Mullen feels that there are a lot of options that could be put in place and he is excited to participate.

Mark Schreiber requested permission from the Board to give Todd Taylor a lifetime membership to Beechwood Golf Course upon his retirement after 41 years with the City of La Porte. Todd has been a great friend to both the Park Department and Beechwood Golf Course over the years. The request was unanimously approved on a motion by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Karen Ellison.

Brett Binversie requested permission to allow Leadership La Porte County the use of the Civic Auditorium at no charge for their end of session meeting. This is usually held at Cummings Lodge, but due to COVID and the need to social distance 2 rooms at the Civic would give them more space for the event. The request was unanimously approved on a motion by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Karen Ellison.

#### **Board Member/Department Head Comments**

Mark Schreiber informed the Board that the Board of Works awarded the Stone Lake Shoreline contract to Gariup Construction. They will be doing the median, trail and shoreline improvements including the nodes. The work will start in July with expected completion to be in September. The kayak launch has been sent out for bids, which are due back July 8 and will be discussed at the July meeting. Mark and Nicole Messacar have submitted a grant for rental lockers. Mark has also been in discussion with Karen Ellison for additional ways to fund storage lockers.

Mitch Feikes encouraged everyone to look at the construction progress at the concession stand at Fox Park Amphitheater. Doug Stephani has donated his services for the electrical work to be done. H&G Underground has donated their services to do a directional bore for the electrical hook up.

Mark Schreiber informed the Board that the work on the water feature at Unity Park will begin in July and should be completed in August. The playground at Clarke park has been installed, with Warsaw Park play equipment and the Hastings swing structure work to start within the upcoming weeks. The water bottle filling stations, as well as the radar speed signs are also being worked on by local contractors as well as park maintenance staff.

Mark Schreiber stated that there were 56 riders for the first night bike ride that was recently held.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Drew Mullen.



Mitch Feikes, President



Roberta Mumaw, Secretary

Approved: 7-15-20