

**La Porte Park and Recreation Department
Board Minutes
July 15, 2020**

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

Also, present Drew Mullen, Karen Ellison, Kyleen Fuller, Karyl Feikes, Mark Schreiber, Brett Binversie, and Roberta Mumaw.

Recognitions

None

Minutes

The previous months minutes were unanimously approved on a motion by Karen Ellison, seconded by Drew Mullen.

Bills and Claims

The bills and claims in the amount of \$81,494.89 were unanimously approved on a motion by Drew Mullen, seconded by Kyleen Fuller.

Sub Committee Reports

None

Old Business

Mark Schreiber informed Board that the final design plans for Kiwanis/Teledyne have been submitted to the Army Corp of Engineer for approval. This will be for the erosion control. Unfortunately, Nicole Massacre has removed the dredging from the design that was submitted. The dredging will be done as a separate project and will require a permit from DNR which is currently being prepared to submit. The erosion control will hopefully begin early fall.

Mark Schreiber informed the Board that with the Governor keeping the state at 4.5 the department has had to deal with some COVID situations, fortunately our Department has not experienced any positive cases among our employees. We have had some employees who have been tested, and they have all tested negative. All social distancing policies have been working well in the programs that we can control. We will continue to follow regulations that are put forth by the Governor.

Mark Schreiber discussed with the Board the bids that have been received for the Stone Lake Kayak Launch. There were three bids received which all Board members have received copies of. The low bid was submitted by Larson Danielson in the amount of \$123,999.65. This was more than expected for this specific portion of the project. What is being bid at this point is the infrastructure which includes the parking lot, ramp, and all things leading up to the actual dock. The handicap accessible launch will be done separately. The hope was to get this portion priced around \$80,000. In talking with our Jon Ruble with Planned Environment Associates, and Larson Danielson it seems that there is a lot of engineering that can be done to bring this price down. Part of the design was to bring down the bike path from Cummings lodge, which can be taken out and done at another time. These were put into the design but are not necessary at this time. All involved feel that the cost can be brought down without any sacrifices. The motion to award the project for the Stone Lake Kayak Launch was made by Drew Mullen,

seconded by Karen Ellison. Kyleen Fuller wanted it clarified that by awarding the contract to Larson Danielson we were not committed to the amount proposed in the bid. Mark Schreiber stated that due to this being a grant, there would not be more than \$80,000 spent and the project would be engineered down to this amount. The motion passed unanimously.

Mark Schreiber presented a potential lease agreement with the Maple City Bike Club for the building at 1640 First Street. Mark is currently working on a Healthcare Foundation Grant for exterior improvements as well as ADA improvements. The goal is to have the Bike Club run a bike collective out of the facility. The organization feels they can take on the utilities which average \$280 monthly but would not be able to add on any additional charges at the onset. The recommendation is to lease the building for \$1 per year with the club paying the monthly utilities. The motion to lease the building to the bike club for \$1 per year plus monthly utilities was made by Karen Ellison, seconded by Drew Mullen. Mitch Feikes feels the utilities are higher than normal. Mark Schreiber stated that the furnace is potentially undersized for that building and may need to be replaced at some point. Kyleen Fuller stated that her family is a member of the bike club, but she does not hold any type of office. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Mark Schreiber has had a request from the Healthcare Foundation of La Porte for the Park Department to enter into a contract agreement to maintain the drinking fountain that is located near their new facility on East Shore Parkway. The motion was made for the Park Department to maintain the drinking fountain located on East Shore Parkway by Drew Mullen, seconded by Kyleen Fuller. Motion passed unanimously.

Mark Schreiber requested permission to allow the participants of the Tour De La Porte which will be held at Cummings Lodge August 21, 22, & 23 to park on the grass. The Tour De La Porte has been taken over by the YMCA of La Porte. The motion to allow parking on the grass for this event passed unanimously on a motion made by Drew Mullen, seconded by Kyleen Fuller.

Mark Schreiber and Pam Carroll have requested that the Board approve a new policy that would ban smoking within 50ft of the fencing at the baseball/softball and tennis facilities. The current policy states there is no smoking between dug outs. Due to COVID and the social distancing practices put in place at the ball fields it has created issues with non-smoking spectators having to sit next to those who chose to smoke. This just a policy and will allow us to hang signs, without this being a city ordinance, it is hard to enforce this. The motion to accept the recommend policy change was unanimously approved on a motion by Kyleen Fuller, seconded by Drew Mullen.

Mark Schreiber unformed the Board that the contract has been signed for the tennis court renovations, in the amount of \$284,500. The cost will be closer to \$290-296,000 with the rest being paid through grants and the Patronicity fundraising program. All fundraising will be done through the Park Foundation.

Board Member/Department Head Comments

Mitch Feikes stated that the speed signs on Truesdell Avenue are a great addition to the area and would be a great addition to other park locations. Mitch also stated that the Fox Park concession stand, and restroom facility is nearing completion. There has been a great effort by all who have volunteered on this project. Mark Schreiber thanked Mitch Feikes for his volunteer work with this project as well as the many other projects he has volunteered to be a part of.

Mark Schreiber stated that there has been a delay in some equipment, but the installation of the water feature at Unity Park should begin the end of July. This will be a 3-5 day install. The Stone Lake Shoreline improvement project had a pre-construction meeting on Thursday and expect to see milling and new road construction starting soon with completion expected sometime in October. The install of the new playground structure at Warsaw Park as well as the swing structure at Hastings Park will begin on Monday. The boardwalk construction on Clear Lake has begun as well, with completion expected late fall.

Drew Mullen inquired as to when the traffic calming committee would begin meeting. Mark Schreiber plans to contact everyone within the next few weeks to get the first meeting set up. Mark has spoken with 3 or 4 community members who are eager to participate on this committee. Mark would like to have a member from the traffic commission to participate as well. This committee is important to make sure proper speed limits are posted around all parks, and written properly in the City ordinances, and to make sure that all the neighborhood parks are just as safe as all the major parks.

Karen Ellison asked what measures have been taken to control the waterfowl at Beechwood Golf Course. Mark Schreiber stated that most measures to control this must be done in March and April. Once the eggs have hatched the geese tend to stay in that location. Due to COVID, this timeframe was missed this year.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Karen Ellison, seconded by Drew Mullen.



Mitch Feikes, President



Roberta Mumaw, Secretary

Approved: 8/19/20