

**La Porte Park and Recreation Department
Board Minutes
August 19, 2020**

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

Also, present Kyleen Fuller, Nicole Messacar, Drew Mullen, Mark Schreiber, Pam Carroll, Brett Binversie, Karyl Felkes and Roberta Mumaw.

Recognitions

None

Minutes

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

Bills and Claims

The bills and claims in the amount of \$53,245.16 were unanimously approved on a motion by Kyleen Fuller, seconded by Nicole Messacar.

Public Comments

None

Sub Committee Reports

Drew Mullen stated there has been a "Slack" page made available for the traffic calming committee. This is an online means for the group to privately communicate that has recently been created. There is currently information and videos available for viewing. There is a link posted for an app referred to as "Counter point". This will allow data such as traffic counts to be collected through the app.

Old Business

Mark Schreiber stated that there has been some tree removal at Kiwanis Teledyne to make way for the next phase of the Kiwanis Teledyne project. Nicole Messacar has met with Nelson Slusser who will be doing the top seeding, and with D & G Excavating who will be grading the slope and placing the glacier stone. Once this is complete, the native plants will be plugged into the stone. If time does not allow, the plantings will be done next year. D & G Excavating may be willing to do the dredging once a permit is secured. Mark Schreiber is currently working on the dredging application for that permit.

Mark Schreiber updated the Board on COVID. The state is still in the 4.5 stage, with numbers being watched daily. Arts in the Park continues with protocols in place and seem to be doing a good job pushing these protocols. The La Porte City Band is currently looking at three Sunday dates for their concerts. The Park Department still has not had any positive cases amongst employees.

Nick Minich updated the board on the Clear Lake Board walk project. There has been a slight change shifting the boardwalk due to the pilings that are being used. They have received a \$6000 grant to clear out the invasive plants along the storm water bay. The embankment across from the storm water bay can be planted with appropriate plantings. The grant was received from Horizon Bank. The new project manager is Sarah Nimetz who came from DNR. The trail connection to the boardwalk will go along the wetland mitigation site to the round about where there will be a parking lot trail head as well. All this work should be completed by year end. Stone Lake Trail work is progressing with the placing of curbs to be done on the residential side this month. Phase 2 of the Chessie Trail will begin Spring of 2022.

Mark Schreiber updated the Board on several projects:

- 1) 3 playgrounds (Warsaw, Hastings swing structure and Clarke) have all been completed.
- 2) The work on the tennis courts continues, with milling complete at Rumely, fences down and milling started at Kesling. Full depth milling at Kesling still needs to be completed. The new construction of the court at Allessee will be the last to be completed.
- 3) Mark Schreiber and John Rubie continue to work with Larson Danielson on the kayak launch.
- 4) The water feature at Unity Park opened last week.

- 5) The Amphitheater work continues with stonework continuing. The next phase of work for the amphitheater will be to complete the dressing rooms, paint and replace lights and sound equipment. This hopefully will begin next year, with fundraising to begin in the winter.
- 6) The ADA pathway at DeCamp field was completed, dugouts this fall by the La Porte High School Building Trades class.
- 7) Park Staff continues to work on installing the water bottle filling stations that were purchased through a grant from the Healthcare Foundation of La Porte. They will be installed, but not turned on until next spring.

Mark Schreiber and Kyle Cashmer will be meeting with IDEM at Beechwood regarding the driving range. There will also be a discussion regarding the draining issues at hole #16.

Mitch Feikes inquired on batting cages scheduled to be put in at Kesling Park. Mark Schreiber stated that there has been no progress after the building trades decided this was a project that they were not equipped to take on. Some fundraising needs to be completed, but due to COVID, this is something that our youth teams did not do this year.

Mark Schreiber will be sending the Heart of La Port Plan to the Board. If anyone has any additional suggestions, they can be sent Nick Minich. This will then go to the City Council for approval. The goal of the plan is to have some well-defined projects that could be taken to the Healthcare Foundation for funding or other funding sources.

New Business

Mark Schreiber has been contacted by Mayor Dermody regarding some concerns that he has heard regarding smoking near the playgrounds. Mayor Dermody would like to have no smoking signs at all playgrounds. In order to place signs, there needs to be a policy regarding this. Again, the policy will be hard to enforce without being a city ordinance. The recommendation would be the same as the ball fields, no smoking within 50ft of a playground. Unless the City Council passes an ordinance, there can be no fine attached to this. A recommendation of no smoking within 50ft of all playgrounds was made by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Kyleen Fuller. Nicole Messacar amended the original motion of no smoking within 50ft of park playgrounds with a recommendation to ask the La Porte City Council to pass a no smoking ordinance at all playgrounds, seconded by Kyleen Fuller. Amendment passed unanimously. Nicole Messacar amended the amendment to include no smoking at the Unity Park water feature as well, seconded by Kyleen Fuller. The amendment to the amended motion passed unanimously. The original motion passed unanimously.

Mark Schreiber requested permission from the Board to change the usage fields for Park baseball/softball fields. The proposed are as follows:

Kesling Park

\$600 per day (all 4 diamonds)

\$400 per day (2 diamonds)

\$20 per hour for maintenance

(minimum 1 worker during scheduled times if multiple games scheduled)

Jeff DeCamp Field/Ron Reed Field

\$250 per day

\$20 per hour for maintenance worker

(minimum 1 worker during scheduled times if multiple games scheduled)

\$50 per night per field for lights

All other fields

\$100 per day

\$50 per night per field for lights

The motion to approve the field usage fee increase was unanimously approved on a motion by Drew Mullen, seconded by Nicole Messacar.

Mark Schreiber requested permission from the Park Board to sell the 9 remaining golf carts that are owned by Beechwood. The money from the sale would go towards the purchase or lease of additional carts. The carts are 4-

5 years old and are becoming problematic. A motion to sell the 9 golf carts and purchase or lease new was made by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Kyleen Fuller. The issue with the carts is the fuel injection system. They are used only when necessary. Currently Beechwood leases 50 carts. The carts will be sold to the company and the monies placed towards new carts. The motion passed unanimously.

Mark Schreiber has been contacted by Aquatic Control regarding the public meeting for the treatment. They are required to hold a public meeting to update on the treatment of Clear Lake, however due to COVID, DNR is allowing them to not do the public meeting required. Currently, Clear Lake has not been treated as there is no milfoil present. It will be the board's decision if they would like to have Aquatic Control hold a public meeting. Mitch Feikes questioned the weeds on Pine Lake. Mark Schreiber stated these are native weeds and due to the lack of cold weather this past winter and the hot summer the weeds have become abundant. Nicole Messacar stated Pine and Stone Lake have some of the highest concentration of state listed rare and endangered aquatic vegetation. The board decided not to hold a public meeting this year.

Mark Schreiber has been contacted by Mike Pavey Jr. regarding the removal of the play equipment at Clarke Park. The play equipment will be getting removed and replaced and Mr. Pavey has asked for permission to do the removal and take the equipment for his personal use. Mark has talked to the City Attorney who did not see an issue with this. The Board will just need to declare the equipment as excess and unused asset. This will save the department money on removal. A motion to declare the play equipment at Clarke Park as excess and unused was made by Drew Mullen, seconded by Kyleen Fuller. The motion passed unanimously.

Mark Schreiber informed the Board there will be some additional fundraising done for the tennis court renovation. Mark has applied for grant through the Unity Foundation as well as the Bethany Foundation. There will be crowd funding through Patroncity. All fundraising will be done through the Park Foundation.

Board/Department Comments

None

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



Mitch Feikes, President



Roberta Mumaw, Secretary

Approved: 9-16-20