

**La Porte Park and Recreation Department
Board Minutes
September 16, 2020**

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

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

Recognitions

None

Minutes

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

Bills and Claims

The bills and claims in the amount of \$53,472.33 were unanimously approved on a motion by Jake Huelat, seconded by Nicole Messacar.

Public Comment

None

Sub Committee Reports

None

Old Business

Nicole Messacar updated the Board on the progress with the Kiwanis Teledyne which is part of the Clean Water Indiana Grant. The contractor is currently putting material cost packet together, which will hopefully be to Nicole by the end of the week. Mark Schreiber stated the trees have been removed and the area is ready for the contractor to begin. Public notice for the dredging will go out this week.

Mark Schreiber informed the Board that there have still been no positive COVID cases amongst Park employees. We will continue to follow all protocol that has been set in place with the state being at 4.5. Our fall ball baseball program has begun, with all sanitizing process in place as they were for the summer baseball leagues. The decision has been made to postpone adult basketball until January.

New Business

Mark Schreiber would like to start a conversation with the board regarding the use of park property by Darlene Mannix for horseback riding. Mrs. Mannix owns property on Orchard Ave the adjoins Soldiers Memorial Park. She has both an indoor and outdoor arena that is used by a small group from 4-H. There is a City Ordinance that prohibits horses in the Park, which the Park Board will not be able to override. If the Board would like to allow this, they would need to send a recommendation to the Council that would either amend the ordinance, or give the Park Board some discretion regarding this. Mark feels that a discussion can begin to allow horses in a section of the park. The mountain bikers have been agreeable on this section and are willing to possibly move a portion of the bike trail in to allow the horses to be off the roadway along Orchard Ave. The mountain bikers are willing to work with us on this, however they do not want the horses on the trails as they would cause damage. Darlene

Mannix stated they have a small group of 4-H girls that utilize their indoor/outdoor arena that would be riding the designated area from time to time. Mark Schreiber has spoken to Bill Lott who is the head of the mountain bike group which handles some of the major maintenance of the trails on a volunteer basis. He is willing to meet to discuss an area for the horses to be in the Park. Mark Schreiber stated this would be limited usage, as our Parks would not accommodate large amounts of horse traffic. There would be a limited usage agreement with this group for a specific section of the Park. Several of the Board members are concerned with how others will be kept out of the Park and off the trails, as well as liability for the riders and those that volunteer with the mountain bike trails. Mark Schreiber stated that if we entered into an agreement with Mrs. Mannix liability insurance would be a discussion. The mountain bike volunteers are volunteering and not doing any work on behalf of the City, nor are they organized by the Park Department. Mark Schreiber will meet with Darlene Mannix as well as Bill Lott with the Mountain Bike group.

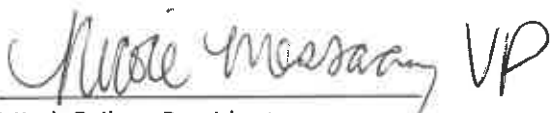
Mark Schreiber informed the Board that the City of La Porte will be adopting a new re-branding for the entire City. Mark feels it would be a good thing to adopt the new city logo as the new park logo. Beechwood Golf Course and the Civic Auditorium will keep their current logos.


Board Member/Department Head Comments

Mark Schreiber notified the Board that on Saturday September 26 there will be a volunteer work day at Fort La Porte and all are invited. The patronicity campaign for the tennis courts is up and running. The asphalt is down on all 3 new tennis courts with coating and lining being done mid-October. The budgets for Park, Beechwood and Civic will be reduced by a total of \$124,000. Work continues on Lakeshore Drive, with hopes of a mid-October completion. The first course of paving has been put down, concrete medians are in, and next will come the amenities.

Nicole Messacar asked the Board to allow Mark Schreiber to write a letter of support for a proposal for a program through the Smithsonian Institute called Musuem on Main Street. Each year there is a traveling exhibit. This year's exhibit is called Waterways. This is begin sponsored by Indiana Humanities who is having cities compete to have a chance to host this exhibit. This will be done with the La Porte Library, Save the Dunes, Kankakee River Basin. The exhibit be stationed at the Rolling Prairie Library. If you are selected to host, you are also awarded several thousand dollars to develop a companion piece. Jake Huelat made a motion to allow Mark Schreiber to write a letter of support, seconded by Kyleen Fuller. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Jake Huelat, seconded by Nicole Messacar.


~~Mitch Feikes, President~~


 Roberta Mumaw, Secretary

Approved: 10-22-20