

**La Porte Park and Recreation Department  
Board Minutes  
October 21, 2020**

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Nicole Messacar who led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Also in attendance was Kyleen Fuller, Jake Huelet, Karen Ellison, Mark Schreiber, Kyle Cashmar, Brett Binversie, and Roberta Mumaw.

**Recognitions**

None

**Minutes**

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

**Bills/Claims**

The bills and claims in the amount of \$37,138.78 were unanimously approved on a motion by Josh Huelet, seconded by Kyleen Fuller.

**Public Comment**

None

**Sub - Committee Reports**

None

**New Business**

Mark Schreiber informed the Board that the dredging application has been submitted and has been approved by IDEM, but approval is still needed from DNR. We have been working with Jerry Jackson who is securing a price with hopes for this to be completed within the next month or so. Nicole Messacar stated that the contractor that will be doing the shoreline stabilization will be off due to medical conditions for the next 6 weeks. Nicole is hopeful that the work will begin in December, as we are in the final year of this 3-year grant.

Mark Schreiber has met with Darlene Mennix as well as Bill Lott who is the unofficial representative for the mountain bikers regarding an area for Darlene's horse group to ride within the Park. There is a small area to have a trail halfway down Orchard Ave to go down and back with an outlet to access the roadway to get to the fairgrounds. Bill Lott has pointed out several great points as to why the horses should not be allowed on the trails themselves, with one being the ruts that would be caused from the horses, as well as the manure left. Bill Lott has also stated that the mountain bike group would be willing to assist with cutting branches and such to the areas being discussed for horse usage. Mark has spoken with Nick Otis, City Attorney who has stated if this is something that the Board wants to pursue there would need to be an amendment to the City Ordinance that would allow the Park Department to do a permitting process to allow horses in this limited area. Mark's recommendation would be to allow the horses along Orchard that does not conflict with the mountain bike trails, and allow a small area along Lakeshore Drive up to the boat launch, but no further. A motion to allow a permitting process for horses in a small area along Orchard Ave as well as a short section of Lakeshore Drive up to the Boat Launch of Soldiers Memorial Park was made by Kyleen Fuller, seconded by Jake Huelet. A discussion

was held regarding how the permitting process would work as far as how many permits issued, would some type of identification be required to know they are authorized and have been issued a permit, would cleanup be required. Cleanup has not been something that has been discussed, but could be included if the Park Board wishes.

A motion to table the motion to allow horses along a section of Orchard Ave and Lakeshore Drive was unanimously passed on a motion by Karen Ellison, seconded by Kyleen Fuller.

Mark Schreiber informed the Board that the Park Department has unfortunately had 2 seasonal employees test positive for COVID. Contract tracing was done and all that were in contact have tested negative. All employees continue to practice the COVID protocols that have been put in place.

#### **New Business**

Mark Schreiber presented a letter from Jim and Ang Miller stating this will be their last year operating the boat docks on Stone Lake. Mark Schreiber made a recommendation to accept their letter releasing them from their contract. The boat docks have been operated by Ang Millers family since 1957. Mark feels it would be appropriate at an upcoming meeting to recognize the Millers for the years of service to the community. A motion to accept the letter to terminate the contract for the Stone Lake boat docks and to recognize the Millers for their was made by Jake Huelst, seconded by Kyleen Fuller. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion to form a subcommittee with no more than 2 Park Board members and whatever other members deemed appropriate to put together a request for proposal to replace the Stone Lake boat docks for 2021 was made by Karen Ellison, seconded by Jake Huelst. Mark Schreiber stated there were 15 boats docked during the 2020 season. Permitting will be required for the docks and this will possibly dictate how many boats can be accommodated. Nicole Massacra stated that DNR requires a pump out station on all Inlet lakes, but a waiver can be applied for. The motion was passed unanimously. Jake Huelst and Karen Ellison have volunteered to serve on the committee.

Mark Schreiber requested permission to send out t-shirt bids for all 2021 recreational programs that require t-shirts. These will be sent to several of our local vendors. A motion to send out 2021 t-shirt bids was unanimously approved on a motion by Kyleen Fuller, seconded by Jake Huelst.

Brett Birversis requested permission to waive the Civic rental fees for a job fair that will be sponsored by LEAP and the City of La Porte on November 12. This will be limited to 4-5 local employers. The request was unanimously approved on a motion by Karen Ellison, seconded by Jake Huelst.

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

Mark Schreiber stated that the final asphalt will be done today along Lakeshore Drive with the heafical tating to be done within the next week. All amenities have been put together with concrete installed for 2 of them. The kayak launch is set to begin Monday, with the launch being installed in the spring.

Unfortunately, we did not receive the grant for the work to be completed on the First street building. In speaking with Maria Fruth, she feels it is a great project, but they would like to have more information on the Maple City Bike Club and how they will sustain this for the years to come. Mark has spoken with the bike club and they are aware of the concerns. The grant will be re-submitted in January.

The City did receive a grant from the Healthcare Foundation for all the greenway work along 18<sup>th</sup> Street. Nicole Messacar had questions regarding the sign that is posted at the nature trail with rules and sponsors. Mark Schreiber stated the sign needs to be updated, and a discussion with what needs to be done around the nature trail. Nicole feels that this is something that soil and water conservation could potentially offer some assistance with the trail.

Mark Schreiber has been speaking with some individuals regarding disc golf at Kesling Park. This is something that could be placed within the grass area of the walking track.

Karen Ellison inquired about the placement of tiles at Fort La Play Porte. Mark Schreiber stated that all tiles have been placed, however there was some vandalism and tiles were broken. If anyone cannot find their tile it is possible it was damaged. For those whose tiles were damaged, they will be able to make a replacement. They will just need to contact the Park Office and arrangements will be made.

Kyle Cashmer hopes to keep the golf course open until at least mid-November if the weather allows. With being closed for 5 weeks the golf course is still up approximately 28% from last year.

Mark Schreiber stated that the COVID testing will continue through November at the Civic Auditorium. Currently they are averaging 1000-1300 tests per week.

Brett Binversie stated he feels that with the current COVID situation it has opened the Civic up to hosting different events that normally they would not. There are 3 different dance groups scheduled to use the building during the month of December. Things are starting to pick up for events at the Civic. All events have limited floor seating as well as in the balcony.

Mark Schreiber stated that the Park Department has received 2 thermometer kiosks that can be used to check temperatures of those attending events at the Civic. The kiosks will also detect if masks are being worn.

Nicole Messacar stated she recently had an interview with the Indiana Humanities regarding the Museum on Main event which she requested a letter of support for. Nicole feels very confident that the event will be brought to our area. This would take place next September.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Jake Huelst, seconded by Karen Ellison.

  
Mitch Folkes, President

  
Roberta Mumaw, Secretary

Approved: 11-18 20