

LaPorte Park and Recreation Board Meeting
April 13, 2011

The meeting was called to order by the President, Carol Bigg. Also attending were Bill Elliott, Brett Binversi, Carol Surowiec, Sylvia Smith, Steve Luscomb, Sherrie Hammons, Dean Heise, Rob Sager, Kyle Cashmer, Peg Nauyokas, and Pam Carroll.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as submitted on a motion by Bill Elliott, seconded by Carol Surowiec.

The bills and claims were approved as presented on a motion by Bill Elliott, seconded by Carol Surowiec.

Public Comments

Brian Nix, 805 W. 11th, was present to discuss his concern regarding smoking in the children's play areas throughout the park system. He spoke of his experience with adults smoking at t-ball games. Mr. Nix asked if signage could be placed in playground/youth ball field areas. Mr. Nix volunteered his services to help raise funds to purchase the signs. Dean asked Mr. Nix to stay in contact with the supervisor of his league or Peg Nauyokas. Dean noted there is a city ordinance banning smoking in municipal buildings; however, smoking outside is different. Dean will speak with the City Attorney about the legality of placing signs to ban smoking in certain outside areas of the parks. Bill Elliott mentioned the difficulty in enforcement.

Additional Department Reports

Kyle Cashmer spoke to the Board regarding tee times on the new website through Course Trends and allowing discounted blocks of time. If there is a block of tee times available 48 hours prior to the day, Kyle will send out an email to his data base offering a discounted rate. This would be available for online reservations only. Kyle will authorize when the email is sent and who receives it. Kyle requested the following fees be allowed for the discounted blocks of time: weekdays \$20 w/cart; weekends \$25 w/cart. The proposed reduced fees were unanimously approved on a motion by Sylvia Smith, seconded by Brett Binversi.

Peg Nauyokas reported there was a break-in at the Stone Lake Beach house. All of the fishing equipment for the day camp was stolen. A police report has been made. Brett Binversi suggested contacting the newspaper to write an article and maybe somebody would donate the equipment.

Dean reported he has been working with the Kiwanis Club and Linda Komp regarding improvement project at Kiwanis/Teledyne Park. The area has been cleaned and trimmed of overgrowth through the Kiwanis Club. The park staff has removed approximately 17 black locust trees. Dean received a mock sign that the Kiwanis Club wishes to place at the park informing the public of the improvement project. Dean is attempting to replenish the trees in the park.

Dean has also heard from Alcoa and American Licorice who wish to become partners in a clean up event this spring.

The Tree Commission will hold their annual tree give-away on Saturday, April 23, at the Kesling Park barn.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Board Comments

Sylvia Smith informed the staff she had heard there was graffiti on the path and also on signs at Kesling Park. Dean will have the maintenance crew investigate the complaint. Dean reminded the Board the trail will have cracks filled and seal coated this year through the funds provided by the LaPorte County Prosecutor's office.

Sylvia Smith also had a Little "L" League mother discuss the smoking at the youth fields and the possibility of posting signs.

Bill Elliott noted his appreciation of the department reports.

Carol Bigg mentioned she has viewed the remodeling work at Beechwood Clubhouse. It is very nice and has made a big difference in the appearance of the building. Kyle stated there will be pictures on the website when it launches in a couple of weeks. Bill Elliott thanked Mike Lemberis and Mark Lockhart for their efforts put forth during the remodeling project.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Bill Elliott, seconded by Brett Binversi.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carol Bigg, President



Adam Schoff, Secretary