

La Porte Park and Recreation Board  
December 14, 2011

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

Minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as submitted on a motion by Adam Schoff, seconded by Bill Elliott.

Bills and claims were unanimously approved as presented on a motion by Adam Schoff, seconded by Sylvia Smith.

Public Comments

None.

Additional Department Reports

Geoff Weliver announced the roofing project at the Civic Auditorium is complete.

Dean Heise informed the Board the he received a letter from Newby, Lewis, Kaminski, and Jones informing him the LaPorte City Park Foundation is the recipient of the estates of Delbert Stephens and Virginia Stephens. Delbert Stephens' portion will be \$522,842; Virginia Stephens' portion will be \$666,516.

Dean Heise also informed the Board the La Porte City Park Foundation also received the sale of home proceeds totaling \$118,000 from the John Young estate.

The Park Foundation will decide after the first of the year how the funds will be used. A discussion will be held to determine how project requests will be received. Dean Heise believes the Park Foundation will invest the money with the interest being used for yearly projects. Depending on interest rates, a total of \$50,000 to \$60,000 may be available yearly. The past several years the Park Foundation has been contributing \$15,000 to \$20,000 on neighborhood parks. Sylvia Smith asked if there was a market for revitalizing the neighborhood park programs her children attended years ago. Dean Heise stated the playground program disappeared because of funding but was replaced with specialized activities (i.e. art camp, kids' day camp, start smart, youth sports).

Old Business

None.

New Business

Dean Heise asked permission to file a Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) grant application which is due January 15, 2012. Dean Heise spoke with the DNR in North Judson and reviewed our past project at Clear Lake. Our aquatic manager, Nathan Long, rechecked the lake and reported the Eurasian Water Milfoil has returned in quantities which will continue to grow each year. The application will be for \$17,000 (sonar treatment - \$14,000; updating management plan and sampling - \$3,000). If the grant is awarded it will cover \$13,600; our share will be \$3,400. The request to apply for the LARE grant was unanimously approved on a motion by Bill Elliott, seconded by Adam Schoff. The lake will need to be continuously monitored. It is our responsibility to treat the native plants in the lake. Because of the milfoil treatments the lake has become a viable lake again.

Bill Elliott made a motion to authorize Dean Heise to give the City Park Foundation the Park and Recreation Boards' emails/addresses in order to receive minutes and meeting notices. The Park and Recreation Board minutes should also be sent to the City Park Foundation. The motion was seconded by Sylvia Smith. The motion was unanimously passed.

At the last City Park Foundation meeting, Jim Jessup was present to discuss ways to improve the organization of the Foundation. These improvements included Park Board involvement, function of growth, attendance, member responsibility, Park Department function.

Dean informed the Board he had met with Mayor-elect Milo and her transition team.

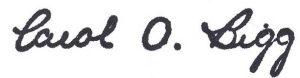
The Master Plan needs to be a top priority. We hope to get funding from the Mayor and Council. This is a great tool about where we have been and where we want to go. Winter is the best time to start working on the Master Plan.

The Unity Foundation purchased property next to the Blue Heron Inn to be developed as a park. The type of park and the design will need to be discussed. The property will be developed and endowed through the Unity Foundation. It will not be a tax burden.

Bill Elliott made a suggestion that the Board members review the last Master Plan.

The meeting is adjourned on a motion by Bill Elliott, seconded by Brett Binversie.

Respectfully Submitted:



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Carol Bigg, President



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Adam Schoff, Secretary