

**LA PORTE PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
BOARD MINUTES
FEBRUARY 21, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by President Mitch Feikes, who also led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. Also in attendance was Thor Thordarson, Jake Heulat, Mark Schreiber, Sam Back, Kyle Cashmer, Brett Binversie, Karyl Feikes, and Roberta Mumaw.

RECOGNITIONS

Mark Schreiber introduced Emily Archambault, who was recently hired as the Assistant Director. Emily was born and raised in La Porte and had previously worked for the Share Foundation.

MINUTES

The minutes from the previous month's meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Jake Heulat, seconded by Thor Thordarson.

BILLS AND CLAIMS

The bills and claims in the amount of \$166,996.40 were unanimously approved on a motion by Jake Heulat, seconded by Thor Thordarson.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Mark Schreiber stated he is still working with Baker -Tilly regarding the funding for the new lodge to be built on Stone Lake.

Brett Binversie presented a list of policies/ procedures for the Civic Auditorium for Board approval pending legal review. The list will be included with the official minutes. The motion to approve the policies as presented pending legal review was unanimously passed on a motion by Jake Heulat, seconded by Thor Thordarson.

NEW BUSINESS

Mark Schreiber presented to the Board and requested acceptance of the 2023 La Porte Park and Recreation Department's Annual Report. The motion to accept the 2023 Annual Report was approved unanimously on a motion by Thor Thordarson, seconded by Jake Heulat.

Mark Schreiber presented rules of use for the Soldiers Memorial Park Hiking/Mountain Bike Trail for the Board's approval. In addition to the rules presented, it was also requested to make an exception for Class 1 & 2 e-bikes. The motion to approve the rules as presented as well as the amendment for Class 1 & 2 e-bikes was unanimously approved on a motion by Thor Thordarson, seconded by Jake Heulat.

Mark Schreiber requested permission from the Board to construct a mountain bike skills practice area that would be in an area northeast of the trail head, in the area is currently known as the Link Park. A motion to construct a mountain bike skills practice area was made by Thor Thordarson, seconded by Jake Heulat. Motion passed unanimously.

The City will be submitting an application 12-million-dollar from a Ready Fund grant from the state of Indiana. This would allow for housing rehabilitation, re-construction, demolition and infrastructure improvements in downtown neighborhoods. This is critical to the housing needs of the area. The area would potentially include the back area of Scott Field. Mark Schreiber is asking for a letter of support from the Board to be sent with the application supporting the project. Mark Schreiber clarified that the back portion of Scott Field could potentially be used for this project. This could be approximately 2/3 of the park. The area including the playground, shelter and basketball court would be retained should the plan move forward. The only action to be taken is the letter of support for the housing initiative. The

motion to sign a letter of support passed unanimously on a motion by Thor Thordarson, seconded by Jake Heulat.

Mark Schreiber is asking the board for permission to place a kayak launch in Kiwanis Teledyne Park. There is a donor who has written a \$40,000 check to the Park Foundation with additional funding available for the project. A motion to approve the design phase and placement of a kayak launch at Kiwanis Teledyne was made by Jake Heulat, seconded by Thor Thordarson. The launch will be similar to the dock that is on Stone Lake. The exact location will be determined during the design phase. The donor has also pledged additional funding for the project. The motion was unanimously approved.

Kyle Cashmer removed the 18th tee renovation from the agenda, as at this time funding and time will not allow for the project. The plan for the fall will be to rebuild 4 new tee's.

Kyle Cashmer requested permission to attend the annual spring PGA conference in Muncie on February 26-27. The hotel fee is \$293.44 plus \$150 conference fee plus the per diem rate for meals. The request to attend the annual PGA conference in Muncie was unanimously approved on a motion by Jake Heulat, seconded by Thor Thordarson.

Mark Schreiber stated that we have received a grant through REAL services in the amount of \$10,271 that will benefit ACOA. There is a local contribution of \$1,141 for a total of \$11,412. This will be used to purchase tables, chairs, and exercise equipment for the ACOA. A motion was made by Thor Thordarson, seconded by Jake Heulat to allow Mitch Felkes to sign for the grant through REAL services. Motion approved unanimously.

Mark Schreiber is requesting permission to sign a contract with Pyrotechnico in the amount of \$17,000 for the Lakefest fireworks. Lakefest will be held July 26-28, 2024. A motion to sign the contract with Pyrotechnico for \$17,000 was made by Thor Thordarson, seconded by Jake Heulat. It was stated that all Lakefest expenses are paid through donations, sponsorships and earned income. Motion passed unanimously.

Mark Schreiber requested permission to spend up to \$35,000 on the headline act for Lakefest entertainment on July 27 at the Dennis F. Smith Amphitheater. A motion to spend up to \$35,000 was unanimously approved on a motion by Thor Thordarson, seconded by Jake Heulat.

Mark Schreiber requested permission to allow parking on the grass at Fox Park and Soldiers Memorial Park, to extend park hours, and allow overnight parking for the Lakefest event. The motion to allow parking on the grass at Fox and Soldiers Memorial, extend park hours and allow overnight parking for the Lakefest event was made by Thor Thordarson, seconded by Jake Heulat. Motion passed unanimously.

Sam Back asked the board to allow our youth sports teams to participate in the Dominos Slice the price fundraiser. We participated in this last year and raised approximately \$2500. This year for every \$20 card sold we will earn \$10. The motion to participate in the Domino's fundraiser was approved unanimously on a motion by Jake Heulat, seconded by Thor Thordarson.

BOARD MEMBER/DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Mark Schreiber thanked the staff for all of their hard work on putting the annual report together. He also recognized Kyle Cashmer and Brett Binversie for the record year at Beechwood and the Civic Auditorium. The quality entertainment and increased revenue are a great benefit to the City.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Jake Heulat, seconded by Thor Thordarson.



Mitch Feikes, President



Roberta Mumaw, Secretary

APPROVED: 3-20-24