

**LA PORTE PARK AND RECREATION
BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 17, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by President Mitch Feikes, who also led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. Those also attending were Ryan Seaburg, Denise Bealor, JR Francis, Nicole Messacar, Mark Schreiber, Kyle Cashmer, Evan Miller, Karyl Feikes and Roberta Mumaw.

RECOGNITIONS

Mark Schreiber thanked the volunteers from Horizon Bank for the work that they completed at Fox Park as part of their Horizon Cares Day.

MINUTES

The minutes from the August 20, 2025, meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Nicole Messacar, seconded by JR. Francis.

BILLS AND CLAIMS

A motion to approve the bills and claims in the amount of \$84,269.99 was made by Ryan Seaburg, seconded by Denise Bealor. Mitch Feikes and Nicole Messacar questioned the \$5,000 payment to the Indiana Dunes. Mark Schreiber stated this is the charge for the Nature Camp that they run through us in the summer. The cost of the camp is covered through registration fees, a grant through the Health Foundation of La Porte and the La Porte Park Foundation. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Mark Schreiber gave the board an update on the progress on the grant for the elevator at the Civic Auditorium. Mary Ann Richards has submitted the request for concurrence to the DNR Historic Preservation and Archeological office. They have a 20-day review window and once that is received there will be a public hearing on this and will then submit the review to HUD once the release of funds is received from HUD, it will proceed to the substantial amendment of the consolidated, this will also require a 5-day public comment period. Once that is complete, this will get submitted to HUD who will then release the funds.

Mark Schreiber discussed with the Board the ongoing process of filling the vacant Civic Auditorium Directors position. Currently all angles are being looked at to decide what exactly is needed in a director. We could potentially work with a group on consulting or ticketing items, discussions will continue until a decision is made on how to fill this position to make the Civic viable and prosperous.

NEW BUSINESS

Mark Schreiber requested that the membership fee for the Activity Center for Older Adults be raised from \$18 to \$24. This request was presented to Mark by the ACOA Advisory Board. The motion to increase the ACOA membership fee to \$24 was made by Nicole Messacar, seconded by JR. Francis. Motion passed unanimously.

Mark Schreiber informed the Park Board that the Park Foundation has agreed to accept funds from a donation campaign for the Civic Auditorium. The funds would be held for specific use at the Civic Auditorium. The motion to allow any funds raised through the campaign for the Civic Auditorium to be held in an account with the Park Foundation was made by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Ryan Seaburg. This money will not be an endowment but will be held as a line item specified for the Civic Auditorium and can be moved over to the city and used at any time for anything needed at the Civic. A discussion was held on how the donated monies are held within the Foundation, with Mitch Feikes feeling these monies should be in an endowment. Ryan Seaburg feels it needs to be clear on what the money is being raised for, be it a specific item or general support for the facility. The motion passed unanimously.

Mark Schreiber requested that the fees for the La Porte County Realtor's Deserving Children's shopping tour held at the Civic Auditorium November 26 and December 2 from 5pm-8pm be waived. The request to waive the rental fees of the Civic Auditorium for the La Porte County Realtor's Deserving Children's event was made by Ryan Seaburg, seconded by Denise Bealor was unanimously approved.

Evan Miller requested permission from the Board to move to pay at the plate for our adult basketball and softball officials who are Independent Contractors. Each team would pay the official before play can begin. There would be a league fee paid, and the teams would also pay a deposit that would cover any forfeits that the team may have. The lower upfront fee will hopefully attract more teams. A motion to move to a pay at the plate for adult sports officials was passed unanimously on a motion by JR Francis, seconded by Nicole Messacar.

Evan Miller also requested permission to add a monetary fine to deter bad behavior in our adult sports programs. The problem with getting officials is sometimes due to the behavior of the participants in the league. The fees would be \$40 for an ejection fee for adult softball and \$20 for a technical foul in basketball. The fee would need to be paid at the office prior to playing in the next game. The fees would be put into Recreation N/R. The motion to establish the requested fees was approved unanimously on a motion by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Ryan Seaburg.

BOARD MEMBER/DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

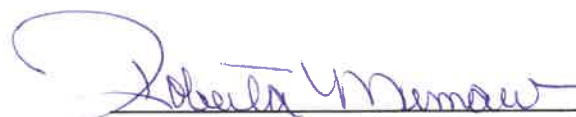
Kyle Cashmer stated Beechwood has had a great season and events are starting to wind down.

Mark Schreiber reminded everyone of the upcoming Sunflower Fair.

Mitch Feikes inquired about the sale of Beechwood Lakes and the renovations at Beechwood Golf Course. Mark Schreiber stated that through the process the infrastructure costs would be higher than expected so the proceeds from the sale will not go to the Golf Course. The Bowers lodge will also be paused due to infrastructure costs.

The motion to adjourn was made by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Denise Bealor. Motion passed unanimously.


 Mitch Feikes, President


 Roberta Mumaw, Secretary

Approved: 10-15-25