LA PORTE PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
BOARD MINUTES
June ~~JULY 15~~ 17, 2026

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

Craig Phillips updated the Board on the Scott Park Advantix project. Mr. Phillips is currently waiting for the state's approval on the request to switch one of the 3 sites affiliated with the Advantix project from 701 Boyd Blvd to 128 Bach Street before any work at Scott Park can begin. Once approval is received, work that is related to all sites can begin. The first work to begin will be working with the local utilities and sewer and water. Discussions need to be held regarding the storm water at Scott Park. There is an anticipated need for some type of above ground drainage, but again this is still preliminary. Mark Schreiber stated we would like to retain as much usable property as possible. Ryan Seaburg stated that above ground water retention is not a good idea near a playground. Mr. Phillips stated any above ground water storage would be temporary. Nicole Messacar would like to stay away from rain gardens as they require additional work that we do not have the staff for. Approval on the site switch is anticipated for next week.

Craig Phillips informed the board that in the future he will be approaching the board regarding transferring property west of the entrance to Scharf Field to the redevelopment commission for the yard area for the new YMCA. This is needed to allow a setback from park property to the YMCA property. The property would remain in recreational use. This would need go to the City Council, Board of Works and then back to the park board in July and finally to the redevelopment commission for acceptance. This would be a direct transfer between city entities. Mark Schreiber stated the land was acquired through a federal land and water conservation land act. Which means the land needs to be dedicated for recreation use in perpetuity. The only way that this can be changed is to get DNR approval. Now that he has the formal survey Mark Schreiber will get that to DNR for their review. He does not anticipate any issue as the land is currently underused as it sits. Mr. Schreiber feels that having the buffer between the 2 properties makes sense. Nicole Messacar asked if DNR approval would be given prior to the July meeting. Mark Schreiber does not think approval would be that soon. Mark Schreiber feels that any decisions would be subject to DNR approval. Nicole Messacar asked if there were plans to remove the trees on the property. Craig Phillips stated the goal is to only remove any invasive/scrub trees. Nicoel Messacar would like more information prior to the July meeting.

RECOGNITIONS
None

MINUTES
The minutes from the ~~June 17,~~ May 20 2026, meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Ryan Seaburg, seconded by Nicole Messacar.

BILLS AND CLAIMS
A motion to approve the bills and claims in the amount of $113,025.21 was made by Ryan Seaburg, seconded by Murrell (JR) Francis. Mitch Feikes has concerns with the cost of the internet at ACOA. Roscoe Hoffman is the Director of IT for the City of La Porte. A discussion

was held regarding the different options, and Roscoe will look into these different options for internet service and will get quotes to Mark Schreiber. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT
NONE

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS
NONE

OLD BUSINESS
Mark Schreiber updated the Board on the progress of the Civic Auditorium elevator. Larson-Danielson continues to work with Otis Elevator to expedite the shop drawings and modifications. The unit will take approximately 6-8 weeks to manufacture. Demolition will begin in mid-August, with install beginning after and will take 2-3 weeks. The hope is for the new elevator to be installed by mid-September.

NEW BUSINESS
Mark Schreiber spoke to the board about a special event that will be held by our concessionaire. There is specific for that is completed when there is anything out of the ordinary being held in the park. These are typically brought to the board if the event is on a larger scale. This event was a complete oversight by Mark Schreiber to not bring it to the board.

Evan Miller has been working with the La Porte Turbos swim club regarding an open water swim at Stone Lake and is requesting board approval for this event on Saturday June 27 from 7am-Noon. Half of the beach will be open to the public however no one will be allowed in the water during the meet. Lifeguards will be on staff to help police this. The motion to allow the open water swim meet on June 27 and to also allow the lifeguards to keep people out of the water until the meeting is complete was made by Ryan Seaburg, seconded by Murrell (JR) Francis. Motion passed unanimously.

Kyle Cashmer has been working with the Clerk Treasurer's office on the purchase of new equipment for the golf course. The $75,000 in funding will come from CCD funds with any additional costs coming from Beechwood Non-Reverting. Items purchased will be:
10 autonomous mowers at a cost of $4300 each for a total of $43,000
3 and accessories Groomers for greens mowers – $7682.97
Branson 3515CH tractor with bush hog - $17,000 (used from H&G)
Utility cart - $7500(estimate only)
A motion to approve the purchase of the listed equipment was made by Ryan Seaburg, seconded by Nicole Messacar. Motion passed unanimously.

Mark Schreiber informed the Board that the Park Foundation has been in the process of obtaining a gaming license. Initially before applying for the license, you must do an inquiry before getting permission from the state to submit the application. The inquiry has been made and now Mark Schreiber is seeking permission from the Park Board to allow the La Porte Foundation once obtaining the license to allow state sanctioned gambling activities on park property. The motion to allow the Park Foundation to hold state sanctioned gambling events on park property was made by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Murrel (JR) Francis. Mark Schreiber stated it would be mainly 50/50 events in the parks and Civic events. Mark Schreiber stated that anyone selling must be an affiliate with their organization. All funds generated would come back to the park department. The motion passed unanimously.

Mark Schreiber is requesting permission to allow the ACOA to participate in a give back night with Kentucky Fried Chicken. The ACOA would receive 10% back. The exact date has not been set. The request was unanimously approved on a motion by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Ryan Seaburg.

Mark Schreiber has been approached by The American Cancer Society - Relay for Life who will be holding their annual fundraiser which has been transitioned to a 5k style event at Dennis F. Smith Amphitheater on August 1. The American Cancer Society is requesting that the rental fee for this event be waived. Mark Schreiber on behalf of the American Cancer Society is asking for permission to allow the event and to waive the rental fees for the event. Nicole Messacar made the motion to allow the Relay for Life event on August 1 at the Dennis F. Smith Amphitheater and to also waive the rental fees, the motion was seconded by Murrel (JR) Francis. Mark Schreiber feels this is a great event; however, he reminded the board that they have established a not-for-profit fee for rentals. Nicole Messacar amended her original motion striking the waiving of fees and only to allow the event to be held, seconded by Ryan Seaburg. Motion passed unanimously. Nicole Messacar made the motion to deny the waiving of the fee, seconded by Ryan Seaburg. Motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT HEAD/BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mark Schreiber stated with the recent wet weather we are seeing more trees down due to saturated soil, but luckily there has been now structural damage. Mark commends our maintenance staff for all of their efforts.

Rhonda Ashcraft gave an update on the Civic events:
Various private events
Bar service for the downtown event – Taco Fest.
Bar Service for the July 3rd fireworks
Bar Service for all Lakefest events
Wrestling - August 13
The Ten Band – Pearl Jam tribute – August 28

The motion to adjourn was made by Ryan Seaburg, seconded by Nicole Messacar. Motion passed unanimously.

Mithc Feikes, President

Roberta Mumaw, Secretary

Approved: 7-15-26