

**La Porte Park and Recreation Department  
Board Minutes  
September 21, 2022**

The meeting was called to order by President Mitch Feikes who also led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. Also in attendance were Mark Schreiber, Joe Ault, Karen Ellison, Denise Bealor, Nicole Messacar, Brett Binversie, Kyle Cashmer, Pam Carroll, Karyl Feikes and Roberta Mumaw.

**Recognitions**

The Park Department received from the Northwest Indiana Paddlers Association their Lori E. Kovitz Accessibility Award for the Stone Lake kayak and canoe launch. Mark Schreiber thanked the Paddlers Association for the award as well as the Healthcare Foundation of La Porte who provided the grant for the launch.

**Minutes**

The minutes from the previous month's meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Karen Ellison, seconded by Joe Ault.

**Bills and Claims**

The bills and claims in the amount of \$144,477.32 were unanimously approved on a motion by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Denise Bealor.

**Public Comment**

None

**Sub-Committee Reports**

None

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

Nick Pearce with Aquatic Control updated the Board on the aquatic vegetation management of Clear Lake. Treatment began in 2008 and continue as needed. There have been no applications for the last three years as no Eurasian milfoil has been found. This year \$7600 was received through the LARE grant. This is to cover 80% of the cost to treat up to 10 acres of Eurasian milfoil and for the aquatic vegetation plan update. Surveys were done in May and August (tier 2 survey) with no milfoil being found. Plant diversity has increased from last year with more native species being found. The number of sites with plants decreased with two invasive species being found. Future treatment plans will be spot treatment wherever milfoil is found. Fragmities are taking over the shore of Clear Lake with treatment costing \$1500. There is no state funding for this. The total LARE request for next year will be approximately \$9500.

Mark Schreiber requested permission from the Board to approve the HVAC work to be done at the Civic Auditorium. This was approved by the City Council to be paid

with ARP funds. The motion was made by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Joe Ault. The project will make the building more energy efficient. There will also be a generator hook up added so if it is ever needed a generator can be brought in to operate the building. The time frame for the project will be approximately 11 weeks June-August 2023. The HVAC and seating project will all be done during this time. The change order has been approved by the Board of Works. The motion passed unanimously.

Mark Schreiber sent out prior to the meeting the Clear Lake Greenway extension plan to the Board and is requesting permission to move forward with that project. A motion to approve the Clear Lake Greenway extension through Fox Park was made by Karen Ellison, seconded by Denise Bealor. The motion passed unanimously.

Mark Schreiber informed the Board that part of the Soldiers Memorial Park Master plan was to evaluate the need for a second facility like Cummings Lodge. There is \$10,000 in funding available through a Healthcare Foundation grant. Mark Schreiber is requesting permission from the Board to sign a contract with SEH Professional Services in the amount of \$8,000 to complete the study. A motion to allow Mark Schreiber permission to sign the contract with SEH was made by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Karen Ellison. This is a feasibility study to assess the need for an additional facility. The Board has requested clarifications as to what the contract includes. A motion was made by Nicole Messacar to amend the original motion to allow Mark Schreiber permission to sign the contract once the clarification of the work scope has been made, seconded by Karen Ellison. The amended motion passed unanimously. The original motion passed unanimously.

Mark Schreiber requested permission from the Board to enter into an agreement to utilize the Jumpstart Fundraising software. With our department growing there is a need to increase funding sources. This is a tool that is being offered through the Healthcare Foundation of La Porte. The first year would be free through the Healthcare Foundation and the second year would be at a cost of \$200 per month. There are certain parameters that we would need to follow and would not be starting until January 2023. A motion was made to sign the MOU for the Jumpstart Fundraising software program by Karen Ellison, seconded by Joe Ault. A discussion was held regarding the use of the software. Mark Schreiber stated this could be used for two years and terminated at any time after that. The motion passed unanimously.

Mark Schreiber has been approached by a group of local individuals involved with the Indiana Tree Climbing Competition which is put on by the Indiana Arborists Association. This group would like to put in a bid with the Arborists Association to bring the event to La Porte in 2023. They feel the best area would be our Park Office location due to the trees at our location, the parking is adequate and there is space for the additional activities they also offer. The event would be held sometime from late August – early October 2023. A motion to allow the Indiana Arborists to submit the bid to bring the 2023 Indiana Tree Climbing Competition to La Porte and use the

grounds adjacent to the Park Office for the competition was made by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Joe Ault. Motion passed unanimously.

Mark Schreiber has been contacted by a group wanting to use the disc golf course at Kesling Park. Mark would suggest establishing a user fee of \$100 for the use of the disc golf course. A motion to establish a \$100 user fee for the disc golf course and to allow the tournament to be held October 2 was made by Joe Ault, seconded by Denise Bealor. Motion passed unanimously.

Mark Schreiber stated that the Indiana Park and Rec conference that he and Pam Carroll will be attending in November will fall during the normal scheduled meeting; therefore, the date will need to be changed. He suggested November 9 or 23 for the meeting. A motion to change the November Park Board meeting date to November 9, 2022, was made by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Karen Ellison. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Department Head/Board Member Comments**

Mark Schreiber stated the public meetings have begun for the upcoming Master Plan with the first of three being held at the La Porte Public Library Exchange with 14 people attending. The next meeting will be Monday, September 26, at Cummings Lodge at 11:00 a.m. and the final meeting will be held Thursday, September 29, at the Civic Auditorium at 6:00 p.m. There is an online survey that has currently been completed by approximately 130 people.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Denise Bealor, seconded by Nicole Messacar.



Mitch Feikes, President



Roberta Mumaw, Secretary

Approved: 10-19-22