

**La Porte Park and Recreation Department  
Board Meeting Minutes  
May 17, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by President Mitch Feikes who also led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. Also attending were Nicole Messacar, Joseph Ault, Karen Ellison, Denise Bealor, Jake Huelat, Pam Carroll, Brett Blversie, Mark Schreiber, Karyl Feikes, and Roberta Mumaw.

**Recognitions**

None

**Minutes**

The minutes from the previous meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Denise Bealor, seconded by Joseph Ault.

**Bills and Claims**

The bills and claims in the amount of XXXXXX were unanimously approved on a motion by Karen Ellison, seconded by Nicole Messacar.

**Public Comment**

None

**Sub-Committee Reports**

None

**Old Business**

Mark Schreiber informed the board that the committee met and have the following recommendation regarding solicitation in the parks. The ordinance would be similar to La Porte County Parks which reads:

- A) No person shall, offer, exchange or sale any material/merchandise any hauling pedaling or solicitation by or offer or buy any offers of merchandise or take up any collection, or solicit or receive any contribution of money or articles of value except when authorized by permit or contract with the park board.
- B) No person should display, distribute, post or fix any placard, sign handbill, pamphlet circular or any written or printed material containing advertising material or announcements of any kind without written permission from the Park Board. A motion was made by Nicole Messacar to accept the solicitation ordinance similar to La Porte County Parks, seconded by Jake Heulat. Nicole Messacar amended her motion to include approval by the City Attorney, seconded by Jake Heulat. This will be a policy only, with no fine attached unless approved by the City Council who can attach a fine. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mark Schreiber presented the Board with a partial draft of the 2023-2027 Master Plan. There are still some budget items that will need to have cost updated prior to final approval.

**New Business**

Mark Schreiber presented the Board with preliminary drawings for the second lodge facility that will be constructed on the southern shore of Stone Lake. This would be a 6800 sq ft facility with seating for approximately 250. There is a need for an additional lodge facility. There is no action required as this is just an

introduction to the project. The lodge would be just east of the boat launch and would be accessible by water. The parking for the facility would be across the street where Lions field currently is. This will go back to the master plan that call for Lions field to be re-purposed. The approximate cost would be 2.5 – 3 million dollars. Mark Schreiber has been working with Dave Sirugo and his clients Ed and Karen Bower who are wanting to make a substantial contribution to this project, as well as money for future upkeep of the facility, Ed and Karen are lifelong La Porte residents. Mark Schreiber has recommended that since the Bowers are going to be the lead donors on this project that the facility be named The Bower Family Lodge, after Ed's family. Karen Ellison made the motion to name the facility The Bower Family Lodge, seconded by Nicole Messacar. Motion passed unanimously. The Board extended their gratitude to the Bowers for the substantial donation to the department. Board approval will be required for design and the scope of the project as well as all project funding.

Mark Schreiber presented the Board with the designs for the additional ball diamonds at Kesling Park. This would work in conjunction with the additional lodge facility to be built on Stone Lake. The Lions field area would become a parking area for the new lodge facility. This project would be to move the two ball fields out to Kesling and to add an indoor hitting facility and lighting to four of the six fields. The approximate cost of this project would be 4 million dollars. Due to the cost the project would be split over 3 years.

Mark Schreiber has requested permission form the board to enter not a contract with CSP out of South Bend to hire a summer IT Intern. CSP would cover insurance for the employee and would bill \$30.60 per hour. For approximately 4 weeks the cost would be \$4896. The fee would be paid through our professional services account. This employee would investigate and put together a plan for security cameras within our parks. A motion to enter a contract with CSP was made by Karen Ellison, seconded by Jake Heulat. Motion passed unanimously.

Brett Binversie requested permission form the Board to auction some of the Civic seats that are being removed. This would be an online auction that would run through municibid.com who is licensed through the state. This works like eBay, with buyers being charged a fee and we would receive 100% of the price charged for the seats. A minimum bid will be set for the inventory presented. Once the seats are removed, they will need to be picked up within 5-10 days. The proceeds would be placed into the City's general fund. A motion to enter into a contract with municibid for the online sale of the Civic seats from the inventory that was presented and to remove and dispose any that are not sold was made by Karen Ellison, seconded by Denise Bealor. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mark Schreiber has informed Ed Fay that per his contract he is not allowed to offer personal watercraft ports at his Stone Lake boat slips. The contract is for 30 boat slips and does not allow for any other type of rentals.


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

Brett Binversie stated that the floor seating for the Queen Nation concert is sold out and there are currently 600 balcony seats sold.

Mark Schreiber stated that the Truesdale Avenue project is ahead of schedule.



Mitch Felkes, President



Roberta Mumaw, Secretary

Approved: 6.21.23