



**City of Warsaw Parks & Recreation Board
Regular Meeting – Council Chambers
Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 5:15 PM**

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Larry Ladd, Park Board President Michelle Boxell, Park Board Vice President
 Mayor Jeff Grose Jill Beehler, Board Member Ryan Burgher, Board Member
 Noemi Ponce, Board Member Juergen Voss, City Council Representative
 Larry Plummer, Parks Superintendent Shaun Gardner, Maintenance Director
 Stephanie Schaefer, Recreation Director Suzanne Stokes, Recording Secretary

I. Call to Order

Park Board President Larry Ladd called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the January 20, 2026 meeting were approved.

(1) A motion was made by Board member Noemi Ponce and seconded by Board member Ryan Burgher, and it passed unanimously.

III. Unfinished Business

a) Community Skate Park

- Parks Superintendent Larry Plummer updated the Board on the status of the skate park relocation. There was a meeting with the K21 Foundation last week and their board will meet on March 19 to make the decision on whether or not the grant for the skate park is approved. An amount of \$40,000 has been secured from the Dekko Foundation as well as \$19,985 from the Kosciusko County Community Foundation. Plummer informed the Board that the AWS grant that was applied for was not awarded during this grant cycle. Evan from American Ramp Company has quoted a start date of May 2026 for this project.

IV. New Business

a) Project Matrix

- Plummer began by saying that due to the skate park project, the matrix is down a bit from previous years – not in funding but in number of projects. There will be additional sand brought to the beaches. The Glover Pavilion stage will be repaired as will the Central Park Plaza as they are every year. Currently another 380 feet more of sidewalk in Central Park is being evaluated for replacement, likely to happen in third or fourth quarter of this year. All playgrounds will receive engineered wood fiber replenishment for fall safety. There will be a feasibility study conducted at the Pike Lake Campground to determine if it can be expanded. Plummer also spoke on the revitalization of the downtown planter beds. Both Justin Taylor and Jeremy Skinner are involved with the project to clear the current beds out, replace the soil, and making it full of drought and shade tolerant plants, including ground cover more resistant to salt and weather. The colors this year will be red, white, and blue annuals for the 250th anniversary of the United States. Purchases



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will include a new truck, a new mower, and a new tractor. The approval for the tractor purchase is going to Board of Works on Friday; the tractor has to be built and will not arrive until September. The Case tractor is used every day for projects or snow removal, and it is constantly moving. Plummer said the current tractor is a 2009 and a crucial piece for the Parks to have. Park signage replacement is ongoing and something kept up on every year. There will be sidewalks and fencing done at the new Hire Park restrooms. The Parks electrician upgraded the office at the campground to install a mini-split with AC and heat. Ladd asked about the engineering needed to expand the campground. Plummer replied that the study would indicate how to expand water, electricity, what kind of base needs to go down, how many sites, etc. so that he can get the cost for expansion. Board member Ryan Burgher asked if the current tractor would be traded in and Plummer said that yes it would be, to lower costs.

b) Maintenance Report

- Maintenance Director Shaun Gardner reported that his team moved a lot of snow in the last month, cleaning off rental facilities, the Pete Thorn Center, city parking lots, and driveway ends. Recently inventory was checked to make sure everything was up to date. Gardner said that this year his Maintenance Supervisor Adam Howard created a list with exact locations of items so that they were easier to find and know where to put back. He hopes this reduces time spent looking for rarely used tools. All of the large picnic tables have been refurbished and his team is now halfway through the small ones and the garage sale tables will be done after that. He's had a different crew out there than he normally does, challenging them to keep stepping up and keeping a steady output. The carpenters built a wood rack in the picnic table shop to keep newly sanded and painted boards off the floor and provide better organization. A water line was repaired at Pete Thorn; he coordinated with the Senior Center to shut off the water for a couple hours so it could be completed. Gardner said while the weather is nice he's going to try to get his guys outdoors more in preparation for spring.

c) Recreation Report

- Recreation Director Stephanie Schaefer was not present, so Plummer gave the recreation report. He started with an update on program attendance: 22 people at Legomania on January 28; 157 people at the Daddy's Little Sweetheart Dances on February 6 and 7; 35 people at the Valentine's Day Imagination Station; and 56 people at Free Karaoke Night. Upcoming events include Free Arts & Crafts Day on March 11, a Bob Ross paint class on March 14 that sold out in a week, Imagination Station on March 17, and a Senior Paint Class also close to selling out on March 18. Tickets for the Mommy & Son Dance will go on sale on March 23. Plummer then went over proposed program fees for the upcoming year citing supply cost increases as the reason for the fee increases. Ponce made a motion to approve the program fee increases and Boxell provided a second.



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V. Other Matters That May Come Before the Board

a) *January Team Member of the Month*

- Plummer presented Maintenance laborer Travis Thomas as the January team member of the month. He said Thomas was one of three in the running and voted on by his peers. He continues to step up his game and be a great teammate, showing great leadership qualities.

VI. Meeting Review

VII. Adjournment

With no other matters brought before the Board, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Boxell and seconded by Ponce. The meeting was adjourned at 5:39 PM.

Minutes taken by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Stokes". The signature is written in a cursive, stylized font.

Suzanne Stokes
Park Board Recording Secretary