



**City of Warsaw Parks & Recreation Board
Regular Meeting – Council Chambers
Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 5:15 PM**

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: ☒ Steve Haines, Park Board President ☒ Larry Ladd, Park Board Vice President
 ☐ Mayor Jeff Grose ☒ Jill Beehler, Board Member ☒ Michelle Boxell, 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 Steve Haines called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the January 21, 2025 meeting were approved.

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

III. Unfinished Business

a) Center Lake Pier Removal Update

- Parks Superintendent Larry Plummer provided the Board with an update on the progress of the pier removal at Center Lake. Plummer said Milestone Construction set up their equipment at the end of January and began working in February. They removed the whole top of the pier and took the concrete out. Milestone discovered the pier was filled with sand inside except for approximately the last 20 feet as it had washed out. They have created a barrier for the water and are dipping out the inside currently, working their way back to the shore.

Plummer estimated they are about halfway done at this point with the goal of having it all done at the end of February. Extreme cold has hindered progress for a couple days, however. Plummer said he is excited to have the pier gone and add in sand to make it all one continuous beach area.

IV. New Business

a) 2025 Project Matrix

- Plummer went over the special projects matrix for the department for the upcoming year. At Center Lake Beach, more sand will be added and drainage tiles will be fixed. The removal of the pier is happening now and Plummer estimates that by mid-March the beach project should be completed. There are other projects planned for the Center Lake area, specifically along the recreational trail with money from the Sasso family grant. Those projects include: installation of six bench swings, a concrete table with a top for chess or checkers, and a concrete table with



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letter block seats for the Kiddieland area. New benches and trash receptacles have been purchased so that everything will match from Kiddieland into Bixler Park along the trail.

At the Firemen's Building, new counters are being installed along with new acoustic sound tiles that have not been replaced since 2012. Plummer has reached out to a flooring contractor to talk about replacing the current floor with epoxy flake sometime this year; a meeting will take place next week for further discussion.

Metal roofs are going to be installed on Lucerne Park cabins 3 and 4 as well as on the Central Park East & West shelters this year. Those are the last roofs to be changed over to metal and Plummer said they should be good for 40-50 years without having to replace shingles. The work will be done in-house by the Parks Department carpenters.

In Central Park, there will be annual repairs at the Glover Pavilion stage to fix the pavers and get it ready for concert season. It is Plummer's hope to repair the sidewalk in Central Park, noting it might have to be a project that is bid out. The west side of the sidewalk needs the elevation increased to stop flooding when it rains and a new drainage system needs to be built to help with that, too. The parking lots in front of Biblical Gardens will receive new asphalt in the spring; all the other lots surrounding Central Park have been redone recently.

Engineered wood fiber will be replenished at all playgrounds for fall protection. Both the Pike Lake Campground and the Pete Thorn Youth Center will receive new signage. Graycraft Signs is working on that at the moment. Over at Fribley Field, new sidewalks will be installed with the help of the Street Department. Plummer said the sidewalks are settling and cracking creating trip hazards.

Plummer highlighted anticipated new purchases like a new truck to stay on track with the 10 year maintenance plan and a new mower to stay on track with the 4 year maintenance plan. The construction of restrooms at Hire Park will be a project that is bid out. It will be for simply the construction of the building; sewer and plumbing connections are already on site, it's just a matter of getting it all connected. New playground equipment will be purchased for Kiddieland. It will replace a 25 year old playset there, so Plummer stated they are looking to bring in something new and updated along with replacing tile.

Park Board Vice President Larry Ladd asked if the floor at the Fireman's Building was deteriorating. Plummer replied that yes, the vinyl is cracking, so he's looking for more durability with the epoxy floors.



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Regular Meeting – Council Chambers
Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 5:15 PM**

b) Maintenance Report

- Maintenance Director Shaun Gardner reported the carpenters are in the middle of updating the Firemen's Building. They have been working on it gradually over the last few weeks as time has allowed between rentals. The counters and sinks are installed with new faucets. Any repairs that needed done have been completed. The acoustic sound tiles were replaced and currently everything is being repainted, moving away from the brown color palette into greys. Gardner said the walls are a cooler light grey with a dark grey trim in hopes of brightening the facility up as he felt it was looking dark and dingy. He said his hope is that by the end of the week everything is completed inside, including new outlets replaced by the electrician to match the color scheme. Gardner added that the flooring has been saved until last so there's less chance of something happening to it.

The brass rings and nozzles from the fountain in the Central Park Plaza have been cleaned and restored to shine. Indiana American Water is full of calcium and causes a thick build up on the fountain. Gardner said by the end of last summer the build up was ¼" thick and clogged the filters. He added that the maintenance crew were going to be looking for leaks to repair because the fountain seemed to be leaking and refilling every day instead of recirculating the water.

New tables have been purchased for the Nye Youth Cabin facility. The tables that were in there were the oldest in the whole Parks system and had burns, scratches, and dings in them.

Picnic table refurbishment is on the downhill slide as the big tables have now been completed and the team can move onto the smaller ones, which always goes faster. Gardner's staff helped set up for the Daddy's Little Sweetheart Dance a couple weeks ago for the Recreation Department. They have also been busy with snow removal in municipal lots, Parks parking lots, and downtown sidewalks. He said it has been important lately to keep the facilities cleaned off because of all the rentals.

c) Recreation Report

- Recreation Director Stephanie Schaefer spoke on the recent Daddy's Little Sweetheart Dance that was held on February 7 and 8. She said she and Recreation Director Assistant Lynnae Miller were pleased with the results and that it was a magical evening. Schaefer added Lake City Photo Booths this year for the dance to take pictures; they were a very nice addition, and the pictures turned out great for the participants.

The first Imagination Station of 2025, "I heart Imagination Station", was held today with 26 kids and 14 adults in attendance. Art in the Park will be starting again in March. The senior paint class will be held on March 19, with 25 spots opening for registration on February 21. On March 22,



**City of Warsaw Parks & Recreation Board
Regular Meeting – Council Chambers
Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 5:15 PM**

there will be a Bob Ross painting class held. The 20 spots will be available to register for starting February 24.

Schaefer is working on her grant for the Indiana Arts Commission. Last year she requested \$4000 and received it. She is also finalizing details for all summer concerts and hopes to start getting summer staff in place next month. Haines asked Schaefer how the search for lifeguards was going. She said it has been very slow with only a few applications. Many of her guards from last year are graduation college and doing internships this year and are not returning. Plummer added that training is offered for the lifeguards so that if anyone is interested but is not currently a lifeguard, they can apply. A Facebook post about the openings will be coming soon.

V. Other Matters That May Come Before the Board

a) January 2025 Team Member of the Month

- Plummer presented the January 2025 Team Member of the Month to the Board. Mechanic George Music was selected for the award. Per Plummer, Music showed incredible team effort in January, stepping up to help with tasks outside his realm of work. He added that some equipment had broken down on the really cold days and Music fought through the inclement weather to make sure everything was restored to up and running.

VI. Meeting Review

VII. Adjournment

With no other matters brought before the Board, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Beehler and seconded by Ponce. The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 PM.

Minutes taken by:

Suzanne Stokes

Park Board Recording Secretary