



**City of Warsaw Parks & Recreation Board
Regular Meeting – Council Chambers
Tuesday, March 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 February 18, 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

- Superintendent Plummer stated the pier has been completely removed as of last week. There was damage done to the concrete, but it has been fixed and grass restoration has been done, as well. Milestone Construction encountered some challenges while taking the pier out. At the deep end, the pier structure walls began collapsing outwards, but it was contained about halfway in. Divers were in the lake to make sure everything was removed in its entirety before the job was marked as complete. The total cost of the removal ended up being \$397,838; the project was funded by City of Warsaw Public Works and the Redevelopment Commission.

Plummer provided further insight as to why the pier was removed. The pier had structural damage and posed safety concerns, especially since a winter flood in 2008 where water froze two feet above the pier. Water depth modifications to the lake made the pier unsafe for diving as the lake level had been lowered around a foot. Removing the pier better separates the fishing and swimming areas, lowering the risk of hooks getting snagged in the swimming ropes, swimmers, or lifeguards. The removal also increases maintenance efficiency for the Parks Department as the whole section is now one continuous beach. A study done by the Lily Center for Lakes & Streams noted poor water quality and E.coli concerns due to the pier's presence in the water. Plummer said that, looking ahead, the hope is to secure funding in the future to do a south pier near where the old pump house was.



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

He also updated the Board on a couple projects from the 2025 Project Matrix. Plummer recently met with a contractor about the sidewalk replacement in Central Park. Approximately 380 feet of sidewalk on the west side of the loop will be replaced sometime after August 1 of this year. The west side of the loop is usually wet and underwater when it rains. It will be replaced and elevated to do drainage on both sides to keep it dry. Park Board Vice President Larry Ladd asked if the new sidewalk would be elevated by grade and Plummer said that was the plan. Park Board member Michelle Boxell asked how long it would take. Plummer replied that he assumes about a month or so.

Plummer confirmed, as well, the dates for the flooring replacement at the Fireman's Building. From April 28 through May 9, the flooring will be removed and the concrete prepared before installing the flake epoxy flooring.

IV. New Business

a) School Lunch Program

- Shannon Dellinger from Warsaw Community Schools Food & Nutrition Services approached the Board asking for permission to use Bixler Park to serve meals for the 19th year of their summer feeding program. She stated last year, 4671 meals alone were served out of Bixler Park. The dates this year would be from June 2 until July 25, with no service on the week of June 30 to July 4. Plummer added that there have been no problems with the program in previous years and the group always leaves the park looking great each time they use it. Beehler motioned to grant permission to WCS to use Bixler Park for their summer meals and it was seconded by Boxell. The motion passed unanimously.

b) Maintenance Report

- Maintenance Director Shaun Gardner reported that all the work at the Fireman's Building is complete. The counters, sinks, and faucets were all replaced in the kitchen and both restrooms. Brand new outlets, switches, and switch covers were installed to match the new paint scheme. Since the old acoustic tiles were dirty and damaged, new ones were put up on the ceiling and walls. The entire interior was repainted including the ceiling, walls, and trim. The last thing to paint are the exterior doors but the weather has yet to cooperate for that. Next month the new flooring will be installed and Gardner said it will look like a whole new building inside.

On the east side of the parking area at Fribley Field, Gardner said he has had a crew removing some trees. Recently the property was surveyed, and it turned out that most of that tree line was on Parks' property. Because of that, Gardner has them removing junk trees and stumps will be ground out once the locates are done. More parking has been needed at Fribley for a long time and Plummer added in that by clearing this lot, it could possibly double the number of parking spaces. The Street Department has projects going on in that area so the leftover millings will be



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

used to cover the lot; Plummer said asphaltting it could be a possibility in a few years. Both Gardner and Plummer commented on how dangerous it is for families to be parking on the street and the need for safer parking options.

All picnic tables and benches have been refreshed for the upcoming season. Gardner said the maintenance guys will be headed outdoors full time, soon. The Pike Lake Campground has been cleaned and rolled with tables and fire rings placed at each site. Water will begin being turned on the first week of April. The guys are currently working on blowing and rolling all the parks to be ready for opening day.

c) Recreation Report

- Recreation Director Stephanie Schaefer presented information regarding her events. The Imagination Station that was held today had 23 kids and 15 adults in attendance. The first Senior Paint Class of the year is tomorrow, March 19; it is sold out. This Saturday, March 22, there is a Bob Ross painting class that is also sold out. On April 1, the announcements will be broadcast for who is headlining the rock and country concerts this summer. At 7:20 AM, WRSW will announce the rock artist and at 7:45 AM, Willie 103.5 will announce the country artist.

Schaefer said that there are many activities planned for spring break as she received plentiful positive comments last year about the new offerings. There will be an Imagination Station, a Senior Paint Class, a Ceramics & Popcorn afternoon, an Earth Day celebration, and a Family Paint Class.

V. Other Matters That May Come Before the Board

a) February 2025 Team Member of the Month

- Plummer informed the Board that Administrative Assistant Suzanne Stokes was chosen as the February 2025 Team Member of the Month. He praised her willingness to always go above and beyond, willing to help anyone on the team who is in need no matter the task.

VI. Meeting Review

- During the meeting review, Schaefer did let the Board know that there will be a new book on the Story Walk trail next week and that she had suggested the Library add extra books in over the summer as she has been pushing the Story Walk more on Facebook. Ponce asked when park restrooms would be open for the season and Plummer said starting April 1, water lines will be turned on and by April 15 all the restrooms will be open. The water at Kelly Park must be tested and sent to the State before it can be turned on for the season. The Board also learned that all the nets are up at the pickle ball and tennis courts already because of the nice weather last week.



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

VII. Adjournment

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

Minutes taken by:

Suzanne Stokes

Park Board Recording Secretary