



**City of Warsaw Parks & Recreation Board
Regular Meeting – Council Chambers
Tuesday, June 17, 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 April 15, 2025 meeting were approved.

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

III. Unfinished Business

No unfinished business was presented to the Board.

IV. New Business

a) Maintenance Report

- Maintenance Director Shaun Gardner gave several updates for the Park Board. First, all flowers have been planted in the parks and the downtown district. Gardner’s summer staff has all arrived and began working; he noted that they are doing well. At Kiddieland, the galaxy structure has been removed with the surrounding area being prepped and leveled for the new incoming playground pieces. He added they had to add new curbing to enclose the space with concrete for the new poured in place footing. The new inclusive merry-go-round is on hand, but the second piece has not been delivered yet. Gardner stated within the next week or so, they would begin placing the new structures.

Along the Center Lake Recreational Trail, the new swinging benches have been installed. The brackets arrived and the maintenance crew put the swings up recently. Gardner said the swings turned out really nice and he noticed people using them almost immediately. Other updates in that area include the installation of a new rental kiosk from Rent.Fun allowing beachgoers to rent a volleyball or cornhole bags to use the provided net/boards. Gardner said the units were installed Friday last week and by Friday evening they were active on the app, with rentals happening as soon as Saturday afternoon.



**City of Warsaw Parks & Recreation Board
Regular Meeting – Council Chambers
Tuesday, June 17, 2025 at 5:15 PM**

Permanent bike racks have been installed at several park locations where temporary ones used to be placed every fall and spring. Gardner said the new racks can be replaced singularly if damaged. The crew also assisted Justin Taylor from the Planning Department to place permanent racks outside a downtown business that had requested them.

A new temporary storage shed was constructed in the Nye Park area to house the salt being used for the Castaldi Fountain. With the addition of the third softener, there isn't much room to store salt where they had been. Lastly, the maintenance crew has brought in all the equipment for the Friday night Rockin' for Riley concert into the staging area at the old shop. It will be moved out during set-up on Thursday and Friday, then returned to the shop once the concert is over.

b) Recreation Report

- Stephanie Schaefer, Recreation Director, returned this month and provided information about how the summer recreation programs are going. All of Schaefer's staff has arrived including recreation leaders and lifeguards, with the lifeguards seeing a slower start to their season due to the chilly weather. The Summer Concert Series has been going well; three of those concerts have happened with only one cancellation because of storms last Friday. Schaefer noted that they had record-breaking attendance at the most recent Imagination Station with 102 participants in the gym. Over the last two weeks for Library Stories, she estimated there have been a total of 170-180 participants show up. The Kids Fishing Derby had 50 participants, and the Kids Pickleball Clinics filled completely on the first day.

Next week marks the halfway point of the summer schedule already. The rec staff is ready for the concert on Friday night and Schaefer is hoping for a huge turnout to raise a lot of money for the Riley's Children's Fund. The band Recess will go on at 6:30 PM and Steven Adler of Guns n' Roses will take the stage at 8:00 PM. The following week will be the first running of the Wipe Out water obstacle course. The event will happen on Wednesday, June 25 at Pike Lake Beach from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Wipe Out is free, but Kona Ice will be on hand for purchase.

V. Other Matters That May Come Before the Board

a) April & May 2025 Team Members of the Month

- The April award was given to Ben Mikel, one of the carpenters at the Parks. Superintendent Larry Plummer commended Mikel for his excellent effort and strong leadership that helped accomplish several key projects. He noted Mikel is supportive and committed to the team.
- The May award was given to Jeremy Humes, Parks electrician. Plummer stated Humes has a strong team attitude and has not only helped the Parks Department accomplish several projects, but he has been involved with other City departments to assist in completing their projects, as well.



**City of Warsaw Parks & Recreation Board
Regular Meeting – Council Chambers
Tuesday, June 17, 2025 at 5:15 PM**

b) Dekko Foundation Grant

- Plummer informed the Board that he had received permission from the Board of Works to apply for a grant from the Dekko Foundation regarding the proposed new skate park. He submitted the request last week and he has been notified that it was received; Dekko will reach out once it has been reviewed. Plummer said the amount requested was \$80,000.

c) Budget Presentation

- Additionally, Plummer advised he had just received the budget numbers for 2026 from Mayor Jeff Grose right before the meeting. He will have the budgets to present at the next Park Board meeting on Tuesday, July 15, 2025.

d) Completion of Center Lake Pier Removal

- Finally, the dive team from the Warsaw Police Department used their sonar device to locate remaining debris underwater that was leftover from the removal of the Center Lake pier. The swim area was safe, these items were outside of the roped section, Plummer added. The construction team came back to remove the identified items and the contract for the removal is now complete.

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 5:29 PM.

Minutes taken by:

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

Suzanne Stokes

Park Board Recording Secretary