



**City of Warsaw Parks & Recreation Board  
Regular Meeting – Council Chambers  
Tuesday, August 19, 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 Vice President Larry Ladd called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the July 15, 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) Hoosier Lakes Radio Club – Update***

- The president of the Hoosier Lakes Radio Club, Greg Shafer, came before the Board with an update to the club’s event in June and a request to use parks for upcoming events. Shafer said their annual Summer Field Day that was held at Beyer Park in June was a success. They had approximately 50 visitors, some of which said they found the event on social media and many who said they had no idea the park was even there. They made contact both with Anchorage, Alaska and Antarctica using just 1 watt of power. Shafer was pleased and asked the Board if the club could have use of Beyer Park next year in the same manner on June 27 and 28. An additional request was made to use Bixler Park on January 24 and 25 for the club’s Winter Field Day. Park Board member Michelle Boxell moved to approve the requests, and it was seconded by Ponce.

Superintendent Plummer added that the club offered to help with the Parks’ Fall Family Fun festival in October. They will be assisting with the shuttles provided by Dave Neff from the Senior Center. Recreation Director Stephanie Schaefer also noted that with their help they will be able to run more shuttles efficiently and two new parking areas, lots at Pike Lake Beach and the Firemen’s Building, have been added this year.

***b) Kiddieland Playground – Update***

- Plummer let the Board know that there was an update to the ongoing installation of new playground equipment at Kiddieland. He stated the crew had arrived today and started putting down the poured-in-place rubber surface, looking to finish up tomorrow; it will take 24 hours to dry. After that there is a rope to be placed on one of the climbing structures but following that,



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the new playground will be complete. He let the Board know that he is looking to have a ribbon cutting for the space in the near future.

**c) *Biblical Parking Lot Paving – Update***

- Plummer also heard from Phend & Brown today that they will begin milling the parking lot next to Biblical Gardens and the one south of it this coming Friday. Paving will soon follow.

**IV. New Business**

**a) *Sidewalk Projects – Central Park and Pike Lake Restrooms***

- After Labor Day work will begin in Central Park to remove and replace the sidewalk on the west side as previously discussed. Plummer let the Board know that work had begun today to remove concrete around the Pike Lake restrooms. The plan is to pour new ADA accessible sidewalks all the way around the restroom as well as taking out the steep sidewalk and stairs. Plummer's intent is to make the area handicap accessible from the parking lot to the ramp. The removal of the concrete is being done in-house by Parks maintenance while the concrete installation will be done by Butt & Timmons construction. He estimated that in 1 to 2 weeks the project should be in full force and completed yet this fall.

With regard to Pike Lake, Ladd asked how the kayak rentals were going this year. Plummer said they were going really well with 4 to 6 kayaks out at a time some days. He also mentioned that Rent.Fun updated their system and placed new IOTs on the rental kiosks, coming back to maintenance them at no charge.

**b) *Maintenance Report***

- Maintenance Director Shaun Gardner started by reiterating that the Kiddieland playground is almost ready to roll from the Parks end. He hoped by this weekend it could be opened up if the previously damaged rope could be fixed; a replacement is in the mail and has not arrived yet. He went on to report on wall repairs at City Hall where some of his staff worked to fix water damage behind the payment collection desk. In tearing the damaged drywall out, the staff found a beautiful natural brick wall. They decided to leave it as an accent wall and sealed it to preserve it.

New gutters and leaf guards have been installed at the Firemen's Building. The carpenters have been busy making repairs on the boardwalk, too. Gardner commended how well his staff has worked with the Recreation staff this summer, making large events like the Country Concert and Family Carnival go smoothly. In the Back 40, a new concrete floor has been poured at the pole barn. It was a gravel floor previously and made a mess when moving equipment around. It was dug out, formed, and poured in-house by his staff. He said he hopes to be done digging out the concrete around the Pike Lake restrooms soon to get the project started.



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Plummer brought up work done by Bradford's Outdoor Creations at Lucerne Park. The vendor had previously done the work for the Lucerne Amphitheater, so Plummer contacted them to set a retaining wall around one of the disc golf course holes behind Cabin 1. It was having serious washout problems and Plummer was able to use leftover blocks from one of Hal Heagy's projects over at Oakwood Cemetery for the build. He stated that the wall did its job in today's downpours and it looks so good he has asked Bradford's for a quote on doing the same thing to another one of the course's holes.

**c) Recreation Report**

- Recreation Director Stephanie Schaefer had several events to review since the last meeting. She started with the Country Concert stating things went well and she feels like teamwork has been better this year than it's ever been. The concert was on Friday, July 18 and she estimated there were 6,000 to 7,000 people in the park that night. She held her first ever animal show this year, contracting Mark's Ark Animal Show to provide entertainment at Lucerne Park one evening. She said it was the hottest day of the summer but there were 200-300 participants in the park ranging in age from preschool to seniors enjoying it. It went so well that she has invited him back for a show over spring break in 2026.

Family Carnival went off without any issues; there were lots of people in attendance on Friday, August 1. The following week a Wipe Out event was held on Saturday, August 9. Schaefer said that 90% of the participants were new to all Parks events; she had over 100 new waivers. The next event will be Touch-A-Truck, held this Saturday, August 23 in Central Park. It will be from 12:00 to 3:00 PM with many sponsors bringing vehicles as well as inflatables for the kids.

Schaefer was excited to inform the Board of an upcoming free concert at Lucerne Park. A representative from Parkview Warsaw wanted to collaborate with the Parks Department to bring in a vocal music group called Heartland Sings. They are a nonprofit production company based out of Fort Wayne whose motto is, "Changing lives through song." The group has what they call an 'art-v' that they park then set up a stage in front of it for the concert. This will be on Tuesday, August 26 at 7:00 PM. Earlier in the year, The DeeBee's were rained out and their make-up date is Friday, September 5 at 7:00 PM at Lucerne Park for a night of Jimmy Buffet-style fun.

She closed by letting the Board know that she is finishing up the 2026 recreation calendar and is working on bringing new and exciting programs to the Parks next year. Recently she purchased an inflatable movie screen that is 33 feet tall to do movies in the parks. Lifeguards are done for the season and Schaefer said it was her best summer ever with the group of guards that she had.



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**V. Other Matters That May Come Before the Board**

**a) July Team Member of the Month**

- Plummer congratulated Parks carpenter, Mark Mikel, for being chosen as the July award recipient. Mikel is a very valuable employee and has helped not only the Parks team but also many departments within the City. He is a good all-around employee that is very team-oriented and driven to getting projects done.

**VI. Meeting Review**

Ladd brought up the Parks appreciation lunch that the Board provides for the employees each year. He asked Parks Administrative Assistant, Suzanne Stokes, to start gathering potential dates for October to hold it. Plummer took the opportunity to thank the Board for the yearly tradition and for taking their time to meet the department's employees.

**VII. Adjournment**

With no other matters brought before the Board, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Beehler and seconded by Boxell. The meeting was adjourned at 5:41 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*