



**City of Warsaw Parks & Recreation Board
Regular Meeting – Council Chambers
Tuesday, October 21, 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 September 16, 2025 meeting were approved.

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

III. Unfinished Business

a) Contracted Projects Updates

- At the June meeting, Parks Superintendent Larry Plummer informed the Board about applying for the Dekko Foundation Grant to relocate Mantis Skate Park. Plummer stated the Parks Department was awarded a matching grant of \$40,000 going toward the project. He and Recreation Director Stephanie Schaefer are working together to pursue more grants to help with funding because they see the relocation as a favorable change for the community. Park Board member Michelle Boxell asked how much Plummer applied for from Dekko. Plummer replied that the ask was \$80,000 but they awarded \$40,000 because they thought it was a good project, which he was pleased with.

IV. New Business

a) 2026 Rental Facility Fees and Damage Deposits

- Plummer provided the Board with two handouts. The first was an overview of rental revenue after utility costs for the Parks' rental facilities in 2024 and 2025. The second was a list of recommended rates from Plummer for 2026 as they have not been increased in a couple years, but the cost of utilities and maintenance has risen. Plummer asked the Board to review the material for the November meeting so that rates could be set for 2026 after discussion.

b) Maintenance Report

- With Maintenance Director Shaun Gardner not in attendance, Plummer gave the maintenance report. The crew worked hard to prepare Lucerne Park for the Fall Family Fun Festival; it was a good week's worth of work for everyone. The Pike Lake Campground is closed for the season. All picnic tables and fire rings have been stored, piers have been removed, water lines have been



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winterized, the buildings are boarded up, and the dump station is closed. All of the restrooms in the parks have also been winterized, minus the restrooms on the side of the Zimmer Biomet Center Lake Pavilion as they are heated. Picnic tables have been taken to the Back 40 to be refurbished for next season. The kayak and paddleboard kiosks have been cleaned out and shut down, too.

The process for putting up the Christmas display has started. Figurines are being checked and repaired along with the arches and strands for the shelters and restrooms are being refurbished. Putting the display up will begin at the end of October. The light display will be live at Central Park from December 5 through December 31 from 4:00 PM until midnight each evening.

Plummer spoke on the stairwell project outside City Hall. Contractors had been looked at to fix the issues, but the Parks carpenters and maintenance staff are very talented and able to do that kind of work effectively to save the City money. They are trying to secure the steps and keep it from leaking for a good storage area.

Finally, fall fertilization has been completed as of today at Central Park, Fribley Field, McKinley Park, and Rotary Park. There is stump grinding going on at both Lucerne and Krebs Trailhead Park.

c) Recreation Report

- Recreation Director Stephanie Schaefer said her department has had a busy five weeks. Glow Night was moved to September 19 at Mantis Skate Park as the original date in August did not have enough staff to cover it. She said many people showed up and the kids enjoyed the fun. She wants to continue the event when or if the skate park is moved. There was a senior fall craft on September 24, family pumpkin painting on September 26, and a senior paint class on September 27.

Schaefer's favorite event of the past few years, Fall Family Fun Festival, took place on Friday, October 3. She thanked the maintenance crew for helping get the park ready. This year there was an added hay wagon to help move people through the ride more smoothly. Hoosier Lakes Radio Club helped with traffic and parking flow to eliminate hiccups with such a large crowd. Warsaw Missionary Church once again provided a free meal and fed up to 1,000 people. There were between 2200-2400 participants on the hay wagon rides, alone. Schaefer said all the event sponsors were in attendance and she thanked them for helping in multiple ways with the event. Plummer praised the radio club, stating they want to come back next year.

Over fall break, there were several programs provided like Imagination Station, a senior paint class, Go Wild which sold out, family game night, and more. An estimated 2600 people were reached between those couple of weeks, per Schaefer.



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Upcoming events include Spooktacular this Friday where Schaefer and Recreation Director Assistant Lynnae Miller will be dressed as Minions handing out flyers and goody bags. In the next few weeks registration for Santa Letters begins, there will be a family movie night showing of “The Grinch” at the Warsaw High School Performing Arts Center, and Imagination Station in November. Light Up the Night is fast approaching on Friday, December 5. It will be from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at Central Park with Santa and live reindeer.

Schaefer ended by saying that sponsorship guides will be going out next week and she has already spoken to a new sponsor who has committed to a \$5,000 donation to programs.

V. Other Matters That May Come Before the Board

a) September Team Member of the Month

- The recipient of the September Team Member of the Month award is Dylan Thomas. Plummer explained that during the summer Thomas arrives at 5:00 AM and leaves at 1:00 PM, working solely on cleaning the park restrooms during peak season for the last two years. He praised Thomas for doing an exceptional job at a thankless task. Plummer said Thomas has a positive attitude and is a great guy he is happy to have on the team.

VI. Meeting Review

VII. Adjournment

With no other matters brought before the Board, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Park Board member Jill Beehler and seconded by Boxell. The meeting was adjourned at 5:37 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