



**CEDAR LAKE PARK AND RECREATION BOARD TRAINING MEETING MINUTES**  
**Cedar Lake Town Hall, 7408 Constitution Avenue**  
**January 31, 2022, at 6:00 pm**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mr. Randy Niemeyer, Town Council President, called the Training Meeting to order at 6:00 pm with the members of the Park Board attending in-person. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Members Present:** Dale Holsti; Greg Marquardt; Sarah Miller; and Paul Rodriquez.

**Also present:** Randy Niemeyer, Town Council President; Richard Sharpe; Ralph Miller; Collen Schieben; Jennifer Sandberg, Clerk-Treasurer; David Austgen, Town Attorney; Chris Salatas, incoming Town Manager; Margaret Abernathy, Administrative Assistant to the Town Manager; and Ashley Abernathy, Recording Secretary.

**Absent:** None.

**Introductions:**

Mr. Niemeyer advised this meeting is a training session, and as such, is a Work Session. There will be no actions taken at the meeting tonight. At the next Town Council meeting, there will be a reading of the enabling Ordinance for the Park and Recreation Board. The next Park and Recreation Board meeting will be able to contain official action.

Mr. Niemeyer stated he is currently sitting at the dais to facilitate the meeting. He will not be sitting at the dais in meetings going forward. The Town Council will most likely be appointing Ms. Schieben as the lead liaison to the Park and Recreation Board. Mr. Sharpe and Mr. Miller are also members of the Park and Recreation Committee for the Town Council.

Mr. Niemeyer thanked the members of the Park and Recreation Board for volunteering to serve. This is a re-established Board that has not been around since 2011. There have been some successes, such as the soccer program, that had to be put on hold due to the pandemic. They are anticipating hiring a part-time Park and Recreation director and get some previous successful activities running again.

Mr. Niemeyer advised the Park and Recreation Board there is a lot of potential for Cedar Lake with the influx of population and the natural beauty, they need a group of people that will help build the foundation for parks and recreations, capital infrastructure, capital investment, and facilities. All of the Boards and Commissions serve at the pleasure of the citizens of the Town of Cedar Lake. What they do is not for themselves, but for the betterment of the community.

**Presentations:**

**1. Mr. Fred Prazeau from Context Design**

Mr. Fred Prazeau, Context Design, Landscape Architect and Land Planner, stated tonight is an exploration for teaching and training. Mr. Rick Roberts will be a wealth of knowledge, due to having been in the role the members of the Park and Recreation Board for almost 23 years. Mr. Roberts is a licensed landscape architect and has owned his own design practices among other roles and responsibilities. Mr. Roberts is going to help him with his presentation tonight.

Mr. Prazeau stated the document he distributed, includes bulleted topics that might be among the many questions and ideas the Board might have in mind. Mr. Niemeyer stated tonight's meeting is really crafted and shaped by the Board. They are here to discuss as many topics as they can get to and asked the Members what information they would like to know.

Mr. Rodriguez stated he would like to go over the structure and discuss what their duties to the Town are.

Mr. Niemeyer advised the Town Attorney has joined the meeting and distributed to each member of the Board the Ordinance that would be adopted by the Town Council. Located within the Ordinance is Indiana Code related to Park Boards. Mr. Austgen will review the legalities of the Park and Recreation Board duties.

Mr. Holsti stated he would like to know what projects are in the works for Cedar Lake prior to the finding of the Board. He would also like to know what they have by way of parks.

Mr. Niemeyer responded that Ms. Schieben, Mr. Miller, and Mr. Sharpe would be able to discuss about the list of capital investments that are ongoing.

Ms. Miller stated she had similar thoughts to Mr. Rodriguez and Mr. Holsti, regarding the roles and responsibilities. As well, she would like to know if there are any current complaints. Mr. Holsti commented he was glad Ms. Miller brought that point up, and this is something he has been told there has been some research as to what the community wants. He would like to explore the possibility of asking the members of the community of what they like about what is currently existing and what they would like to see more of in the Town. Mr. Niemeyer stated there is a Park and Recreation Master Plan that they adopted to provide the ability to establish the Impact Fees. This will be circulated to the Board members for their review.

Mr. Marquardt stated he would like to know who was handling the parks and recreations prior to re-establishing the Board, and if there are any paid employees within the park district. Mr. Niemeyer responded prior to the pandemic the parks and recreation were being run through the Town Administrator's office. They were utilizing part-time staff to execute certain programs. The capital infrastructure is being handled by the Public Works Department.

Mr. Prazeau stated the business he and his wife run as landscape architects works with and is hired by park and recreation boards across 13 states and they work with the Boards. Mr. Roberts sits on a park and recreation board and does hire consultants, outsources work, and looks at funding.

Mr. Holsti asked Mr. Prazeau what his company does. Mr. Prazeau responded they are landscape architects, and as such, help design master planning of park districts, parks, sports complexes, and such. They work on the technical engineering side of things. Mr. Niemeyer stated one of the projects that Mr. Prazeau's company was integral in creating was the Westfield Grand Park, which is one of the largest sport complexes in the Midwest. Discussion ensued regarding the Westfield Grand Park.

Mr. Niemeyer advised the Board there have been preliminary discussions regarding building a sports complex in the Town due to needs being expressed to the elected officials.

Mr. Roberts suggested having a legal overview of the Ordinance and what is required of the Board.

### **Legal Overview**

Mr. Austgen stated at the beginning of the meeting he handed out the Ordinance that has been drafted for the re-establishment of the Board, to be governed by the Board on establishment, and for oversight and jurisdiction over the Park District. Said Ordinance is attached and made a part of these minutes as "Exhibit A" and gives the role and parameters of the members of the Board.

Mr. Austgen advised there are 45 subsections to Indiana Code 36-10-3. The statute helps to lay out the duties, responsibilities, and the like of the Board. The Members of the Board were appointed under the code by the Town Council as the appointing authority. Per the Code, no more than two members can be of the same political party. Two more *ex-officio* members may be appointed, one from each school district or library district as deemed appropriate. There are to be no more than six members of the Board. *Ex-officio* voting members may vote, which would mean there are four to six members having voting authority over any decision making.

Mr. Austgen stated the powers and duties are nearly identical to those of board of directors for a corporation. They cover, oversee, and handle the business of Parks and Recreations services in the Town. The Board will have a budget that is processed in the same manner as all the other department budgets of the Town. The Board will have bonding authority as capital projects arise, or if there is a desire to have a funding source by way of bond. Mr. Austgen advised the Board that the Town Council has final say on the issuance of bonds due to needing to adopt an Ordinance, if they go to capital financing.

Mr. Austgen stated the Board will have a budget to operate with and that budget may or may not include compensation for the Board. This will be determined by the Town Council. Mr. Niemeyer stated there would be compensation for the members of the Board.

Mr. Austgen gave the Board a highlighted list of important portions of the Ordinance:

1. Appointment Terms: Initial appointments will be staggered, with a one-year, two-year, three-year, and four-year term being given to stagger appointment process. After the initial term, each term will be a four-year appointment.  
The member cannot be removed by the Town Council unless For Cause. The member appointment needs to take place within 90 days of the year, by April 1 of the year, annually. The initial appointment needs to be completed by April 1.
2. Meetings: Every action requires three or more votes, due to the requirements of the State statute.

3. Duties: General oversight of the Parks Districts and the Department of Parks and Recreation.
4. Authorities: The Board has contracting authority and leasing authority.
5. Annual Report: There is an annual report required that would be made to the Town Council. Mr. Austgen advised the Board to conduct their annual report earlier in the year. This occurs in context with budgeting so a budget analysis could be made and so budgets for activities can be considered.
6. Properties: The Board can sell or purchase property.
7. Employees: The Board may hire or appoint, subject to funding, a superintendent to oversee the department. The superintendent would work at the direction of the Board. The superintendent would have job responsibilities and duties, which could be comprised of in the job description. Mr. Austgen stated this could be something discussed with the Board and the incoming Town Manager.
8. Bonds and Funds: There will be business items that the Board will need to take care of. The Clerk-Treasurer will work with the Board on bonds and being bonded. The Clerk-Treasurer is responsible for the Record of the Town.  
The Board is capable of building and creating funds, including non-reverting funds, with approval of the fiscal body.
9. Fees: The Board can charge fees for events and activities. There will be policies that will need to be established by the Board.
10. Facilities: The Board will look at and handle the facilities.

Mr. Niemeyer advised one of the important parts of the financial aspect of this, is the operational budget is one thing. If the Board issues debt for projects, the debt affects the overall capacity of the community.

Mr. Austgen advised the Board if their plan includes capital finance to purchase, develop, improve, or the like, the Town's financial advisors will be available for assistance.

Mr. Niemeyer stated for the next meeting, he had plans to involve the financial advisors as part of the growth, so the members of the Board are able to understand how the financing works.

Mr. Prazeau asked Town Officials if the Impact Fee, goes to the Park and Recreation Board. Mr. Austgen responded in the negative and stated the Impact Fee currently goes to the Town Council.

Mr. Austgen stated the funding, financing, and bonding revenue is the balance of the State Code. This is included in the Ordinance packet that he handed out to the members of the Board.

## **2. Mr. Tim Jensen from Veridus Group**

Mr. Niemeyer introduced Mr. Tim Jensen.

Mr. Jensen, President of the Veridus Group, stated they are consultants that have helped the Town for the past couple of years. They got in contact with Mr. Niemeyer and other Town Council members at an AIM Conference and have worked hard with the Town to build the Town's trust. Himself or a member of his staff will be at almost every Public Meeting, as they are present to help the Town. Their role is to help communities complete their projects, so if they want to take action, the Veridus Group can help point them in the right direction.

Mr. Jensen stated when Mr. Niemeyer asked him who to contact to discuss parks, he referred Mr. Prazeau. When he talked with Mr. Prazeau, Mr. Prazeau referred Mr. Roberts. Thus, the Board has two experts in Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Niemeyer stated the Veridus Group is a company that helps complete big projects, helps represent this Town, and leads the projects for the Town.

### **1. Mr. Fred Prazeau from Context Design**

Mr. Roberts stated he has been on a Parks Board for Greenfield, and their Board is set up the same way. They are appointed by the mayor to four-year terms, with two Republicans and two Democrats. Their Board contains a school board member as the *ex-officio*, this allows them to partner with the schools to share facilities. A member of their Park Board serves on the Plan Commission, to help when developers come in wanting to do housing and try give land to the city for parks. This helps prevent the developers who want to give undesirable land to the Town for a park. Discussion ensued regarding the importance of having a member of the Park Board at the Plan Commission meetings.

Mr. Roberts stated in Greenfield they have 11 parks with 350-acres, a full-time Park and Recreation Coordinator, and support staff. They use a lot of programming.

Mr. Roberts advised the Board he would like for them to keep in mind that they are stewards of the natural environment, of the recreation for the Town of Cedar Lake, and for fiscal matters. Every board answers to the Council. The Park and Recreation Board is the subject matter experts on the environment and on the stewardship of recreation and the environment.

Mr. Roberts stated the Board needs to ensure they follow the rules and they are not allowed to have private meeting. They need to be transparent on what they are doing. They are able to have Executive Sessions, but they cannot make decisions in the Executive Sessions. Decisions need to be done during the Public Meeting. Mr. Roberts gave examples of what they could discuss in an Executive Session over, such as buying or selling land, personnel issues, or interviewing potential employees. Mr. Roberts stated when they hired a new superintendent, they initially interviewed in an Executive Session and did some more interviewing during the Public Meeting before hiring the superintendent in a Public Meeting.

Mr. Roberts advised once they have their budget established, they will be charged with approving payables and bills that are assigned to them as a group. If they have staff, they will need to approve their timesheets. The Board is independent in how they think and how they should operate, but they need to keep a close relationship with the Council.

Mr. Roberts commented there had been mention of a master plan and he asked what the Town of Cedar Lake's Master Plan looked like and how old the Master Plan is. Mr. Niemeyer stated they updated their Master Plan recently and asked Mr. Austgen if he remembered what year they updated it. Mr. Austgen commented it was in 2017. Mr. Niemeyer stated he thought they had a more recent update due to the establishment of the Park Impact Fee. Mr. Austgen stated it could have been in 2021.

Mr. Prazeau asked how the Park Impact Fee got developed. Mr. Niemeyer stated the plan they created to establish the first Park Impact Fee occurred in 2012 and that was a foundational fee that they have since amended that first fee.

Mr. Roberts stated a Master Plan is critical because it gives them a road map of what to do for the next four years and advised the board he serves on is constantly updating their Master Plan. The Master Plan helps them understand what the community wants, and updating it invites the community to participate and inform the Board what it is they are wanting to see in the Town. By updating their Master Plan, it allows for them to drive their Park Impact Fee and described the use of the Park Impact Fee. Discussion ensued regarding how the Town of Cedar Lake's Park Impact Fee is collected.

Mr. Roberts stated the top three items the community had wanted were trails, more park land, and picnic shelters in the Master Plan they have for Greenfield. Due to knowing the wants of the community, they can spend the Park Impact Fee money on the wants of the community, and to let that drive how the Park Impact Fees are spent.

Mr. Roberts stated parks are an economic development tool for a community. When someone is looking to purchase a house, they will look at parks and schools. The Board could create parks, trails, sports programs, and other various items for families to do that become an incentive for a family to move to the community.

Mr. Prazeau stated being in synchronization with the strategic vision on what the Town Council and they, as the Park and Recreation Board, want to accomplish is where his company sees the communities, they serve being the most successful. There is some autonomy with the Board and how they are executing their vision, but be strategic in how they work through their plan. In addition, the Parks and Recreation Plan, provides the how they are getting to a specific point, and where they are going next.

Mr. Roberts discussed some of the programs his community partners with and how they provide the insurance and the land and the programs are the ones setting the price and schedule and stated the parks and recreation are a partnership within the community and discussed at length how the partnership with the community is beneficial.

Mr. Niemeyer commented approximately two weeks ago he had met with the Pastor for Faith Church in Cedar Lake and the Pastor advised him they want to find ways to integrate more with the community, in a community way. One of the ways they are debating being more integrated with the community is by contributing to the athletic complex development that has been discussed. He will be meeting with the CEO and Chairman of the Board for the Boys and Girls Club Northwest Indiana to discuss opportunities with them for the Parks and Recreation Board. He will have a report for the Board on some of those items, to help them get started, and he is trying to make those connection points for them. Discussion ensued regarding having the relationships with various individuals or facilities in the community and the benefits it can have for the Board.

Mr. Roberts asked if it had been mentioned if they were going to be hiring a parks and recreation director part-time. Mr. Niemeyer responded it was in the budget for the Town.

Mr. Roberts advised the Board they will help set fees for what will be charged for programs and such. There is a balancing act between what should be provided for residents of the Town, what residents should be charged, and what should be charged for a non-resident. Due to how the organization is set up, they cannot use the word profit and they cannot make a profit. They can make excess revenue, and this could go into a non-reverting fund that the Board can utilize to support other facilities and functions within the organization.

Mr. Niemeyer discussed a few years ago the Cedar Lake Parks Foundation was created and the entity has been in place, it just needs to be made active again. Mr. Roberts commented that is a great thing to have and as they get it going again, the best thing to do is to figure out the roll the foundation.

Mr. Roberts advised the Board to look for partnerships. Churches and hospitals are community organizations that find value in green space, in recreation, and in stewardship. They have a program called "Walk with a Doc" where once a week doctors come out and people can sign up and walk around one of the parks.

Mr. Prazeau asked Mr. Roberts when their Park Board determined having a superintendent was the correct decision. Mr. Roberts responded it was from day one as the mayor appointed someone to be the superintendent.

Mr. Roberts advised the Board to join the Parks and Recreation community, due to the resources that community could provide. The Board, as a whole, could join Indiana Parks and Recreation Association, known as IPRA. IPRA has various resources available for the Board to utilize, such as a blog, an executive director, and they could contact any community and ask for assistance. Mr. Roberts stressed to the Board that various Parks and Recreation communities would be happy to help assist with what worked for them and what did not work.

Mr. Prazeau stated one thing he would like to highlight is the potential to have the wrong land in the wrong location that does not serve the higher needs of the members of the community. It is understanding what the right number of parks is. Mr. Prazeau discussed helping with the Broadripple Master Plan a few years ago, the complaints they had received from that community, and that the City of Indianapolis has 210 parks.

Mr. Roberts stated with a large amount of park the best thing to do is to categorize them as "A", "B", or "C", to determine the level of maintenance. "A" would it would have the highest level of maintenance, whereas, a "C" would be the lowest level of maintenance. There can be work and negotiations done with the community for a park that is a "C" and how they can help make the park an "A". Discussion ensued regarding the parks being personal to the neighborhood they are located in and how the community could help with the park and its maintenance.

Mr. Roberts asked the Board if they had any questions. Mr. Holsti commented they had been given a good amount of information already. Mr. Niemeyer discussed current parks that are utilized, and what opportunities are already available to the Park and Recreation Board.

Mr. Holsti stated in the presentation by Mr. Roberts there was mention of partnerships with schools, and during a recent Town Council meeting there was discussion of Hanover's tennis courts and why the public could not use those. Mr. Holsti asked Mr. Roberts how to make partnerships like that work. Mr. Roberts stated the challenge is finding where they can partner best with the school, and they have found they can best partner with schools with open green space. If there is space where they can work out a lease.

Mr. Roberts stated the first step is just starting the conversations with the school corporation to find out if there is common ground for them to work together. Mr. Holsti commented on expanding his view of what a park is and that Mr. Roberts covered it best by saying it does not necessarily have to be structure, it can just be land.

Mr. Niemeyer stated the Town has a few projects the Board can start with and build momentum from and he hopes they take the opportunity to focus on what is here and build from that. Mr. Niemeyer advised the Board it is easy to get lost in the small things and lose sight of the big picture.

Mr. Roberts stated an important step is obtaining and reading through the Master Plan, because that will give the Board the trajectory of what the community wanted when that was last put together. By having a current Master Plan filed with the State, this allows them to be eligible for the Land and Water Conservation Funds, which is a grant program. The Land of Water Conservation money comes from off-shore drilling fees. Mr. Roberts explained the history of the grant and how to apply for the funds and how to establish creative partnerships for parks.

Mr. Niemeyer stated he will be meeting with a developer who is interested in helping build the trail corridor the next day. He is working to help get a foundation of people built for the Parks and Recreation Board be able to begin working and operating.

Mr. Marquardt asked Mr. Niemeyer if he would provide them an update on all of these items. Mr. Niemeyer responded in the affirmative and stated to go over everything they could invite the Town's Director of Operations to the next Board meeting. Due to the Director of Operations having been in charge of everything, he can provide the Board an update on where everything is, and the Board can figure out what they would need to do from that process.

Mr. Roberts discussed in Greenfield, they hang flowers from the light poles and have volunteers that help plant the flowers. They have an event in the summer where people will paint a bike and put it out as a decorative item with flowers. Engaging the community in the process helps build the community and makes it nicer.

Mr. Roberts advised the Board when they are in a session, a lot of the meeting is going to create a sort of rhythm of what they will need to do every month, and advised them to do a strategic meeting every year, where the Board can get together for a few hours and go through what they are wanting to do.

Mr. Prazeau stated he wanted to highlight a couple of things. The first is the Indiana Parks and Recreation Association, and he thinks that this association has been extremely valuable to small and mid-sized communities that they have served. The second is there is a trend occurring with schools. As referendums have happened in schools, it has been communicated to them that when there are parents and families involved in the schools, it is easy to get them involved. It is harder to get individuals involved when there is not a family member or child enrolled in the school system. Mr. Prazeau discussed how they have worked to keep those individuals involved within the school system.

Mr. Roberts commented the challenge is how to make the parks available for the whole community and described how they have created a community center and senior center in their community. The Board would need to make their decisions holistic because they are serving the entire community.

Mr. Niemeyer stated on his first year on the Town Council, he had had a lot of ideas he wanted to do and was given the advice to take it one step at a time. He advised the Board to keep this advice in mind, to have all the passion, energy, and drive to get things done, but to take it one step at a time.

Mr. Roberts asked the Board if they had any questions, and advised them to not hesitate to reach out with any questions they may have in the future.



Mr. Niemeyer encouraged the members of the Board to pay attention to Plan Commission meetings and made the suggestion of potentially having a Parks and Recreation Board liaison to the Plan Commission. When a Developer comes into the Plan Commission with a subdivision plat and there are discussions of park land, there would be a benefit to have a Parks and Recreation Board member add to that dialogue. Mr. Austgen stated there has been significant interest from the Plan Commission in knowing that there was going to be the creation of a Parks and Recreation Board. Park land is an important process in the platting process, and there is a lot of platting plans getting ready to be presented to the Plan Commission. Mr. Niemeyer discussed the expansion potential coming for the Town and having a team effort to ensure no opportunities are missed.

Mr. Austgen suggested having a collaboration of the Parks and Recreation Board and the Plan Commission. The Plan Commission is getting ready to review the Subdivision Control Ordinance, and it would be beneficial to have that collaboration.

Mr. Roberts impressed upon the Board they are stewards of the environment, and encouraged them to find their passion. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to share his knowledge with them.

Mr. Prazeau thanked Mr. Niemeyer for the invitation to come and speak to the Parks and Recreation Board. Mr. Niemeyer thanked both Mr. Prazeau and Mr. Roberts for their contributions and for coming to Cedar lake.

#### **Training and QA:**

Mr. Niemeyer asked the members of the Parks and Recreation Board if they had any comments, questions, or thoughts they would like to see for the next meeting.

Mr. Rodriguez stated they had just received a lot of information, and without there having been a prior Board before them, they don't have their predecessor's knowledge of what worked and what did not, so whatever the Town is able to help them with would be beneficial.

Mr. Holsti stated the list of what the Town is doing is beneficial to see what items are in the works. He would like to see what the plans are for the sports complex. Mr. Niemeyer stated they are in foundational planning stage for that complex at the moment, and there are no plans to see at until the Board determines what they are going to do and work with the community to help create the complex.

Mr. Holsti asked if currently there is just conversation for the sports complex and there has not been any paperwork or plans. Mr. Niemeyer responded it is currently just a vision.

Ms. Miller asked if there has ever been any previous discussion regarding a community center, that is not just sports themed. Mr. Niemeyer stated there had not been previous to her suggestion. There is the Monastery Woods Clubhouse that could become a community center. It is a piece of property they were able to keep when the Monastery Woods Golf Course closed, and it has been rented out for weddings, birthday parties, graduations, and the like. It has been successful, but there could be an opportunity for a community center.

Mr. Holsti commented with the small amount of people that he has discussed with about the Parks and Recreation Board, he has been told by members of his neighborhood of what they would like to see,

such as a place to go play card or doing yoga. Discussion ensued regarding a fitness program occurring every Tuesday and Thursday at the Clubhouse.

Mr. Niemeyer asked if the Board had any other further questions, comments, or statements. Mr. Holsti asked who they would ask any questions to in the future. Mr. Niemeyer responded the new Town Manager, Mr. Salatas and his office will be a good point of contact. Ms. Margaret Abernathy is the Administrative Assistant, and Ms. Sandberg is the Clerk-Treasurer. There is a good team there to help them and Ms. Schieben will be the lead liaison from the Town Council to help assist them.

Mr. Niemeyer asked the Board when they would prefer to have their meeting dates. Ms. M. Abernathy asked Mr. Niemeyer if he would like for her to get a copy of the Master Meeting Plan. Mr. Niemeyer responded in the affirmative and thanked Ms. M. Abernathy.

Mr. Niemeyer discussed the importance of setting a meeting schedule and having a quorum at every meeting. Mr. Holsti stated due to his schedule as a Fire Fighter, he works every third day and gave an example of how his schedule works. He would have to miss one out of every three meetings due to his schedule and asked if there is a regulation that makes it set for a specific day. Mr. Niemeyer stated they typically set the meeting schedules for a specific day due to a planning standpoint, so the room is not double booked and having any consultants they may need. Discussion ensued about setting the meeting schedule and the legal notice aspect for meetings.

Mr. Niemeyer discussed the current meeting schedule set for the Town and advised the Board to try to figure out a schedule that would work for them.

Mr. Niemeyer suggested the fourth week of the month to the Board, because the fourth week only has the Board of Safety meeting. The Board discussed communicating back and forth to determine a day for meeting.

Mr. Austgen advised the fourth week of the month plays into the schedule of the Town Council. If they are sending information or requests to the Town Council, the Town Council meeting follows the next week. Discussion ensued at length regarding the potential week and day for the Park and Recreation Board meetings.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mr. Niemeyer opened the floor up for Public Comment.

Ms. Julie Zasada stated she has been in Cedar Lake since 2004, and her primary role is the Executive Director of the Cedar Lake Historical Association. They have a 75-year lease from the Town and take care of the museum and have programs that run out of the museum. They are a program in one of the largest parks of Cedar Lake. She would like to meet with the Board once they have settled in and discuss the Historical Association's history and their growth. They would like to partner with the Board moving forward.

Mr. Holsti asked if the Historical Association had been responsible for the gala in August of 2021. Ms. Zasada responded in the affirmative and stated they had had a "Speak-Easy Summer Party" and they were responsible for the steam boat that was on the lake last year, as well. The steam boat will be coming back this year. The Museum has just been approved to host a Smithsonian Institute Exhibit, and it will be here in the community for six weeks.

Mr. Niemeyer commented the Board would benefit from getting to know Ms. Zasada because the vision they have is unbelievable. The museum used to be a collection of antiques, and now it is a living experience of the history of Cedar Lake. What they have done is a great example of where you start to where you can go, and that it takes work to get to that point.

Ms. Zasada stated the Historical Association is a non-profit organization that is to help benefit the community. Everyone at the Museum is a volunteer, including herself and they understand the challenge the Town is facing to get the Park and Recreation Board running.

Ms. Charlotte Wiedman stated she felt fortunate for being at the first meeting and start of the Park and Recreation Board. At the January 4, 2022, Town Council Meeting, it was mentioned that the potential sports complex was going to be at 155<sup>th</sup> and Parrish. Mr. Niemeyer stated that was the proposed general vicinity.

Ms. Wiedman stated it was her understanding that the dredging from the lake would be sent to that area as well. Mr. Niemeyer stated it would be at a different part of the land and they would be separated. There is going to be a portion that will be being built into a dewatering facility.

Ms. Wiedman asked if it was going to be lined. Mr. Niemeyer stated he did not think it was going to be lined. Ms. Wiedman stated she was concerned with pollution from whatever is dredged out of the lake leeching into the well water of the individuals who live in the area. Mr. Niemeyer stated based on the engineering and environmental studies, there is not the pollutants present in the material they are removing to the lake. From what they studies have shown, there is no risk of that sort of pollution happening. It is essentially going to be algae blooms and silt removed from the lake.

Ms. Wiedman asked about what stakeholders means for the sports complex. Mr. Niemeyer responded essentially he is using the word stakeholder to refer to the people that would derive a direct benefit, for example little league, basketball, or football. They would be considered community stakeholders for the complex.

Ms. Wiedman commented of instead of building a sports complex, have the Town look into a collaboration with the schools to utilize the facilities that the Town has highly invested in. Her and her husband drove around the high school and counted two baseball fields, a soccer field, a football field, and that was just the high school. It appears that they should be able to have access to it, due to it belonging to the public. She would like the Park and Recreation Board to take a look into that and see what relationship could be created to allow for that to happen.

Mr. Tom Corey stated the first comment he would like to address is Ms. Wiedman's comment of creating a collaboration with the schools. He used to be an assistant superintendent for a school corporation. Before he became the assistant superintendent for the school, a parent brought their child to the playground, which playgrounds are aged for specific children ages. Unfortunately, the child fell while on the playground and passed away from the head trauma. A lot of time, when there is a community collaboration, as suggested, there are a lot of liability risk factors.

Mr. Corey commented he was a new resident within the past year and a half, and asked what is the timeline of the Park and Recreation Board's plans for a one year, two year, five year, or ten year plan on the Park and Recreation.

Park Board  
January 31, 2022

Mr. Niemeyer stated the Master Plan is public record and asked Ms. M. Abernathy if she could have the plan posted online. Ms. Abernathy stated she has reached out to Taghi to see if he could send an electronic version of the plan to post the plan. Mr. Niemeyer stated as soon as the Town receives an electronic version, it will be posted on the Town's website.

Mr. Niemeyer asked if there was any other public comment. There was no more public comment.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mr. Niemeyer adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

**TOWN OF CEDAR LAKE PARK BOARD**

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Dale Holsti, Member

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Greg Marquardt, Member

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Sarah Miller, Member

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Paul Rodriquez, Member

ATTEST:

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Ashley C. Abernathy, Recording Secretary

*The Minutes of the Cedar Lake Redevelopment Commission Public Meeting are transcribed pursuant to IC 5-14-1*

*5-4(b), which states:*

*(b) As the meeting progresses, the following memoranda shall be kept:*

*(1) The date, time, and place of the meeting.*

*(2) The members of the governing body are recorded as either present or absent.*

*(3) The general substance of all matters proposed, discussed, or decided.*

*(4) A record of all votes taken, by individual members if there is a roll call.*

*(5) Any additional information required under IC 5-1.5-2-2.5.*

*Cedar Lake Park Board: Minutes of January 31, 2022*

**"Exhibit A"**

**TOWN OF CEDAR LAKE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA**

**ORDINANCE NO.: 1411**

**AN ORDINANCE CREATING AND ESTABLISHING A DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION FOR THE TOWN OF CEDAR LAKE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, PURSUANT TO THE TERMS AND PROVISIONS OF INDIANA CODE §36-10-3, et seq., REPEALING ALL PRIOR ORDINANCES OR RESOLUTIONS CREATING SEPARATE PARK AND RECREATION AUTHORITIES, AND ALL MATTERS RELATED THERETO.**

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council of the Town of Cedar Lake, Lake County, Indiana, (hereinafter, the "Town Council"), is the duly elected legislative and fiscal body of the Town of Cedar Lake, Lake County, Indiana, a Municipal Corporation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council has reviewed and investigated matters pertaining to Park and Recreation functions and services, as well as corresponding benefits, for the residents and citizens of the Town of Cedar Lake; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council, upon its review and investigation of Park and Recreation services, opportunities, and benefits for its taxpayers and citizens, has determined that substantial continuing review and investigation of Park and Recreation establishment matters within the Town was, and has been necessary; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council has continued its review and investigation of creation and establishment of a Department of Parks and Recreation for the Town, and has examined the circumstances and benefits for such creation and establishment, undertaken evaluation review of the responsibilities of an established Park and Recreation Board as well as responsibilities of same, and has concluded that creation and establishment of a Department of Parks and Recreation for the Town of Cedar Lake, governed by a Park and Recreation Board for this function and services for the residents and taxpayers of the Town of Cedar Lake, under the terms and provisions of Indiana Code §36-10-3, et seq, as amended from time to time, is in the best interests of the residents and taxpayers of the Town, and should be considered; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council, based upon its review and investigation, continuing to the present, and with the counsel and advice of qualified professional consultants, has determined that the creation and establishment of a Department of Parks and Recreation for the Town of Cedar Lake under the governance of a Park and Recreation Board to be established, for the provision of the functions and responsibilities of a Department of Parks and Recreation, promotes the public health, safety, comfort, morals, convenience and general welfare and well-being, is in the best interests of the residents and taxpayers of the Town, and should be duly adopted.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CEDAR LAKE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION ONE: ESTABLISHMENT.**

- A. There is hereby created and established, pursuant to the provisions of Indiana Code §36-10-3-3(a) and (b), as each are and have been amended, a Department of Parks and Recreation for the Town of Cedar Lake, Lake County, Indiana. The Department of Parks and Recreation shall be controlled by a "BOARD", to be known hereinafter as the Town of Cedar Lake Park and Recreation Board.
- B. The Town of Cedar Lake, Lake County, Indiana (hereinafter, the "TOWN"), is a unit of local government, and is identified in the "General Park and Recreation Law", which is cited at Indiana Code §36-10-3, et seq., as amended from time to time, and which is more specifically identified in State Law as Indiana Code §36-10-3-1 through Indiana Code §36-10-3-45, inclusive. All provisions of the aforesaid "General Park and Recreation Law" set forth referencing powers, duties, responsibilities, and related terms and provisions for a Municipality or Town related to an established Department of Parks and Recreation, shall be applicable to the Town of Cedar Lake Department of Parks and Recreation. This will specifically mean that the provisions of Indiana Code §36-10-3, et seq., are applicable to the Town of Cedar Lake Department of Parks and Recreation, its established Town Park and Recreation Board, and governance of actions and functions within the Cedar Lake Park and Recreation District, and all such provisions are approved herein for the Town of Cedar Lake Department of Parks and Recreation, and are adopted for the Town of Cedar Lake Department of Parks and Recreation. A copy of said Indiana "General Park and Recreation Law, and notably, the provisions of Indiana Code §36-10-3-1 through Indiana Code §36-10-3-45, inclusive, and as amended hereafter from time to time, are attached and incorporated herein by reference. In the event of amendments, including additional legislation or revision of any provisions of the Indiana General Park and Recreation Law referenced herein, such additional legislation, amendments or revisions shall be incorporated and included in this Cedar Lake Establishment Ordinance, when or if made hereafter.

**SECTION TWO: REPEALER.** That all existing or prior Ordinances, or parts thereof, in conflict with the provision of this Establishment Ordinance, are hereby deemed null, void, and of no legal effect, and are specifically repealed.

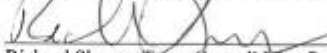
**SECTION THREE: INVALIDITY.** If any sections, clauses, provision, or portion of this Ordinance shall be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect any other section, clause, provision, or portion of this Ordinance.

**SECTION FOUR: EFFECTIVE DATE.** That this Ordinance shall take effect, and be in full force and effect, from and after its passage and adoption by the Town Council of the Town of Cedar Lake, Lake County, Indiana, in conformance with applicable law.

**ALL OF WHICH IS PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CEDAR LAKE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, THIS 1 DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2022.**


**TOWN OF CEDAR LAKE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA,  
TOWN COUNCIL**

By:   
Randall C. Niemeyer, Town Council President

By:   
Richard Sharpe, Town Council Vice-President

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Robert H. Carnahan, Town Council Member

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
John C. Foreman, Town Council Member

By:   
Julie A. Rivera, Town Council Member

By:   
Ralph Miller, Town Council Member

By:   
Colleen Schieben, Town Council Member

ATTEST:

  
Jennifer N. Sandberg, I.A.M.C.  
Clerk-Treasurer