



**CEDAR LAKE PARK AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**Cedar Lake Town Hall, 7408 Constitution Avenue**  
**Thursday, March 24, 2022, at 6:00 pm**

**Call To Order:**

Mr. Dale Holsti called the Park Board Public Meeting to order at 6:26 pm on Thursday, March 24, 2022, with its members attending on-site. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

**Roll call:**

**Members Present:** Dale Holsti, President; Sarah Miller, Vice President; Greg Marquardt; and Paul Rodriquez. A quorum was obtained.

**Also present:** Ralph Miller, Councilmember; Richard Sharpe, Councilmember; Collen Schieben, Town Council Liaison; Jennifer Sandberg, Clerk-Treasurer; David Austgen, Town Attorney; Chris Salatas, Town Manager; Time Kubiak, Director of Operations; Dale Gurgel, Crew Leader; and Ashley Abernathy, Recording Secretary.

**Absent:** None.

**Presentation: Dale Gurgel: Parks' Grounds, Equipment, etc.**

Mr. Holsti stated the next order of business was a presentation from Mr. Dale Gurgel.

Mr. Gurgel welcomed the Members and discussed the importance of having a Park Board with the growth of the Town. He noted the positivity of the new ideas the Board has. Mr. Gurgel strives to make safety of the equipment a top priority. He intends to start inspecting all the equipment in the near future. Mr. Gurgel spoke about the review of the existing playground equipment with a representative from our insurance company about items that need updating and/or replaced to come into compliance of ADA guidelines.

Mr. Gurgel asked the Members if they had any questions; none were had.

**Consent Agenda:**

**1. Approval of February 24, 2022, Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Holsti stated the next order of business was for the approval of the Minutes from the February 24, 2022, Meeting and entertained a motion for approval of the minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Rodriquez and seconded by Mr. Marquardt to approve the Minutes of the February 24, 2022, Meeting. The motion passed unanimously by roll-call vote:

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Mr. Rodriguez Aye  
Mr. Marquardt Aye  
Ms. Miller Aye  
Mr. Holsti Aye

## **Old Business:**

### **1. Ranking Park and Recreation Ideas**

Mr. Holsti stated the first order of Old Business was for the discussion of Members' Park and Recreation Ideas. Mr. Salatas advised the members to rank the list of items from 1-20 and get them back to him using the Excel spreadsheet he provided to them. Mr. Holsti read the list of activities for the edification of the public.

A brief discussion ensued regarding potential projects, including a WhoaZone water park and the lake-dredging project. Ms. Schieben advised that the lake-dredging project may take up to five years before it is completed. Mr. Miller advised that they had gone to Whiting and looked into doing a WhoaZone park; however, the lake is not deep enough; it must be at least 8-feet deep. He further advised it may be possible after the lake is dredged.

Mr. Holsti mentioned that a gentleman told him that he may be willing to sponsor a splashpad. What is concerning about that is it costs approximately \$1 million, so the person envisions may be different than needed. Many people have also reached out to him about a pool.

Mr. Holsti asked the Members to rank the list as requested by Mr. Salatas, and deferred the item to the April meeting.

### **2. Portable Washrooms: Review Quotes and Select Company**

Mr. Holsti stated the next order of business was for the portable washrooms, to review the quotes received and select a company to use for CY 2022. Mr. Kubiak advised that we had two units at Bartlett-Wahlberg Park last year, a couple units at the Town Grounds for a couple of events, and we may need a couple of units at the dog park when it is finished. He noted there is still much to do before that park is ready, so it may not be needed this summer. A basketball court and a pavilion are planned for that park.

Mr. Gurgel advised that in the next couple of weeks, new playgrounds for 2-5-year-old children will be installed at some parks, including Kiwanis Park where the dog park will be located. Mr. Marquardt asked about the water supply for the dog park. Mr. Kubiak responded that the water supply that is currently there was a drinking fountain; the intent is to remove that and install a dog fountain with a water-bottle fountain inside the courtyard entrance area of the dog park. Mr. Marquardt commented there should be another water facility near the area with the pavilion and basketball court. Discussion ensued regarding layout of the park.

Mr. Holsti asked if there are any other parks that need have portable washrooms. Mr. Kubiak responded that the decision for units at Bartlett-Wahlberg is due to the number of people who utilize that park daily. The other parks are in residential areas.

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Mr. Holsti entertained a motion for this item. A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez and seconded by Ms. Miller to approve a contract with Premier Porta Potty for 2 handicap units to be placed at Bartlett-Wahlberg Park. The motion passed unanimously by roll-call vote:

Mr. Rodriguez Aye  
Mr. Marquardt Aye  
Ms. Miller Aye  
Mr. Holsti Aye

### **3. Continued Discussion on Surveys for Park Activities/Amenities**

Mr. Holsti stated the next order of business was for continued discussion on a survey for park activities and amenities. The intent is to provide the community an inexpensive opportunity to give their input as to what they would like to see added to the existing parks and programs and read the questions that are listed on the same. Mr. Salatas advised that the question regard the age was changed to an age range; Mr. Cliff Wroe, IT Director, will be able to provide a place for that survey to be completed.

Mr. Holsti noted that Mr. Austgen had emailed him regarding updating the park master plan. He discussed it with Mr. Salatas and Ms. Sandberg, and it is not budgeted for at this time and will be a topic for discussion in the future. Mr. Austgen advised that merging tools is where the strengths are. Mr. Austgen noted that he contemplates the Plan Commission relying on the Park Board in their activities for a recommendation on development improvements for park amenities and dedications.

Mr. Holsti commented that he had piggybacked a post the Randy Niemeyer posted, and the response was very positive with people relaying what they would like to see in the Cedar Lake.

Mr. Holsti asked if a motion what needed to direct Mr. Wroe to publish the survey. Mr. Austgen advised that he have a discussion with Mr. Wroe and let him determine the best mode of delivery. Mr. Holsti deferred this item to the April meeting.

### **New Business:**

#### **1. Returning Soccer as a Park & Recreation Activity**

Mr. Holsti stated the first order of New Business was to discuss the returning of soccer as a park and recreation activity. Many people have spoken to him about this activity and are requesting the return of league play. Ms. Sandberg advised that the equipment should all still be in storage. Mr. Holsti noted that someone to run it, coaches, referees, etc., would be needed.

Mr. Holsti asked what would be needed to bring soccer back for a fall. Ms. Sandberg advised they will need a strong person to lead the program. Mr. Rodriguez asked if that is a Town employee or a volunteer. Ms. Sandberg stated previously it was run by a Town employee, and funds have been budgeted for a part-time recreation coordinator.

Mr. Holsti commented perhaps the conversation would help with forward movement on getting that recreation coordinator. Discussion ensued regarding the position's advertisement and job description.

Ms. Sandberg advised the soccer program was a fee-based program outside of the recreation coordinator's pay. Whatever fees were brought in is what was used for the programming and explained that the funds were receipted into and expended from the Park Non-Reverting Fund.

Mr. Holsti asked if any fundraising would have to be done through the Park Foundation. Mr. Austgen advised the foundation is utilized for tax-exempt donations.

Mr. Kubiak advised there is a concession stand that could be used to sell food and beverages to help bring in funds for the program. Mr. Rodriguez stated the park and rec coordinator needs to be in place as that person would take care of many things that are being discussed. Discussion ensued regarding costs. Mr. Austgen advised to keep discussing it at the meetings to keep it vibrant and fluid.

Mr. Holsti asked for documentation from the previous program and deferred this item to the April meeting.

## **2. Chamber of Commerce Business Showcase Event Booth**

Mr. Holsti stated the next order of business will be for the Chamber of Commerce Business Showcase event booth. Mr. Holsti asked if funds are available to have a booth. Ms. Sandberg advised the Town is a member of the Chamber and the membership allows for one spot. Discussion ensued. Mr. Marquardt and Ms. Miller will check on being able to attend the event to represent the Park Board. Ms. Schieben offered to pay the fee if there is one and advised the Members to seek information for volunteers if they attend the event.

Discussion returned to the dog park: Mr. Marquardt asked if there will be any hardscape at the dog park, like pea gravel by the entrance. Mr. Kubiak responded the intent is to pave the entrance or pour concrete for the sidewalk to the gate. Currently, there is a fence and asked the Members to focus on the layout they would like for the park to see what else they would like to see there in addition to the pavilion, playground, basketball court, and dog park, such as perhaps a soccer practice field. Discussion ensued about the possibility of a dual tennis-pickleball court.

Mr. Holsti asked for a projected opening date and the fee structure, if it is their task, to put that together. Ms. Schieben asked the Members to consider the layout they would like to see at Kiwanis Park. Mr. Holsti noted that he and Ms. Miller visited the park with Mr. Gurgel and discussed the layout. Mr. Kubiak noted the electrical is going to be inspected and the water line will be moved as soon as the weather breaks, which may be completed by the next meeting. He anticipates the dog park will not be open for at least three months. He is looking into potentially paving the parking lot while the crews are in town to do the roadway projects for the year for cost-saving measures.

Mr. Holsti asked for the Members to be notified if they need to be involved in anything. Mr. Rodriguez said it would be helpful to have actionable items on the agenda. Mr. Kubiak stated that he would have some concepts or some plans for them to see and make decisions on, such as lighting. His plan is to have good dirt brought in, get the park seeded, and finish the interior parts of the dog park completed. Discussion ensued about what the Members should get to Mr. Kubiak to reflect what they would like to see for the layout of the park(s).

Mr. Kubiak noted that there were plans drawn up for Bartlett-Wahlberg Park. If they have a small space where larger items are wanted, they may need a professional to draw it out for them. He'd like to see a

walking path all around the park for the residents of Beacon Pointe as they have put money towards the same.

Mr. Salatas advised the November meeting on the regularly scheduled day would fall on Thanksgiving, they may wish to consider moving that meeting or if it is to be held, and the December meeting is three days before Christmas, so they may wish to consider moving that as well.

**Project Updates:**

**1. Clerk-Treasurer's Fund Report**

Ms. Sandberg advised she provided them with an update of the last month as there were small items where Mr. Kubiak and staff worked on some of the improvements and one engineer's invoice.

**2. Washroom and Pavilion Project for Various Parks**

Mr. Holsti noted this item had been discussed and asked if there was any further discussion; none was had.

**3. Playground Improvements at Various Parks**

Mr. Holsti noted the same for this item.

**Written Communication:** Mr. Holsti noted he had received an email from Mr. Austgen regarding the 134<sup>th</sup> Hanover Park and getting together with the Plan Commission regarding that and asked him to expound on what he expect the Members' involvement would be. Mr. Austgen noted that is where the softball and baseball fields, adjacent to Town-owned property. Use overlaps, and the overlap of use involved, mostly, parking for the parents of children participating in the events on the ball fields. We have a significant issue with the neighborhood because of the volume of vehicles that require parking. The park exists, but it has parking. There is an analysis in place to respond to the neighborhood residents' concerns about what happens and how it impacts them. He wanted to alert them and let them know it is being looked at and suggest the Board's involvement because it is a park as decisions are made about the parking and ingress-egress components of problem.

Mr. Holsti noted he, Ms. Miller and Mr. Gurgel noticed graffiti is present at the park when they visited it and had a conversation about potential options to catch or deter that kind of activity. He has spoken to Police Chief Bill Fisher and Cliff Wroe about cameras options as a deterrent. Perhaps, it could be discussed in the future of getting a trail camera since it is portable and could be used elsewhere.

Mr. Austgen commented that he alerted him about the issue at the park is because it is an emotional issue that has had folks on both sides appear to speak about it at another meeting and the response to them is important. Mr. Holsti noted that he has had conversations with both Mr. Jerry Wilkening and Mr. Nick Recupito and introduced himself, and they spoke very generically. Mr. Austgen advised them they will likely be contacted about it because they are Members of the Park Board.

Mr. Marquardt asked if the ball fields are part of the Parks Department. Mr. Austgen responded they are not. Mr. Gurgel advised someone was charging people to park there, and people are parking all over the play area. Discussion continued regarding the issue with the parking by the ball fields

**Public Comment:** Mr. Holsti opened the floor up for Public Comment.

Ms. Julie Zasada, 9430 W 135<sup>th</sup> Place, commented that the museum opens on April 15<sup>th</sup> and invited them to the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the “Waterways Exhibition”.

**Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Miller and seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, and Mr. Holsti adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Draft

Park Board  
March 24, 2022

**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 Park Board 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 March 24, 2022*