



CEDAR LAKE PARK AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Cedar Lake Town Hall, 7408 Constitution Avenue
Thursday, April 28, 2022, at 6:00 pm

Call To Order:

Mr. Dale Holsti called the Park Board Public Meeting to order at 6:01 pm on Thursday, April 28, 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; and Greg Marquardt. A quorum was obtained.

Also present: Ralph Miller, Council Member; Richard Sharpe, Council Member; Collen Schieben, Town Council Liaison; Jennifer Sandberg, Clerk-Treasurer; Margaret Abernathy, Administrative Assistant in lieu of Chris Salatas, Town Manager; Dale Gurgel, Crew Leader; and Ashley Abernathy, Recording Secretary.

Absent: Paul Rodriguez; David Austgen, Town Attorney; and Chris Salatas, Town Manager.

Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of March 24, 2022, Work Session and Public Meeting Minutes

Mr. Holsti stated the Consent Agenda was for the approval of the Minutes from the March 24, 2022, Work Session and Public Meeting and entertained a motion for the same.

A motion was made by Ms. Miller and seconded by Mr. Marquardt to approve the Minutes from the March 24, 2022, Work Session and Public Meeting. The motion passed unanimously by roll-call vote:

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

Old Business:

1. Surveys for Park Activities/Amenities

Mr. Holsti stated the next order of business was for continued discussion regarding the survey for park activities and amenities, in addition, due to Mr. Salatas' absence, he was looking to defer this item until Mr. Salatas can be present.

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A motion was made by Ms. Miller and seconded by Mr. Marquardt to defer this item to the May meeting. The motion passed unanimously by roll-call vote:

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

2. Returning Soccer as a Park & Recreation Activity

Mr. Holsti stated the first order of New Business was to discuss the return of soccer as a park and recreation activity and discussed the 2018 Soccer Program Season Report. His main concern is the loss of \$3,425.50 that was shown in the report.

Mr. Holsti urged the Board to keep in mind when they implement programs to be mindful of any potential loss to the program and ensure they are being financially responsible.

Mr. Holsti asked the Board for their thoughts. Ms. Miller discussed reviewing the previous fees and evaluating how they would make up for the difference. Mr. Marquardt commented he felt they would need to wait to hire a Recreation Coordinator to be able to handle programs such as this.

Mr. Holsti tabled this item.

New Business:

1. Playground Mulch Options

Mr. Holsti stated the first order of New Business was for the discussion on Playground Mulch Options and discussed the installation of new playground equipment and the need for playground mulch. They have been having discussions with the Director of Operations on obtaining rubber mulch versus the traditional mulch. They have received three different quotes from three different companies, and they have been given approval to utilize the Park Impact Fee to provide the mulch to the playgrounds.

Mr. Holsti discussed the three companies that submitted a bid and their price for the rubber mulch:

Kidstuff Playsystems – Total estimated cost of \$48,148.00
Recycled Rubber Products – Total estimated cost of \$36,808.00
IMC Outdoor Living – Total estimated cost of \$52,148.00

Mr. Holsti advised he had discussions with Mr. Kubiak regarding Recycled Rubber Products and it was possible for Public Works to go and pick up the mulch from Joliet, Illinois. Removing the shipping cost of \$5,200.00. Ms. M. Abernathy stated due to the Town being a ST-105, the \$2,408.00 of tax would be removed, for a total cost of \$29,200.00. Discussion ensued regarding the reduction in price and determining the color of mulch for the playgrounds.

A motion was made by Ms. Miller and seconded by Mr. Marquardt to make a recommendation to the Town Council to release the funds for \$29,200.00 for Recycled Rubber Products rubber mulch. The motion passed unanimously by roll-call vote:

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

2. Kiwanis Park – Installation Arborvitae Trees Paid for with Park Impact Fees

Mr. Holsti stated the next order of business was regarding Kiwanis Park and the installation of arborvitae trees paid for with Park Impact Fees. There has been concern regarding the proximity of the playground equipment to the train tracks. He had inquired about any standards with the location of playground equipment near the train tracks, and the individuals he corresponded with were unaware of any standards.

The playground equipment bumper is approximately 55 feet from the tree line. From the tree line it is approximately an additional 35 feet to the railroad tracks. There has been a discussion to provide natural vegetation to form a barrier from 137th Avenue to the tree line, with an initial discussion for arborvitae trees. This provided concerns for Lines of Sight and crossing into the Right of Way for the railroad.

Mr. Holsti advised he was not looking for an agreement to purchase the arborvitae. He was looking for discussion from the Board on their thought about having a natural vegetation barrier. There was a quote included from Leo's and their recommendation for what would be an appropriate barrier. The recommendation based on what is wanting to be achieved was a Yew Densiformis, with a total quote of \$1750.28, including the installation.

Ms. Miller expressed she would like to take some time to review this item and look further into the plant. She does agree with needing a natural barrier. Discussion ensued regarding the Yew Densiformis and the natural barrier providing ease of mind to those utilizing the park. Discussion also ensued regarding other parks located in Northwest Indiana that are located near railroad tracks and each having a natural barrier between the park and the railroad tracks.

Mr. Holsti asked Ms. Schieben if there was a Master Plan for Kiwanis Park. Ms. Schieben responded there had been discussion on having the playground equipment, the dog park, a basketball court, and pavilion.

A motion was made by Ms. Miller and seconded by Mr. Marquardt to table this item for further discussion. The motion passed unanimously by roll-call vote:

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

1. Surveys for Park Activities/Amenities - Continued

Mr. Holsti advised he had misread this item and thought this was the discussion of ranking of Park Board project ideas, and this was instead for publishing the survey to the Public and entertained a motion to withdraw the initial motion to defer.

A motion was made by Ms. Miller and seconded by Mr. Marquardt to withdraw the previously made motion to defer. The motion passed unanimously by roll-call vote:

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

Mr. Holsti explained the purpose for the survey. He has worked with Mr. Wroe to create a user-friendly survey to publish on the website or the Town's social media page and entertained a motion for the same.

A motion was made by Ms. Miller and seconded by Mr. Marquardt to publish the survey. The motion passed unanimously by roll-call vote:

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

In response to Mr. Holsti requesting the link be advertised with the utility billing, Ms. M. Abernathy advised the deadline to publish the link in the May utility bills has passed. It potentially could be in the June bills, and it could be published in the second quarter newsletter for individuals without internet access.

Project Updates:

1. Clerk-Treasurer's Fund Report

Ms. Sandberg provided a report to the Park Board to update on the Park Impact Fee funds and the funds that have been paid out for improvements for playgrounds, Kiwanis Park, and the clubhouse.

2. Chamber of Commerce Business Showcase

Mr. Holsti asked Ms. Miller for an update from the Chamber of Commerce Business Showcase. Ms. Miller advised they had received feedback from the Public and the various activities members of the community were wanting to see.

Mr. Holsti read the list of suggestions from the suggestion box into the record:

1. Port-a-potties in every park
2. Need for Senior Activities
3. Centennial Park – if the Town is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep
 - a. Mr. Gurgel advised the Town is not responsible for maintenance or upkeep, and it was likely being maintained by the developer.
4. Fishing piers on large retention ponds.
5. Sports Programs
6. More shelters in more parks
7. Outdoor Events Stage
8. Adding swings to Monastery Park
 - a. Mr. Gurgel advised swings were going to be put in at Monastery Park and discussed installation dates of playground equipment.
9. Accessibility to the marshy area on the south side of the lake.

3. Washroom and Pavilion Project for Various Parks

Mr. Holsti asked if there was any update on the washrooms and pavilion project. Ms. M. Abernathy responded they were still waiting on this item, and examining if they could suspend the bidding process for an alternate option due to having no bids submitted originally. She advised that Mr. Austgen is not present tonight to be able to further discuss this.

Ms. M. Abernathy advised there will be port-a-potties located at Bartlett-Wahlberg Park from the first week of May to sometime in October.

4. Playground Improvements at Various Parks

Mr. Holsti discussed the various improvements that had been discussed throughout the meeting and asked Mr. Gurgel if he had any further updates. Mr. Gurgel responded in the negative.

Written Communication: None.

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

Diane Jostes stated Ms. Carol Teets dictated a letter to her regarding issues in Meyer Manor Park with the basketball court. There is a request the Board looks into the issues and individuals parking in areas where they should not be parking. Mr. Holsti advised he would contact Chief Fisher regarding this item.

Kara Gliwa, 12725 Morningdove Drive, spoke about the Key Club Turkey Bowling event for people with special needs and requested help with funding for the event. Mr. Holsti explained that the Park Board is not able to help with funding and stated he could help out as an individual.

Samantha Corey, 12708 Havenwood Pass, requested to partner with the Park Board in the future Easter Egg Hunt. Ms. Schieben, Council Member, briefly spoke about the lack of funding this year, and Mr. Holsti asked Ms. Corey to send him an email regarding partnering for the future egg hunts.

Lucy Griffin, 13704 Birch Street, expressed concern over the layout of Kiwanis Park and dislike of the dog park installed at the park.

Sue Zarate, 9710 West 129th Place, requested activities for seniors and asked who she can provide a list to of the same. She also discussed doing cards with a group called Phil's Friends that provides care packages to people with cancer. Mr. Holsti provided his email address and asked her to reach out to him. He further advised that all of the Park Board Members would be happy to hear from her.

Jean Ohlencamp, 14241 Sherman Street, asked what will be in Woods of Cedar Creek and stated that it needs a fence due to a steep drop off and adult swings for the senior citizens who live there. Mr. Holsti advised that there will be a playground and pavilion.

Robert Kralek, 14003 Lauerman, asked Mr. Holsti to read a letter he had received in 2001 regarding the lands owned by Lake Heritage Parks Foundation. Mr. Holsti obliged, and Mr. Kralek asked why the general public is not allowed access to the Lake. Mr. Miller, Council Member advised that it is Lake County property and the Town does not have any jurisdiction over it.

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Mary Joan Dixon, 8711 West 132nd Place, asked Mr. Holsti to make the numbers on the report provided to the Board by Clerk Treasurer Jennifer Sandberg public. Mr. Holsti complied and read the figures into the record: Menards, \$182.80 for electric supplies and Kiwanis Park; Amazon Capital Services, \$402.84 for electronic panels—miscellaneous supplies at Kiwanis Park; Central Products LLC, \$25,861.95 for Clubhouse equipment and cabinetry; NuToys, \$166,789.00 for playground equipment.

Adjournment: On a motion by Ms. Miller and seconded by Mr. Marquardt, Mr. Holsti adjourned the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

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TOWN OF CEDAR LAKE PARK BOARD

Dale Holsti, Member

Greg Marquardt, Member

Sarah Miller, Member

Paul Rodriquez, Member

ATTEST:

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 April 28, 2022