



CEDAR LAKE PARK AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Cedar Lake Town Hall, 7408 Constitution Avenue

June 1, 2023, at 5:30 pm

Call To Order:

Mr. Holsti called the Park Board Public Meeting to order on Thursday, June 1, 2023, at 5:30 pm, with its members attending on-site. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Dave Holsti, President; Sarah Miller, Vice President; Greg Marquardt; Paul Rodriguez. A quorum was attained.

Members Present Via Zoom: None.

Also present: Chris Salatas, Town Manager; Ralph Miller, Richard Sharpe, Town Council Members; Colleen Scheiben, Town Council Liaison; David Austgen, Town Attorney; Mindi Buchler, Parks & Recreation Superintendent; and Margaret Abernathy, Administrative Assistant.

Absent: Jennifer Sandberg, Clerk-Treasurer; Hope Tauber, Recreation Coordinator

Consent Agenda:

1. **May 4, 2023 Meeting Minutes**
2. **Claims: Parks & Rec General Fund: \$20,150.43; Park Impact Fee Fund: \$89,466.70; Parks & Rec Non-Reverting Fund: \$178.65; Clubhouse Non-Reverting Fund: \$4,961.42 Total Expenditures: \$114,757.20**
3. **Donations: None**

Mr. Marquardt made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and Mr. Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by roll-call vote.

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

New Business:

1. **Ratify Approval of Purchase Zero-Turn Lawnmowers for the Parks Department.**

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Mr. Holsti commented under new business we have ratify the approval of purchase Zero-Turn Lawnmowers for the Parks Department. The Kubota mowers are consistently breaking and we are experiencing significant delays by Kubota on the repairs, which is hindering the mowing operation. We are looking at new equipment and have received quotes. Kubota was the lowest bidder, but John Deere wasn't much more and John Deere has two service centers nearby and the warranty was good, so we purchased two John Deere mowers.

Ms. Buchler commented we went to a spreadsheet reviewing all of the estimates and bids and specking out everything that was important to us for this kind of purchase. We went through the proper procedures of Sourcewell which is cooperative purchasing and provided all that information and we have the order placed with John Deere and the arrival of the equipment will be about two weeks.

Mr. Holsti commented the hope is that we have two working mowers for longer stretch of time so we can maintain the grass.

Mr. Rodriguez made a motion to ratify the purchase of two Zero-Turn Lawnmowers; the one being \$11,553.08 and the other mower at \$11,930.38 and Ms. Miller seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by roll-call vote.

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

2. Approval of 2023 Fall Soccer.

Mr. Holsti commented the next item under new business is the approval of 2023 Fall Soccer.

Ms. Buchler stated we will repeat the program that we started in the Spring. I came in at mid-season and didn't feel it was fair until I had a full season of assessment to make any recommendations for fee changes or structure. We are running the program as was in the Spring and we will dive deeper into the program and make it better and bigger for next season.

Mr. Holsti commented we found ten dollars a saving per shirt for uniforms through another source. Otherwise; the program will be status quo.

Ms. Buchler commented we are looking for coaches and June 26, 2023 is our deadline to get out there and have some fun with the kids and be part of a cool program.

Mr. Rodriguez made a motion to approve the 2023 Fall Soccer Program and Mr. Marquardt seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by roll-call vote.

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

Reports:

1. Clerk Treasurer's Report

Mr. Salatas stated the claims were discussed.

2. Recreation Coordinator's Report

Ms. Buchler stated we had Girl Scout Troop #35718 come with a community service project/beautification project where they planted flowers on the side of the VIPS building. Adult paint class will be 6/15/23. The senior fitness classes are currently on Tuesday's and Thursday's from 9:15 am to 10 am at the Clubhouse. Discussion ensued regarding classes. Soccer registration will be July 7 and 8, 2023. We are looking for coaches and the deadline is June 26, 2023.

3. Project Updates

Mr. Holsti asked where are we at with the Pavilion Project, are we waiting on pricing. Mr. Salatas stated the bathrooms are more important right now, we have the bid documents that we had used for the project with Public Works and we will be out soliciting quotes from local construction companies and Ms. Buchler and I will go through and identifying the pavilions using Source Well and planning a strategic way to accomplish that project.

Mr. Holsti commented that people have been asking about Potawatomi Park. We had the Town's insurance who provides us with a certified playground inspector, which we do not have on staff yet, but we will in August. The inspector went out with Ms. Buchler and inspected all of our parks. The immediate problem with Potawatomi Park was structural integrity, footings rotted away and both slides had cracks in them. There were a lot of safety concerns. In a staff meeting, there was discussion if the insurance was going to put on paper that this needs to be taken down, or should we take action immediately. We felt it would have opened us up for a negligence case, so the decision was made to take it down. Ms. Buchler showed me everything the inspector pointed out. As far as future plans, we do not have any at the moment. Ms. Buchler and staff are in the process of a five-year master plan. We feel a lot of work will need to be done on structures that are in better condition than Potawatomi Park. Discussion ensued regarding items that will need repair on structures.

Written Communications: None was had.

Public Comment:

Ms. Cheryl Parker, 7227 W. 136th Court, stated Potawatomi Park was the only one out of all the parks that were inspected that was deemed not stable. Mr. Holsti responded in the affirmative and it was the immediate non stable park. Ms. Parker commented the Town owns all of the parks. There was an affidavit in 2011 when the Park District was dissolved and the Town took over all of the parks. Potawatomi Park is the only one that has been transferred to the Redevelopment Commission, which at the end of 2022, the appointed members were discharged and now the Redevelopment Commission is the Town Council members. I am concerned what is to prevent that from being sold or developed. Mr. Holsti stated we will have to cross that bridge when we get there.

Ms. Gayle Brannon, 7014 W. 139th Place, stated the majority of the people that live in Cedar Lake do not live on the lake and there are only three public access points to the lake for the residents that live here

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and I'm concerned that one of those access points instead of being developed is being taken away. This is a big concern with the thousands of people that live here and don't live on the lake. I would hate to see that happen, but I guess it is out your hands and already moved on through the Town Council and that they will do what they want with it. It is a big concern of mine and we use the lake and love being here at the lake. To remove an access point to the residents is really criminal.

Mr. Holsti commented we share the same view and the last thing we want to do is to take away public access.

Ms. Brannon asked if pictures were taken of the playground equipment that was badly damaged. Mr. Holsti commented the inspector did because that is part of their report and we do not have the final report yet. When Ms. Buchler and I went out there, we saw rotted metal, one of the slides was cracked and could have cut a child. After replacing the one slide at Hanover which was \$1,000 just between shipping and the part. The structural damage and individual boards in the play structure had cracks in them, the steps going up had rotted and twisted. I understand people's concerns and doubt and can see any side of the argument and Ms. Buchler was told by the insurance that they were going to put it in the report that it needed to go away for safety concerns.

Ms. Buchler stated she was assessing the inspections as they were going through and to assure you, a grown man who was standing on the structure able to move it and shake it, it was concerning for the safety for anyone who was to use that and it was brought to my superior's attention as soon as I was done with the inspection. We chose to act fast to get it out versus saying there was a child hurt. Discussion ensued. Ms. Buchler commented we are not done with the planning of the parks system in its entirety and the Master Plan and Comprehensive Plan. We have to sit dormant until we get those things done to appropriate funds and goals for these next five years. Ms. Brannon stated the Master Plan spoke about the Park Master Plan 2021 and wanted to know if the current plan is available. Mr. Holsti stated the current Park's Master Plan is from 2014. We do not have a current plan and we can mutually agree that a lot of things have changed since the last Park Master Plan was done. Lengthy Discussion ensued regarding equipment needed for the Parks Department.

Ms. Brannon asked what was the cost to have someone come in and design the gardens that were supposed to go in. Mr. Holsti commented it was around \$6,000.

Adjournment: Mr. Rodriguez made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 pm and Mr. Marquardt seconded the motion. The next meeting will be July 6, 2023 at 5:30 pm.

TOWN OF CEDAR LAKE PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

Dale Holsti, Member

Greg Marquardt, Member

Sarah Miller, Member

Paul Rodriguez, Member

ATTEST:

Cheryl Hajduk, Recording Secretary

The Minutes of the Cedar Lake Plan Commission Meeting are transcribed pursuant to IC 5-14-15-4(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 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 section 3.5 or 3.6 of this chapter or any other statute that authorizes a governing body to conduct a meeting using an electronic means of communication.

Cedar Lake Redevelopment Commission: Minutes of June 1, 2023