



TOWN OF CEDAR LAKE PARK BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Cedar Lake Town Hall, 7408 Constitution Avenue
January 2, 2025, at 5:30 pm

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Rodriguez called the Park Board Public Meeting to order on Thursday, January 2, 2025, at 5:32 pm, with its members attending on-site and via Zoom. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Mr. Rodriguez welcomed Gayle Brannon to the Park Board. Mr. Rodriguez also thanked Sarah Miller for her service to the Park Board and to the Town of Cedar Lake. Mr. Rodriguez stated, "Mrs. Miller was an asset and will be missed."

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Paul Rodriguez, Member; Dave Jostes, Member; Gayle Brannon, Member and Greg Marquardt, Member. A quorum was attained.

Also present: Mindi Ray, Parks & Recreation Superintendent; David Austgen, Town Attorney; and Mary Joan Dickson, Town Council Liaison; and Julie Rivera, Town Council Liaison; Jeff Bunge, Town Manager (Via Zoom); Greg Wiesemann, Recreation Coordinator; and Sharon D'Apice, Administrative Assistant

Let the record reflect that Jeff Bunge, Town Manager was on Zoom at 5:32 pm.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

1. President

Mr. Rodriguez stated the first order of business was for the election of officers for the Park Board President. Mr. Marquardt made a motion to elect Mr. Rodriguez for president and Mr. Jostes seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by roll-call vote.

Mr. Marquardt Aye
Mr. Jostes Aye
Mrs. Brannon Aye
Mr. Rodriguez Aye

2. Vice-President

Mr. Rodriguez stated the need for the election of the Vice-President for the Park Board. Mr. Marquardt made a motion to elect Mr. Jostes for Vice-President and Mrs. Brannon seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by roll-call vote.

Mr. Marquardt Aye
Mr. Jostes Aye
Mrs. Brannon Aye
Mr. Rodriguez Aye

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. **Minutes:** November and December 2024 Meeting Minutes
2. **Claims:** Parks & Rec General Fund: \$38,814.47; Park Impact Fee Fund: \$-; Parks & Rec Non-Reverting Fund: \$1,964.84; Clubhouse Non-Reverting Fund: \$3,137.10;
Total Expenditures: \$43,952.41
3. **Donations:** None

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

Mr. Marquardt Aye
Mr. Jostes Aye
Mrs. Brannon Aye
Mr. Rodriguez Aye

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Park Maintenance Shop

Mr. Rodriguez stated that there are no updates on the Park Maintenance Shop and that this project will be worked on this year.

Mr. Marquardt made a motion to defer discussion of the Park Maintenance Shop to the March Park Board meeting and Mr. Jostes seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by roll-call vote.

Mr. Marquardt Aye
Mr. Jostes Aye
Mrs. Brannon Aye
Mr. Rodriguez Aye

2. Park Foundation

Mr. Rodriguez asked if there was an update on the Park Foundation. Mrs. Dickson stated that there are two members for the Park Foundation, Cheryl Parker and Kathy Broomhead, Marie Samara was not appointed by the Town Council. Mr. Austgen stated that there is a need for at least three members and no more than five. Discussion ensued. Mrs. Ray stated that they will be accepting applications for the Park Foundation until February 5, 2025.

Mr. Marquardt made a motion to extend the application deadline for the Park Foundation to February 5, 2025 and to defer discussion to the February Park Board meeting and Mr. Jostes seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by roll-call vote.

Mr. Marquardt Aye
Mr. Jostes Aye
Mrs. Brannon Aye
Mr. Rodriguez Aye

NEW BUSINESS:

1. New Programs and Ideas for 2025 – Recreation Coordinator

Mr. Wiesmann stated that when he attended the IPRA conference, one of the courses he went to was regarding technology in the parks. Agents of Discovery is a way to bring technology to the parks. Agents of Discovery allows use of a phone, iPad or tablet. There are eight challenges and one mission, there are also QR Codes that link to games that will teach about Cedar Lake. The games can be geared towards holidays and seasons. The Park Board asked Mr. Wiesemann to gather more information regarding demographics on Agents of Discovery. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Marquardt made a motion to defer discussion of Agents of Discovery to the February Park Board meeting and Mr. Jostes seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by roll-call vote.

Mr. Marquardt Aye
Mr. Jostes Aye
Mrs. Brannon Aye
Mr. Rodriguez Aye

2. Park Activity Fees

Mr. Rodriguez stated that the fee schedule has already been accepted as it is written, this needs to be recommended to Town Council to amend the ordinance. The only change is the 25% discount offered for non-profits from the previous years' discount of a \$50 fee for the Clubhouse and 50% discount for park spaces and shelter rentals. Mr. Jostes read the ordinance by title, "An ordinance amending town parks and recreation activities fee ordinance No. 1322, being: an ordinance amending town parks and recreation activities No. 1242, being an ordinance amending an activities fee schedule for the town department of parks and recreation and all matters related thereto' repealing all town code sections and ordinances or parts thereof, in conflict herewith, and all matters related thereto, repealing all town code sections and ordinances, or parts thereof, in conflict herewith, and all matters related hereto."

Mr. Marquardt made a motion to recommend Ordinance No. 1322 to the Town Council and Mr. Jostes seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by roll-call vote.

Mr. Marquardt Aye
Mr. Jostes Aye
Mrs. Brannon Aye
Mr. Rodriguez Aye

3. Kiwanis Dog Park Fees

Mr. Rodriguez stated that the only change to this fee schedule is the 7-day dog park pass for one dog and a 7-day dog park pass for two dogs. Mrs. Ray stated this is to give those summer visitors an option to enjoy the dog park. Mr. Jostes read the ordinance by title, "An ordinance amending corrected town ordinance No. 1467 being an ordinance establishing a fee schedule for use of the Town of Cedar Lake Kiwanis Dog Park, including fund usage requirements, and further establishing rules and regulations for use of the Cedar Lake Kiwanis Dog Park facility, as well as all matters related thereto.

Mr. Marquardt made a motion to recommend Ordinance No. 1437 to the Town Council and Mrs. Brannon seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by roll-call vote.

Mr. Marquardt Aye
Mr. Jostes Aye
Mrs. Brannon Aye
Mr. Rodriguez Aye

REPORTS:

1. Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Ray updated the board that the Superintendent's Report is the Annual Report that was presented to the Park Board and the Town Council. The Annual Report is about a fifteen-page document that was sent out on December 12th. Mrs. Ray stated that the Rain Barrel Fundraiser is a Taylor Ice Fest Fundraiser that started last year. Ten dollars of each rain barrel that is purchased will go to the Taylor Ice Fest.

Mrs. Ray stated that the Parks Maintenance Crew is very responsive and proactive in the maintenance and care of the park equipment.

2. Recreation Coordinator's Report

Mr. Wiesemann thanked Kim Defrancesco for her service for teaching the fitness class for the past eight years. Mr. Wiesemann also stated that Janet Knox is the new fitness instructor and her class will begin on January 14th at the Clubhouse.

Public registration for Spring Soccer will begin February 10th.

Cedar Lake Parks partnered with the Boys and Girls Club to host NERF Battles for adults and children that will be held at the Cedar Lake Boys and Girls Club gym on January 22nd and January 24th.

There will be a Blood Drive at the Clubhouse on February 12th, 12:30 pm to 5:30 pm.

Purdue Extension will also be hosting a couple classes at the Clubhouse.

Movies in the Park and the Lakeside Artist Guild are two summer events that we are coming back this year.

Mrs. Ray also stated that the Parks Newsletter is on the website.

Discussion ensued regarding bus trips for seniors.

3. Maintenance Report

Mrs. Ray stated that the hours and the time the crew put into getting the grounds set up and prepared for the Taylor Ice Fest.

The Park Crew is currently working on inventory, repairing picnic tables and preventive maintenance.

The Park Crew are also in charge of plowing park spaces and are on an on-call schedule.

Mrs. Dickson commented that there was a survey done by seniors, she was wondering what happened to those ideas. The seniors are only meeting once a month. If there was more variety you would get more people to show. Mrs. Ray stated that she was the one that meet with the seniors and conducted the assessment of needs and wants and shared that information with Greg Wiesemann when he was hired. Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Rivera welcomed Mrs. Brannon and thanked Sarah Miller for her time and talent.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ADJOURNMENT Mr. Marquardt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:16 pm and Mrs. Brannon seconded the motion. The next meeting currently is scheduled for February 6, 2025 at 5:30 pm.

TOWN OF CEDAR LAKE PARK BOARD

Paul Rodriguez, President

Dave Jostes, Vice-President

Gayle Brannon, Member

Greg Marquardt, Member

ATTEST:

Sharon D'Apice, Recording Secretary

These minutes 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 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.