

## PARK BOARD

August 11, 2025

The August 11, 2025 Park Board meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers by Kate Niederkohr, Chairperson. Park Board members present were Jennifer Banta, Dean Leonard, and Kate Niederkohr. Bill Sturgeon. Jon Blackburn and Erin Smith was absent.

Others present included: Kyle McColly, Mayor; Laura Wines, Pool Co-Manager; Janeen Heilman, Pool Co-Manager; Lonnie McMillan, Daily Chief Union; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The summary of bills totaling \$116,331.09 was presented.

A motion was made by Mrs. Banta, seconded by Mr. Leonard, for the approval and payment of bills totaling \$116,331.09. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

The minutes of the July 14, 2025 Park Board meeting, having been mailed to each Park Board member, were approved as received.

Mrs. Laura Wines and Mrs. Janeen Heilman, Pool Co-Managers, addressed the Park Board indicating that there are only six (6) lifeguards working for the remainder of the season as most of the lifeguards have left for college. Reduced hours at the swimming pool began today due to reduced staff and the start of fall sports practices and band camp. The final day of the swimming pool season will be Monday, September 1, 2025.

Mrs. Wines and Mrs. Heilman reported that there was a shortage of lifeguards for a period at the end of July 2025 and Mr. Aiden Frey, who had in previous years worked as a lifeguard and still had the proper certifications, was available and came to work at the pool.

A motion was made by Mr. Sturgeon, seconded by Mrs. Banta, to hire Mr. Aiden Frey, retroactively, as a lifeguard for 2025 at \$12.50 per hour. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

Mr. Niederkohr reviewed information provided by Miss Riley Fox at the July 14, 2025 Park Board meeting regarding the Wyandot County Developmental Disabilities Project LIFE Transition Services. Mr. Niederkohr indicated that these individuals will be working in Harrison Smith Park, Stepping Stones Park, and Bicentennial Park, on Mondays thru Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. from August 25, 2025 thru November 6, 2025. Mr. Niederkohr stated that these individuals work well with the Parks Department employees. Park Board members voiced no objections to this request.

Mr. Niederkohr reported that there was only a two (2) week break from mowing this summer due to the mostly steady rains experienced this year.

Mr. Niederkohr also reported that the swimming pool is having to be filled more as the summer goes on and the deterioration of the caulk is causing leaks.

A thank you card was shared from the Wyandot Tracers for the weekday use of a park shelter for a meeting they held this summer.

It was noted that the annual Family Fun Fest was held in Harrison Smith Park on Friday, August 8, 2025 with the Police and Fire Departments and Life Flight participating, and swimming at no charge at the pool for patrons was again permitted as part of the event.

Park Board members reviewed the 2025 Swim Lessons report, as provided by Mrs. Jill Eyestone, showing a total of two-hundred twenty-one (221) participants enrolled in swim lessons and ninety-seven (97) participants who passed swim lesson levels. It was noted that some participants did not attend the entire two (2) weeks of swim lessons due to 4-H Camp, Boy Scout Camp, or vacation.

Mayor McColly presented information from Rent Fun about kayak rentals to the public. Mayor McColly indicated that it would be a big up front investment for the City to set up kayak rentals and purchase the equipment needed. Mayor McColly will also be presenting this information to the Service Committee. Mr. Niederkohr stated that the legal liabilities need to be considered and Mr. Ben Buckland, Law Director, needs to be consulted.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned.

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Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

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Kate Niederkohr, Chairperson