

## PARK BOARD

October 14, 2025

The October 14, 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, Jon Blackburn, Dean Leonard, Kate Niederkohr, and Bill Sturgeon. Erin Smith was absent.

Others present included: Kyle McColly, Mayor; Keith Niederkohr, Parks Manager; John Walker; Brian Hemminger, Daily Chief Union; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The summary of bills totaling \$59,543.26 was presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Sturgeon, seconded by Mr. Blackburn, for the approval and payment of bills totaling \$59,543.26. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

The minutes of the September 8, 2025 Park Board meeting, having been mailed to each Park Board member, were approved as received.

Park Board members reviewed a request from Mrs. Charity Bassinger, Open Door Resource, to hold their benefit Light Up the Night event in Stepping Stones Park on Saturday, November 8, 2025 and reserve the large gazebo. Park Board members voiced no objections to this request.

Park Board members again discussed the conditional \$500.00 bonus for the pool managers to be paid at the end of the swimming pool season, as set by the Park Board at their March 10, 2025 meeting. Park Board members agreed that Mrs. Laura Stoneburner and Mrs. Janeen Heilman did a great job managing the swimming pool this summer. Their communication and public outreach was outstanding. Mr. Niederkohr indicated that upon his return from leave at the end of September everything in the pool house was put away and the pool house was clean.

A motion was made by Mrs. Banta, seconded by Mr. Leonard, to approve \$500.00 bonuses for Mrs. Laura Stoneburner and Mrs. Janeen Heilman, Pool Managers. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

Park Board members reviewed the Swimming Pool Report showing a loss of \$13,803.03 for the 2025 swimming pool season compared to a loss of \$29,767.27 in 2024. It was noted that revenue from season tickets, daily admissions, and concessions increased this year while expenses including wages and utilities decreased.

Mr. Niederkohr reported that the co-ed softball league will finish their season this weekend on the Rotary Field in Harrison Smith Park.

Mr. Niederkohr also reported that tomorrow the Parks Department employees will begin gathering the picnic tables in Harrison Smith Park and stacking them into the white shelter.

Mr. Niederkohr indicated that the displays for the Winter Fantasy of Lights (WFOL) will be unloaded from the red building in Harrison Smith Park on Saturday, October 18, 2025 and placed around the park to be set up. The WFOL Committee has set a deadline of Monday November 17, 2025 for the displays to be in place and set up. The community walk-thru of the WFOL will take place on Wednesday, November 26, 2025 and Thursday, November 27, 2025, and the park will open to vehicular traffic beginning Friday, November 28, 2025 thru Tuesday, December 30, 2025.

Mr. Niederkohr further reported that next week the Parks Department will winterize the pool house and the concession stands. The unheated restrooms in the parks will remain open for the time being but will be winterized when freezing weather approaches.

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