

PARK BOARD

May 11, 2026

The May 11, 2026 Park Board meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers by Kate Niederkohr, Chairperson. Park Board members present were Jon Blackburn, Dean Leonard, Kate Niederkohr, Erin Smith, and Bill Sturgeon. Cathy Browne was absent.

Others present included: Kyle McColly, Mayor; Todd Karg, Parks Manager; Jeremy Kline; Tiffany Kline; Laura Wines; Janeen Heilman; John Walker; Brian Hemminger, Daily Chief Union; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The summary of bills totaling \$248,125.73 was presented.

A motion was made by Ms. Browne, seconded by Mr. Sturgeon, for the approval and payment of bills totaling \$248,125.73. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

The minutes of the April 13, 2026 Park Board meeting, having been mailed to each Park Board member, were approved as received.

The minutes of the April 24, 2026 special Park Board meeting, having been mailed to each Park Board member, were approved as received.

Mr. Jeremy Kline addressed the Park Board indicating that he was recently placed in charge of the Girls' Slow Pitch Softball League that plays at the Water Tower Park. Mr. Kline explained that this year there are between 130 and 160 participants in the league and parents and sponsors are interested in performing some upkeep of the buildings and the ball field. It was noted that the league has received approximately \$3,000.00 in recent donations to address improvements. Mr. Kline indicated that they would like to remove a large hump in the playing field and add boulders outside of the field at two corners that can be decorated by the annual league champions. Park Board members requested Mr. Karg meet with Mr. Kline and representatives from the league to figure out what needs done and what improvements the Parks Department can address.

Mrs. Janeen Heilman, Co-Pool Manager, addressed the Park Board indicating that she submitted a list of swim suits, whistles, swim gear, etc. for the staff at the swimming pool to the City's Human Resource Officer.

A motion was made by Mrs. Niederkohr, seconded by Mr. Sturgeon, to approve the purchase of swim suits, whistles, swim gear, etc. for the staff at the swimming pool. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding the resurfacing of the Splash Pad in Bicentennial Park. Mr. Karg presented a quote from AquaSeal Resurfacing, North Canton, Ohio, to install Aquaseal Aquatile safety surfacing foam tiles at a cost of \$21,954.00 or to install Aquaseal CombiTile safety surfacing rubber tiles at a cost of \$22,936.00. Mr. Karg indicated that he prefers the Aquaseal Aquatile safety surfacing foam tiles as he prefers the surface of these tiles compared to the rubber tiles and each tile can be individually removed and replaced if necessary. Mr. Karg also presented an estimate from AquaSeal Resurfacing for the removal of the existing safety surface on the approximate 707 square foot Splash Pad at a cost of \$11,680.00. Mr. Karg indicated that he was waiting on a quote from another company for this work but he has not received a response. Mayor McColly indicated that he will have Mr. Ethan Korte, Administrative Assistant, contact other communities with tiles surfaces on their splash pads to determine if they like the tile surfaces. It was noted that the Rotary Club and the Young Professionals have donated towards the Splash Pad in the past and he will contact these organizations to see if they are interested in donating towards the Splash Pad again. Park Board members also requested Mayor McColly and Mr. Karg check the area prior to a decision being made on this project.

Mr. Karg reported that the new abutments for the walking bridge in Harrison Smith Park have been set and the bridge was relocated today using two cranes. Mr. Karg indicated that the contractor who moved the bridge inquired about the possibility of adding a sidewalk from the parking lot to the bridge approach on the north side. It was suggested that a community foundation grant be sought for this sidewalk.

Mr. Karg also reported that all of the restrooms in the parks are now open, the fountain in Stepping Stones Park has been turned on, and he will be working with Mr. Steve Heinlen, Carmar Gardens, on landscaping at Bicentennial Park.

Mr. Karg further reported that he received an anonymous call from an individual to add two benches or picnic tables along the walking trail between South Fourth Street and the pedestrian bridge crossing the river located along the south side of the railroad tracks and south of Harrison Smith Park. Mr. Karg indicated that he is not in favor of placing picnic tables along this path as this area floods and picnic tables could be carried away with flood waters. Mr. Karg noted that benches would have to be secured in concrete to prevent them being carried away with flood waters, and this area is adjacent to the disc golf course and he doesn't want to promote a hangout area for individuals. Park Board members decided to leave the decision to Mr. Karg's discrepancy. Mayor McColly inquired as to if the anonymous caller is interested in donating money towards the purchase of benches for this area as the cost of benches are approximately \$1800.00 each.

Mayor McColly indicated that he has been in contact and negotiating with Brandstetter Carroll, Inc. regarding engineering services for the City's proposed swimming pool facility. Mayor McColly stated that engineering firms often charge a fee of 8% to 10% for engineering services, but he asked Brandstetter Carroll, Inc. if they were willing to lower the percentage and they agreed to reduce their fee to 7.5% which would be \$412,500.00 based on a \$5,500,000.00 contingency. Mayor McColly indicated that a quote of \$8,000.00 was also received from Brandstetter Carroll, Inc. for a topographical survey for the project and he can approve this expenditure as it is within his threshold. Mayor McColly and Mr. Karg met with Mr. Charlie Schneider, Brandstetter Carroll, Inc. Vice President, and toured the existing swimming pool facility and Mr. Schneider assessed that some of the existing pool house structure could be saved.

A motion was made by Mrs. Niederkohr, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to recommend to City Council to approve the 7.5% fee to be charged by Brandstetter Carroll, Inc. for their engineering services for the City's proposed swimming pool facility. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

The hiring of pool staff for the 2026 swimming pool season was addressed.

A motion was made by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Mr. Sturgeon, to hire Franklin Arnold, Ashton Bacon, Aubree Barth, Jayne Blackburn, Madelyn Collins, Addison Frey, Aiden Frey, Alexandria Kress, Callie Lynch, Christian Miller, Arielle O'Flaherty, Levi Plymale, and Ellie Zeller as lifeguards for the 2026 swimming pool season. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes, except Mr. Blackburn who abstained. The Chairperson declared the motion carried by a 4-0-1 vote.

A motion was made by Mrs. Niederkohr, seconded by Mr. Blackburn, to hire Chase Heilman, Brynn Kennedy, Bryson Stoneburner, and Samantha Strong as cashiers for the 2026 swimming pool season. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Niederkohr, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to hire Nicholas Wines as the cleaner for the 2026 swimming pool season. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

The hiring of a part-time seasonal employee was addressed.

A motion was made by Mrs. Niederkohr, seconded by Mr. Leonard, to hire Alex Lind as a part-time seasonal employee for 2026 at \$14.25 per hour. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

Mayor McColly noted that the maintenance of trees located within the rights-of-way has become the responsibility of the Street Department, and he inquired as to who is responsible for right-of-way mowing in business and manufacturing areas. Mrs. Niederkohr suggested an inquiry be made with the Street Department as to what they mow and then proceed from there. Mayor McColly suggested the possibility of another seasonal part-time employee being hired to address mowing in these areas if necessary.

Mr. Sturgeon inquired as to when the veterans’ banners will be hung on Sandusky Avenue and Wyandot Avenue. Mr. Karg indicated that the banners were received by the Parks Department last week and they will be hung soon.

A motion was made by Mrs. Niederkohr, seconded by Mr. Sturgeon, to enter into an executive session to discuss a personnel matter regarding employment. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried. Upon completion of the executive session, the Park Board reconvened into regular session.

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

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk	Kate Niederkohr, Chairperson