

PARK BOARD

June 8, 2026

The June 8, 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 Cathy Browne, Dean Leonard, Kate Niederkohr, Erin Smith, and Bill Sturgeon. Jon Blackburn was absent.

Others present included: Todd Karg, Parks Manager; Laura Wines; Janeen Heilman; Tommy Jenkins; John Walker; Brian Hemminger, Daily Chief Union; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The summary of bills totaling \$109,046.88 was presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Leonard, seconded by Mrs. Smith, for the approval and payment of bills totaling \$109,046.88. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

The minutes of the May 11, 2026 Park Board meeting, having been mailed to each Park Board member, were approved as received.

The minutes of the June 1, 2026 special Park Board meeting, having been mailed to each Park Board member, were approved as received.

At this time Mr. Tommy Jenkins addressed the Park Board requesting permission to reserve the bandshell in Harrison Smith Park and the on-site electrical outlets at this location on Saturday, September 5, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. for an event titled "Local Musician Showcase Concert". The event would be free to the public and highlight musical talent within Upper Sandusky and Wyandot County. Performances would be scheduled between 12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. with the additional time requested needed to address set up, tear down, and clean up. Attendees will bring their own food and drink, lawn chairs or blankets for seating. Park Board members voiced no objections to this request. Mr. Karg indicated that improvements to the bandshell will take place this year and he is unsure when those improvements will be happening, but he will contact Mr. Jenkins if the planned improvements conflict with his event.

Mrs. Laura Stoneburner and Mrs. Janeen Heilman, Co-Swimming Pool Managers reported on the following:

- WKTN, the radio station in Kenton, Ohio, will be broadcasting from the swimming pool on Thursday, June 11, 2026 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Water aerobics at the pool will begin the week of June 14, 2026.
- The volleyball net for the pool was found in storage and has been set up.
- One of the lifeguards saved a swimmer who was struggling in the water.
- The basketball net will not be set up this year as it has rusted out.
- Last year there were several businesses and individuals in the community who donated towards daily admission passes for individuals and Mrs. Wines and Mrs. Heilman would like to continue that effort this year with the admissions to the pool through these donations overseen by the Pool Managers. Park Board members voiced no objections to this request.
- The pool staff is doing well.
- The pool is operating well.
- Letters of concern from individuals were discussed. Park Board members agreed that these inquiries should be referred directly to the Pool Managers.
- It was noted that bright signs have been posted at the pool in English and Spanish. Ms. Browne complimented the Pool Managers on these signs.

Mr. Karg reported on the following:

- Mr. Karg has not obtained any additional quotes for the resurfacing of the Splash Pad in Bicentennial Park, however a representative from McGuire Automotive contacted him thinking they can provide the materials for the resurfacing including the padding underneath and a custom surface. Mr. Karg is currently waiting on more information from McGuire Automotive and a quote for their product. Mr. Karg noted that the Splash Pad would have to be shut down for approximately two days for the resurfacing to take place.
- The work moving the walking bridge in Harrison Smith Park has been completed. Mr. Karg indicated that Schalk Brothers Inc. did excellent work on this project.
- Rock has been installed to line the retaining wall around the pond in Harrison Smith Park in effort to better stabilize the wall.
- Bill Sowers Tree Service is currently working to remove the large maple tree located near the white shelter in Harrison Smith Park.
- Mr. Karg met with a contractor recently to discuss upgrading the pump that pumps water from the pond in Harrison Smith Park to the river.

Mr. Sturgeon inquired about the status of the engineering services for the Swimming Pool Project. Mrs. Niederkohr indicated that meetings are upcoming to discuss what the Park Board wants for this project. Mr. Karg stated that Brandstetter Carroll, Inc. has completed the topographical survey of the project area.

Mrs. Niederkohr reported that Mr. Brad Taylor, Street and Sanitation Supervisor, reported at the June 1, 2025 Service Committee meeting that he met with Mr. Karg and an agreement was reached that the Parks Department would be taking over the right-of-way mowing throughout the City. Mr. Karg stated that he did meet with Mr. Taylor and they drove around with Mr. Taylor pointing out all of the right-of-way areas that are mowed by the City. Mr. Karg indicated that he did not agree to take over the right-of-way mowing as there is a substantial amount of right-of-way mowing that needs to be addressed and this work would need to be done two times per month and it would take two days of mowing to complete and the Parks Department is very busy. Mrs. Niederkohr suggested the possibility of an additional part-time individual for the Street Department be hired to address this work. Mrs. Niederkohr noted that the right-of-way mowing should be halted for now until the Service Committee has the opportunity to discuss this issue further with Mr. Taylor.

Mr. Karg reported that Mr. William Dunlap will be in attendance at the July 13, 2026 Park Board meeting to present information as he wants to revitalize the disc golf course.

Mrs. Niederkohr also reported that there have been long lines of people at the pickleball courts who are waiting to play pickleball. Mrs. Niederkohr suggested the possibility of resurfacing the basketball and tennis courts in Harrison Smith Park and making them dual purpose to include pickleball courts and grant funding for additional pickleball courts be sought. Park Board members agreed that the basketball courts in Bicentennial Park will remain solely as basketball courts.

Mrs. Niederkohr further reported that the City has been awarded a Capital Budget Fund grant of \$199,000.00 which will be used to address inclusive playground equipment in Bicentennial Park. Mrs. Smith stated that she is willing to work with the project including the selection of playground equipment.

Mr. Sturgeon reported that he received a compliment on the work done to move the walking bridge in Harrison Smith Park and he was also asked about the bridge being painted. Mr. Karg will discuss this project with service groups and volunteers.

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

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

Kate Niederkohr, Chairperson