

## SUMMARIZATION OF MINUTES FOR THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

On **Thursday, August 8, 2024**, the **Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation Department** and the **Board of Park Commissioners** held their **Monthly Board** meeting in Citizens Square, City of Fort Wayne/Allen County City Council Discussion Room, (*Garden level*) Suite 30,200 East Berry Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Board President Mr. Justin Shurley, Mr. Cory Miller, Vice President, Mr. Richard Briley, Commissioner, and Mrs. Jenna Jauch, Commissioner.

**PARKS STAFF PRESENT:** Steve McDaniel, Harlean Falls, Robert Hines, Kathy Pargmann, April McCampbell, David Weadock, Steve Schuhmacher, Chuck Reddinger, Sandra Odisho, Alex Johnson, and Chad Shaw.

*Others in attendance were:* Mr. Barney Goodwin, [fortwaynebmx@gmail.com](mailto:fortwaynebmx@gmail.com), and Pat Stelte of the Allen County Public Library.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Board President Justin Shurley called the monthly Board meeting to order at 10:00 am.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Board President Shurley, called for the approval of the monthly meeting minutes from Thursday, June 13, 2024. Board Vice President Cory Miller moved and Commissioner Richard Briley seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The motion was duly carried. On file are the monthly Board minutes.
3. **PAYROLL & COMMERCIAL VOUCHERS:** Manager Sandra Odisho requested the Board's approval of payroll and commercial vouchers. Included in the report is the number of full-time and part-time employees, for pay periods ending 06/07/24, and 06/21/24, account payables payment vouchers #1395 to #1739, with a Payroll Sub-Total of \$1,222,020.33 **NOTED** were various parks Capital projects. The totals are in the Park General Fund, Park Trust Fund, Park Non-Reverting Operating Fund, Park Non-Reverting Capital Fund, Park Cumulative Building Fund, and Other City Funds, for Account Payables Total of \$2,402,521.02, and a total of

\$3,624,541.35, Board Vice President Miller moved and Commissioner Jauch seconded the motion to approve the payroll and commercial vouchers payments as presented. The motion was duly carried. On file is the June 2024 report.

4. **TRUST FUND DONATIONS:** Finance Manager Sandra Odisho navigated the Board members through a listing of the donors, amounts, and purpose, along with donations, endowments, and grants for the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, Community Center/Senior Games, Community Center – Luncheon Sponsors, Memorial Dedications for Madge McFarren, Shirley Walbridge, Jason Gillum, Carol & Keith Frank, Martha Noel, Benji Tretter, Melissa Ralya, Tim, Reed, Autumn and Leleand Geerts and Sharon Buhr, the Rivergreenway, Lakeside Rose Garden – Jophiels, and Celestia Morris, Lifetime Sports Academy, and from the Registrations/Web Donations Sweet Breeze, Franke Park Day Camp, General Park Areas, and Salomon Farm Park.. Also, \$600,000.00 from the Park Foundation Donors for the Franke Park Renaissance Reimbursements, a Grand Total including Franke Park Renaissance Reimbursements of \$1,921,522.30, received as of **June 2024, \$721.522/.39 and YTD is \$721,522.39.** By acclamation, the Board accepted the Trust Fund Donations report. On file is the March Trust Fund Donations report.
5. **PARK PRIORITIES:** Deputy Director Alec Johnson stated he did not bring any Drone footage. The Franke Park Renaissance Project is still on schedule. Planning has begun for a Grand opening, press conference, and discussion of rental fees. Riverfront Phase II permits have been received. A large portion of the project will be out for bid. We have completed a couple of Public Input meetings on the Comprehensive Plan, that had been posted for 2 months. In Foster Park, construction will continue for approximately six more months. A brief discussion was held on the construction, the design process for the entry space, Public input, and the City Utilities Tunnel Project.
6. **AGREEMENTS / FEES/ RESOLUTIONS / POLICY APPROVALS:**
  - A. *Comprehensive Plan* - **Johnson**- Commissioner Briley moved and Commissioner Jauch seconded the motion to approve a RESOLUTION to adopt the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Park System Comprehensive Plan as the official planning document for the next ten years, for the growth and development. The motion was duly carried. This RESOLUTION will be added to the Comprehensive Plan. Hard copies are available by request and the plan is on the Department's Website.
  - B. *Brewer Park Easement & Maintenance Agreement* - **Johnson** – Vice President Miller moved and Commissioner Briley seconded the motion to approve the Easement Agreement in the Brewer Park Redevelopment plan. The motion was duly carried. On file is the easement agreement, and the Brewer Park Redevelopment plan.
  - C. *Vesey Park City Utilities Easement Agreement* - **Schuhmacher**– Commissioner Jauch moved and Commissioner Briley seconded the motion to a parcel of land in Vesey Park, for a City Utilities Easement, for the access to an underground sewer utility line. The motion was duly carried. On file is the easement agreement.
  - D. *2024 Fall (September/October/November) Fun Times Brochure* – **Reddinger** - Commissioner Briley moved and Commissioner Jauch seconded the motion to approve the Fall programs and services held in September, October, and November, as presented, giving the authority to modify, adjust, and add programs (and their associated fees if applicable) with written approval from the Deputy Director or the Director. The motion was duly carried. On file is the 2024 Fall Fun Times Brochure.

- E. *Youth Scholarship - Hines*– Commissioner Briley moved, and Commissioner Jauch seconded the motion to accept a Policy and Procedure adjustment to the Youth Scholarship Program, Section: C, Item:21, Approved: 2003, Revised: February 2023, Authority: Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation Department, to accept on document, as the primary for qualifying for a scholarship, and a change of the language from 17 years of age or younger; all based on a family’s most recent U.S. Internal Revenue Service Tax Return showing full household income. The motion was duly carried. On file is the revised Policy and Procedure.

**7. BIDS / CONTRACTS / CHANGE ORDER APPROVALS:**

*Brewer Park Construction- Johnson*– Commissioner Briley moved and Commissioner Jauch seconded the motion to approve a contract with Schenkel Construction. The motion was duly carried. On file is the contract, bid tabulation sheet and the signed approval form. This project will be taken to City Council

*Various Park Playground Borders – Weadock* – Project #2024006 QuestCDN No.: 8811208, for various Parks Playground Borders, with Schenkel Construction. Board Vice President Miller moved and Commissioner Jauch seconded the motion to approve. The motion was duly carried. On file is the original contract, the scope of work, and the change order.

*Various Park Playground Safety Surfacing - Weadock*- Commissioner Briley moved and Commissioner Jauch, seconded the motion to approve increasing the contract amount with Mulchworx, for Playground Safety Surfacing. The motion was duly carried. On file are the bid tabulations, the scope of work, the contract, and the change order.

*Sweeney Park Tennis Courts Improvements – Weadock* – Commissioner Jauch moved and Board Vice President Miller seconded the motion to approve a decrease in the contract amount with K & M Asphalt Sealing Maintenance, Inc., for the Swinney Park Tennis Courts project. The motion was duly carried. On file are the bid tabulations, the contract, and the change order.

*Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory Linkway Interior Change Order #1 - Weadock*– Board Vice President Miller moved and Commissioner Jauch seconded the approval of an increase to the existing contract with Schenkel Construction. The motion was duly carried. On file is the signed approval form, the original contract, and the change order.

- 8. FORT WAYNE PARKS & RECREATION SHOWCASE** – Deputy Director Steve Schuhmacher will periodically, narrate a PowerPoint presentation, on various parks, facilities, and parklands; to be listed on the agenda as Parks and Recreation History and Highlights. Showcased during this meeting were the valuable and enlightening historical information, acreage, maps, monuments, signage, walking paths, and connecting trails, with actual photos, improvements, and amenities of the following parks:

*Justin Study Park* – Located at Covington and Brooklyn Avenues, on 5 acres, with a playground and Basketball Courts.

*McKinnie Commons* – Located at 1815 McKinnie Avenue, a location for celebrations and connectivity.

*Robert E. Meyers Park* - is located on 1.5 acres at Jefferson Boulevard and Harrison Street, inside Harrison Square, an oasis overlooking Parkview Field, with a splash fountain, amphitheater, and performance stage.

For a complete review of the presentation and location of all parks listed go to:

[www.fortwayneparks.org](http://www.fortwayneparks.org)

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Mr. Barney Goodwin, representing Fort Wayne BMX (since 1994), as the track operator, came before the Board to introduce himself, to expand program the alliance with the Department, and invite the Board to the race track in Franke Park. Races are on Wednesdays and

Sundays, with a State competition scheduled for August 25. There were no Public Comments during this meeting.

**DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:** Director McDaniel and the Deputy Directors reported the following:

- + Director McDaniel thanked the Commissioners for attending the Public meetings
- + We are still taking donations for the Department's Scholarship Fund
- + Director McDaniel thanked the Labor Union for the various playground construction projects
- + Over 900 participants in the 2024 Lifetime Sports Academy program, bringing the total number of participants to over 32,300 young people, in the past 26 years of the free program
- + Director McDaniel and Deputy Reddinger thanked the Staff for a great job during the Summer programming
- + The Mayor will host a Press Conference today, that will be beneficial to the Parks Department
- + The Dragon Boat event is developing with an increase in team participants
- + Staff is preparing for the Fall programming and services, and the Seasonal Staff have been separated
- + The Muddy River Concert Series was featured on TV
- + Concert on the Farm (Salomon Farm Park) is scheduled for August 26
- + The 2025 budget will be introduced to City Council in September
- + The Parks Podcast featured Rhonda Berg and Kim Weldon, discussing the new Parks app with Director McDaniel
- + In July, every available pavilion was rented every Saturday and Sunday
- + Pools are closed, and Splashpads are still running
- + The Packard Park Project is out for bid and will share the plan with the Neighborhood
- + Gardening Staff are maintaining landscapes. 35 tons of debris from the rivers.
- + The 40<sup>th</sup> Celebration at the Botanical Conservatory, with a Raise The Glass exhibit
- + Alec Johnson worked on the Robert E. Meyers project with David Weadock before Dave became a Parks employee
- + Three IPRA nominations have been submitted for awards
- + The summer has held most of our free programming for the Foellinger Theater with performances from the Fort Wayne Community Band, New Millennium Jazz Orchestra, and the Fort Wayne Children's Choir. As we move into August and September, the theatre will become more active with Rockin the 80's, Lee Brice, Blues Travelers, Big Head Todd, and the Monsters, Gladys Knight, High Kings & Gaelic Storm, Collective Soul, Fort Wayne Civic Theatre, Philharmonic with Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark, and Tesla.
- + The next scheduled for Thursday, September 12, 2024 – at 10:00 am – Citizens Square – Room 30
- + We are still hiring, and many job opportunities are listed at [www.fortwayneparks.org](http://www.fortwayneparks.org)

**COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:** Commissioner Briley mentioned experiencing exasperation, passion, and great ideas from residents, during the Public meetings, about the Tunnel Project (Momma Jo) at the entrance of Foster Park. Board President Shurley commended and thanked Deputy Director Alec Johnson for all the hours he has dedicated to the Comprehensive Plan. President Shurley congratulated Deputy Chuck Reddinger and Team, for all they do on the Recreation side of the Department.

There was no further business to come before the Board of Park Commissioners, on Thursday, August 8, 2024, in the Park Foundation Pavilion, of Promenade Park, 202 West Superior Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802. At 11:00 am, the meeting was adjourned.

**CITY OF FORT WAYNE  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS**

---

**Justin Shurley, President**

---

**Cory Miller, Vice-President**

---

**Richard Briley, Commissioner**

---

**Jenna Jauch, Commissioner**

---

**Steve McDaniel, Director/Board Secretary**

All documentation, correspondence, and prints/site plans presented at this meeting are on file in the office of the Parks and Recreation Department. This meeting was recorded by the Park staff and videotaped by Pat Stelte, Government Access Coordinator, in Television Services of the Allen County Public Library.

**Here is the link to the Thursday, August 8, 2024 meeting online:**

<https://acpl.viebit.com/player.php?hash=upJ5QSStNQ0AnggK>