

**SUMMARIZATION OF MINUTES FOR  
THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS**

*from*

The **Board of Park Commissioners** Monthly Board meeting will be held on **Thursday, October 17, 2024**, in **the Jerry Fox/LSA room of the McMillen Park Golf Course Clubhouse, 3900 Hessen Cassel Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46806**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Board President Mr. Justin Shurley, Mr. Cory Miller, Vice President, and Mr. Richard Briley, Commissioner. *NOTE: Commissioner Jenna Jauch was on maternity leave.*

**PARKS STAFF PRESENT:** Steve McDaniel, Harlean Falls, Troy Bates, Mike Gore, Kathy Pargmann, Scott Winling, April McCampbell, Chad W. Shaw, Gary Whitacre, Jason Smith, Brian Fiedler, David Weadock, Chad Shaw, and Robert Hines.

***Others in attendance were:*** Mr. Allen Donnelly, Genesis, City Councilman Geoff, Paddock, and Mr. Patrick Stelte of Fort Wayne Government Access – City TV.

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, September 12, 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:** For September - 2024

In the absence of Manager Sandra Odisho, Director Steve McDaniel 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 09/13/24, and 09/27/24, account payables payment vouchers #2483 to #2765, with a Payroll Sub-Total of \$1,036,996.90 **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 \$2,362,966.25, and a total of \$3,399,963.15. Board Vice President Miller moved and Commissioner Briley seconded the motion to approve the payroll and commercial voucher payments as examined and listed in the signed recorded document. The motion was duly carried. On file is the September 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 Spy Run Creek, from the Great Lakes Commission, Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory General Trust, from Frank Sampsell, Jeff, Calder, and Coral Turner, for the Nancy Kanczuzewski Memorial, for the (Downtown Community Ctr.) from the Fort Wayne/Allen county Community Center Foundation, Inc., Cash Donations for the Lifetime Sports Academy, and Registration/Web Donations to the General Park Areas, Pavilions, Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, Sweet Breeze, and the Riverfront; were received as of **September 2024, \$14,481.00**. By acclamation, the Board accepted the Trust Fund Donations report. On file is the September 2024 Trust Fund Donations report, **and YTD is \$1,736,766.28, plus \$1,200,000.00 Franke Park Renaissance Reimbursements: Fort Wayne Park Foundation Donors 3/24/& 6/24, Grand Total including Franke Park Renaissance Reimbursements \$2,936,766.28**. By acclamation, the Board accepted the Trust Fund Donations report. On file is the August 2024 Trust Fund Donations report
5. **PARK PRIORITIES:** Deputy Director of Planning and Development, Chad W. Shaw gave an update on projects, starting with the Franke Park Renaissance Project Phase I is near the end of the project, along with Spy Run Creek project. The paths and roads are scheduled to be completed, along with punch list items for the end of October. Ribbon cutting ceremonies are scheduled for November 8, at 2 pm, and for the road and bridge, and December 4, for the new McMillen Family Pavilion. Celebrated the groundbreaking for the Brewer Park project last month, with utilities and other ground work is on schedule. Riverfront Phase II is moving along on schedule, along with finalizing permits for the Spy Run Creek project.
6. **AGREEMENTS / FEES/ RESOLUTIONS / POLICY APPROVALS:**
- A. Headwaters Park Fees - Reddinger VP Miller moved and Commissioner Briley seconded the motion to approve the Ice Rink, the Rothschild Pavilion, the Lincoln Pavilion, grassy areas, Concessions, and miscellaneous fee recommendations for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of operation representing FW Parks & Recreation Department sole operations entity. The motion was duly carried. On file are the fee recommendations, and comparable rental venues.
- B. Promenade Park Fees – Reddinger – Commissioner Briley moved and VP Miller seconded the motion to approve the proposed fee recommendations, projected outcomes, rental rates, and miscellaneous fees. The motion was duly carried. On file are the park map, proposed fee schedule, rental comparison, catering, and merchandise fees.
7. **BIDS / CONTRACTS / CHANGE ORDER APPROVALS:**
- A. Comprehensive Plan Change Order - Shaw– Board VP Miller moved Commissioner Briley moved and seconded the motion to approve an increase to the contract amount with Design Workshop, Inc., for the project, to include a license purchase of Social Pinpoint platform, setup, organization, and maintenance, translation of services for the online platform, and advertisement materials. The motion was duly carried. On file are the original contract, bid tabulation sheet, alternatives, the scope of work, layout notes, and the signed approval form. This project is on behalf of the Southwest Area Partnership.
- B. Headwaters Park Fountain Project No. 2022018 QuestCDN: 9275422 – Weadock and Bates – Commissioner Briley moved, VP Miller seconded the motion to approve a contract with Hamilton Hunter Builders, Inc. The motion was duly carried. On file are the contract, the scope of work, the bid tabulations, photo of the existing fountain, and the signed Board approval form.

- C. *Kreager Park Soccer Fields Irrigation Project 2024047 QuestCDN 9334628 –Weadock–* VP Miller moved and Commissioner Briley seconded the motion to approve a contract with Pfister Sprinkler Systems, Inc. The motion was duly carried. On file is the scope of work, the bid tabulation, an aerial view of the fields, and the board-signed approval form.
- D. *2024 Playground Project 2024051 QuestCDN 9326256 – Weadock –* VP Miller moved and Commissioner Briley, and seconded the motion to approve the replacement of the 2-5-year-old playground equipment and safety surfacing at **Franke Park**, entering into a contract with MidState0 Recreation, along with improvements of playground equipment and playground border installation (for 2024 and into 2025) for six parks to include:  
**Indian Village Park** and **McCormick Park** Playground Equipment – VP Miller moved and Commissioner Briley seconded the motion to approve a contract with Sinclair Recreation.  
**Jehl Park** and **Lakeside Park** Playground Equipment - VP Miller moved and Commissioner Briley seconded the motion to approve a contract with Recreation InSites, and David Branderberger GC for the playground boarder installation.  
**Waynedale Park** Playground Equipment – Commissioner Briley moved and VP Miller seconded to the motion to approve entering into a contact with Snider Recreation, including entering into contract with David Brandenberger GC, for playground border installation. The motion was duly carried. On file are the original contracts, the scope of work, the bid tabulation sheets, criteria evaluation forms, and renderings for each park and project listed, and the signed approved Board form.
- E. *Irishtown Change Order #1 Project #2024037 QuestCDN No: 9062336 –Weadock -* Board Vice President Miller moved and Commissioner Briley seconded the approval of a decrease to the existing contract with Schenkel Construction. The motion was duly carried. On file is the signed approval form, the scope of work, photos, and descriptions of all items to be taken to the Vehicle Auction.

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, with goals to educate, highlight, and bring awareness to various locations, facilities, and park property. 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:  
**Hanna's Ford** – has a Landmark and memorial (stone marker) between Parnell Avenue and River Forest Drive, marking the 100 years 1819 – 1919 – an open space of land donated by Mr. & Mrs. Samuel T. Hanna, marking a valuable delivery roadway (now known as Lima Road), along the St. Joseph River, for the development of the City of Fort Wayne.

**Noll Park** – was established and dedicated, to honor Mr. William Fredrick Noll, in 1974, on 9.2 acres, at Taylor Street and North Washington Road. Now a primary location for Geocaching.

**Packard Park** – established in 1937, located on the Avenues of Fairfield and Hoagland. Once home to the Packard Organ and Piano Company. Currently, in a transition phase to revitalize the park, with construction to begin in the Fall of 2024. For a complete review of the presentation and location of all parks listed go to:

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

9. **McMillen Park Golf Course Presentation:** Jason Smith and Gary Whitacre came before the Board to share statics, historical insights, updates, revenue, POS system, challenges, trends, and highlights, on Foster, McMillen and Shoaff Park Golf Courses stating; in 1986 – 2006, there was a

44% increase in the sport of Golf. The “Tiger Effect” had a significant impact on the sport of Golf, due largely to the success of Mr. Tiger Woods, and hopeful parents. The tax laws changed causing a slow to no growth in course usage. During the early 2016 – Present, there is a 12% contraction in course usage, affecting value price golf courses. Golf can be counted a WINNER, since the COVID-19 pandemic. There are more Golf Courses nationally, than there are McDonalds and Starbucks. Locally, our golf course usage exceeds the national usage. The Lifetime Sports Academy award 49 clubs during the (26<sup>th</sup> active year) 2024 Eagle Club Status, for the season, a 60-70 participant every lesson, compared to 30-50 in 2023. A graduate of the LSA program, and a Staff person has toured in 2024 with the PGA.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no Public Comments during this meeting.

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

- ✚ The Department has been working with funds from City Councilman Geoff Paddock for improvements to Hanna Homestead, the sidewalks and community surrounding the area.
- ✚ Chuck Reddinger and Zynette Paige, have been inducted into the Department’s Quarter of a Century Club, comprised of employees still working with 25 or more years of full-time service.
- ✚ Wrapping up seasonal operations festivals, programs and services
- ✚ End of season for Sweet Breeze
- ✚ The proposed Igloo in Headwaters will hold 12 people
- ✚ The Maintenance Crews, are in weed control mode, winterizing our parks, and cleaning up after the Johnny Appleseed festival
- ✚ The Raise A Glass Showcase will conclude on November 17
- ✚ Rock Horror Picture Show and Garden Trick or Treat will be featured at the Botanical Conservatory
- ✚ Great Tree Canopy Comeback is schedule for the Old Fort and the planting of 50 trees at Kreager Park on Saturday, 11/19/24
- ✚ Dock will come out of the water in early November
- ✚ Riparian Crew is working or prioritizing parks for clean-up and riparian work
- ✚ Highlights included, Brewer Park, Active Aging week, the Swinney Park Letterbed, and plans for several ribbon cutting ceremonies, submissions of grants and thankful for Media support
- ✚ The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners will be on the Thursday, November 14, 2024 – at 10:00 am – Citizens Square Bldg., (garden level) 200 East Berry Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46806
- ✚ We are still hiring, and many job opportunities are listed at [www.fortwayneparks.org](http://www.fortwayneparks.org)

**COMMISSIONER’S COMMENTS:** President Shurley requested a definition for the Campground Host, located at Johnny Appleseed Campground. Commissioner Briley inquired as to how well the Foellinger Theatre Concert 2024 Season went compared to other years. President Shurley mentioned that the TEAM work on projects and other programs and services directed by the Parks Staff does has not gone unnoticed. City Councilman Geoff Paddock expressed his appreciation on behalf of the Headwaters Park Alliance, as they voluntary dissolve, and wrap up their fundraising efforts for Headwaters Park. President Shurley met with former Graham Richard for a walk and discussion in Promenade Park.

There was no further business to come before the Board of Park Commissioners, on Thursday, October 17, 2024, in the Jerry Fox/LSA room of the McMillen Park Golf Course Clubhouse, 3900 Hessen Cassel Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46806. At 11:26 am, the meeting was adjourned.

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

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**Justin Shurley, President**

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**Cory Miller, Vice-President**

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**Richard Briley, Commissioner**

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**Jenna Jauch, Commissioner**

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**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, October 17, 2024 meeting online:**

<https://acpl.viebit.com/watch?hash=UXand nVSkZa6JpbddbE>