

SUMMARIZATION OF MINUTES FOR THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

On **Thursday, May 8, 2025**, the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department, along with the Board of Park Commissioners held their monthly Board meeting in Citizens Square Building, City of Fort Wayne/Allen County Council Discussion Room, (*Garden level*) Suite 30, 200 East Berry Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802.

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

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Steve McDaniel, Harlean Falls, Jarin Hart, KayeC Jones, Eric Ummel, Kathy Pargmann, Mike Gore, Travis Roth, Chuck Reddinger, Steve Schuhmacher, Chad W. Shaw, Dave Weadock, Rhonda Berg, Rob Hines, Daryn Schwartz, Jackson Fife, and Eric Nau.

Others in attendance were: 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 approval of the minutes from the Thursday, April 10, 2025, meeting. VP Miller moved, and Commissioner Jenna Jauch seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The motion was duly carried. On file are the April 2025 Board minutes.
3. **PAYROLL & COMMERCIAL VOUCHERS:** Deputy Director Rhonda Berg requested the Board's approval of payroll and commercial vouchers. Included in the report are the number of full-time and part-time employees, for pay periods ending 03/14/25 and 03/28/25, account payables payment vouchers #285 to #680, with a Payroll Sub-Total of \$954,602.61. **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 \$1,745,579.15 and a total of \$2,700,181.76. Commissioner Richard Briley moved, and Commissioner Jenna Jauch seconded the motion. The motion was duly carried. On file is the signed, recorded document and the **March 2025** report.
4. **TRUST FUND DONATIONS:** Deputy Director Berg navigated the Board members through a listing of the donors, amounts, and purpose, along with donations, endowments, and grants from: Noted were donations to Brewer Park, Community Center programs, Foellinger Freimann Botanical Conservatory, Youth Scholarships (Commissioner and Mrs. Briley), events, and various website and registration donations:

Journal Gazette Foundation

Bicentennial Markers

Mark and Sarah Music / Ruoff Mortgage 100,000.00 Brewer Park

Fort Wayne Metals

Regina Hurley

Kristen and Christopher LaSalle

A New Hospice

Absolute Angels

Aging Compass

Aging & In-Home Services of Northeast Indiana, Inc.

American Senior Communities

American Senior Communities

American Senior Communities

American Senior Communities

Cedar Creek of Fort Wayne

Fort Wayne-Allen County Community Center Foundation, Inc.

Englewood Health & Rehab

Hearing Aids Plus

Grey Stone Health & Rehabilitation

Heart to Heart Hospice

Integrative Health

Kingston Healthcare Company, LLC

Kingston Healthcare Company, LLC

Kingston Healthcare Company, LLC

Parkview Health

Saint Anne Home and Retirement Community

Stillwater Hospice/Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home, Inc.

United Healthcare

Memorial Dedication - Ron Brockm

Memorial Dedication - Jerry Beauc

Memorial Dedication - Susan Wea

Phyllis Brockmyer

Sarah and Gerald Beauchamp/Jill Graber

Sheri Whittier

Rick and Lucy Briley 75.00 Youth Scholarship

Cash Donations 25.00 Lifetime Sports Academy

Registration/Web Donations:

Erica Campbell

Kate Eubank

Emily Fitzgerald

Brian Flory

Cami Gardner

Jenny Gaston

Geneva Harter

Kasey Hubbard

Benjamin Johnson

Molly Moeller

Jenifer Odell

Janelle Potchka

Soyna Rifkin

Heather Riggle

Jamie Thompson

Barbara Trout

Danielle Tuck

Sarah Turner

David Woehnker, Jr.

Ryan Wulpi

Donations and amounts received as of **March 2025 \$124,852.00. Total year-to-date is \$373,594.77.** By acclamation, the Commissioners approved all donations and grants listed in the report. On file is the May 2025 Trust Fund Donations report.

5. **PARK PRIORITIES:** Deputy Director of Planning and Landscape, Chad Shaw, updated the Board with a PowerPoint presentation, with updates on larger developments. Highlighted were Packard Park plaza, stairs, sheet walls, and new shade structures. Brewer Park development of the Pavilion and the playground is moving along on schedule. Riverfront Phase II, just east of Harrison Street, the esplanade, and the Treeline areas are being prepped. The Lawton Pedestrian Bridge is scheduled to open with a Press Conference at the location at 2:00 pm on Friday, May 16, 2025. Updates were given on the Treeline project, at the old Pepsi site, on the structure, and the Project Teams continue to work on the Foster Park entrance project.
6. **AGREEMENTS / FEES/ RESOLUTIONS / POLICY APPROVALS:**
2025 Summer (June/July/August) Fun Times Brochure – Chuck Reddinger
VP Miller moved, and Commissioner Briley 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 2025 Summer Fun Times Brochure.
Buckner Farming Agreement – Daryn Schwartz
Deputy Director Reddinger gave a brief history of Buckner Park, and Supervisor Daryn Schwartz presented a farming agreement for the Board's approval. On behalf of the Board of Park Commissioners (Owners), Commissioner Briley moved, and Commissioner Jauch seconded the motion to enter into a signed Cash Rent Agreement with Cameron Hille (Tenant), for the parcel of land located in Buckner Park, just west of Interstate 69 and Kroemer Road, known as tract #2484 by the Farm Service Agency, and contains 31.1 farmable acres, for 3 years (2025, 2026 and 2027). The motion was duly carried. On file are the Board Approval form, photos of the farmland and the signed Cash Rent Agreement.
7. **BIDS / CONTRACT / CHANGE ORDER APPROVALS:**
 - A. *2025 Vehicle and Equipment Auction – Travis Roth, Manager of Operations*
VP Miller moved, and Commissioner Briley seconded the motion to approve the disposal of vehicles and equipment, including 3 vehicles, a trailer, a slit seeder, a dozer, a leaf vacuum, a 3-wheel utility cart, and various mowers and mower decks. The motion was duly carried. On file are the signed Board Approval form, photos of the vehicles and equipment to be disposed of through the City auction.
 - B. *Botanical Conservatory South Linkway Roof Project (new project) – David Weadock, Superintendent of Project Administration* – VP Miller moved and Commissioner Jauch seconded the motion to approve a contract with Dahm Brothers for the Foellinger Freimann Botanical Conservatory South Linkway Roof Improvements Project. The motion was duly carried. On file are the scope of work, the contract, photos of the project location, the Board Approval form, and the bid tabulation sheet.
 - C. *2025 Parks Pavement Renovations Change Order – David Weadock, Superintendent of Project Administration* – Commissioner Briley moved and Commissioner Jauch seconded the motion to approve the scope of work that will generate an increase in the original contract amount with Asphalt Authority, for the renovation of an additional site in Salomon Farm Park, for a walking trail. The motion was duly carried. On file is the original contract, the bid tabulation sheet, a photo of the designated renovation locations, the signed Change Order, and the Board Approval form.
8. **PARK AND RECREATION HISTORY AND HIGHLIGHTS – Deputy Director of Park Maintenance Steve Schuhmacher.** For a detailed report, click on the link below.
[https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fortwayneparks.org%2Fimages%2FPDF%2FHistory%2FPark Board Monthly Park Highlights 2025-April.ppt&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fortwayneparks.org%2Fimages%2FPDF%2FHistory%2FPark%20Board%20Monthly%20Park%20Highlights%2025-April.ppt&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)

- A. **Traders Point** – Also known as the “thumb” of the St. Marys River, also known as “Mile Zero” location for the Rivergreenway trail system. Established in 1675 as a trading station between the Miami Village and the French Traders. The current location, since 1981, is 2.8 acres in size, located at 240 East Fourth Street.
- B. **The Rivergreenway** Trail - Established in 1975, the current size is 26.0 miles, a linear park in Fort Wayne and New Haven, Indiana, that runs along the banks of the St. Marys, St. Joseph, and the Maumee Rivers.
- C. **Swinney Park** – East est. 1869 on 46 acres, West est. 1918 on 48 acres. Located at 1600 West Jefferson Blvd, land donated by Colonel Thomas Swinney.

- 9. **Riparian Update** - Ms. KayeC Jones, Riparian Supervisor, informed the Board on dock installations, removal of Honeysuckle, tons of debris, blockages, equipment, volunteerism, symposiums, cleaning bridges, and speaking engagements to encourage and educate the public on the restoration work being planned and completed on our rivers. The Riparian Division is a critical piece of the Downtown Riverfront operations, allowing the Parks Department to continue with vital programming and services on our rivers.

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

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

- ✚ Members Only Mother’s Day Plant Sale begins today, and the Sale to the public will run from Friday, May 9, through Sunday, May 11, at McMillen Park Community Center
- ✚ A special “thank you” to the Commissioner who assisted with the Annual Community Center Volunteer Luncheon
- ✚ The Lifetime Sports Academy, Camps, Park & Plan, Youth Center programming, and pools are all on schedule for opening.
- ✚ Senior Games, along with Pontoon rides, will start in June
- ✚ Hurshtown Reservoir will open this year with a new ADA dock, responding to demands for a new 7-day-a-week open operations
- ✚ Staff training begins this month
- ✚ Significant growth in attendance, revenue, membership, and sponsorship, up from 2024.
- ✚ The Color In Motion exhibit will be open through the last week of June.
- ✚ Landscape and Horticulture have been incredibly busy with the distribution of tree donations, the Annual Plant Sale, and the delivery of plants, flowers, and vegetables for the Annual School Children’s Flower & Vegetable Association.
- ✚ Over 100 trees were distributed during the Arbor Day Celebration at Kettler Park
- ✚ Congratulations to Ike Lyons on receiving his Arborist Certification
- ✚ The Forestry Crew responded to and closed 171 Call Center requests through 311. This is a 25% increase from 2024
- ✚ Sweet Breeze tickets are now on sale, along with Foellinger Theatre Concert Tickets, Dog Park passes, pavilion rentals, and closed Campground reservations on May 1.

- ✚ May 28, from 3-6 pm, we will host an Open-House in the McMillen Family Pavilion in Franke Park
- ✚ Jarin Hart from Van Wert, Ohio, is our new Foellinger Theatre Manager
- ✚ The Park Maintenance Crew is on schedule with seasonal openings, equipment preps, playground projects finalizing, and gearing up for the mowing season
- ✚ David Weadock has been promoted from Manager to Superintendent of Project Administration. This promotion will expand the project area with an additional position of one new Project Technician.
- ✚ Still posting new jobs weekly, with the Marketing Team attending Job Fairs and various educational facilities
- ✚ The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 12.
- ✚ The Sweet Breeze launch is planned for Tuesday, May 13, at 9:00 am – Guldlin Park dock, then floating on to Promenade Park dock
- ✚ Robert Hines was featured on the Walk In the Park segment
- ✚ The Marketing Team Jobs are still being posted, and we are still hiring, and many job opportunities for those aged 16 years and older are listed at www.fortwayneparks.org

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS: Board President Shurley mentioned that it was awesome to see the donations acknowledging the web donations and the support of the community. Commissioner Jauch thanked all for their hard work.

No further business was to come before the Board of Park Commissioners on Thursday, May 8, 2025, in the City Council Discussion Chambers of Citizens Square, Suite 30 (*garden level*), 200 East Berry Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802. At 11:15 am, the meeting was adjourned.

CITY OF FORT WAYNE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Justin Shurley, Board 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, May 8, 2025, meeting online:**

<https://acpl.viebit.com/watch?hash=3XF4ggTcxH7oMS6g>