

## SUMMARIZATION OF MINUTES FOR THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

On **Thursday, November 6, 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. Richard Briley, Commissioner, and Mrs. Jenna Jauch, Commissioner.

Absent: Mr. Cory Miller, Board Vice President

**PARKS STAFF PRESENT:** Steve McDaniel, Harlean Falls, Rhonda Berg, Steve Schuhmacher, Kathy Pargmann, Stacy Haviland, Mike Gore, David |Weadock, Chad Shaw, April McCampbell, Cole Nix, and Jarin Hart.

***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, October 6, 2025, meeting. Mr. Richard Briley, Commissioner, moved, and Mrs. Jenna Jauch, Commissioner, seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The motion was duly carried. On file are the October 2025 Board meeting 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 09/12/25 and 09/26/25, account payables payment vouchers #2455 to #2819, with a Payroll Sub-Total of \$1,104,529.29. **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 \$2,957,771.30 and a total of \$4,062,300.59. Commissioner Jenna Jauch moved, and Commissioner Richard Briley seconded the motion. The motion was duly carried. On file is the signed, recorded document and the **September 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 from the Community Foundation of Greater Fort

Wayne – Richard G. Waterfield Charitable Fund, Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne-Vision Plan Grant, Nation Christian Foundation Indiana, Leisa Drinkwater, Barbara Baekgaard Family Foundation, Congregation Achduth Vesholom, Kelly McNeal, Norfolk southern Railway, Wilson Foundation, Virginia Zimmerman, Anonymous Donation to the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory general Trust, Sunshine Home Care, Celebrate Senior Living, Kingston Healthcare Company, LLC, Janet Hakes, Joseph and Janice Heimann, and Cash Donations, Registration/Web Donations: Louise Ambrose, Laura Bowser, Elizabeth Gensic, Latree Johnson, Lisa Ross (General Park Areas/Salomon Farm Park), George Russell, Joseph Woehner. All donations, totals, and amounts received as of **September 2025 \$215,175.50. Franke Park Renaissance Reimbursements: July 25 Park Foundation Donors \$350,000.00** – Grand Total Including Franke Park Renaissance Reimbursements \$1,663,626/46. **Total year-to-date for 2025 is \$1,313,626.45.** By acclamation, the Commissioners approved all donations and grants listed in the report. On file is the September 2025 Trust Fund Donations report.

5. **PARK PRIORITIES:** Deputy Director of Planning and Landscape, Chad Shaw, updated the Board on the continued progress of Riverfront IIB. Paver installation is continuing throughout the esplanade. On-site materials have been delivered. Meetings continue with AEP and Parks & Recreation Staff for the coordination of the Riverfront transmission line rebuild. The project is starting to take shape. Parks & Recreation Staff continue to coordinate with City Utilities on the restoration of their utility construction project throughout Foster Park. Design work continues on the Foster Park Entrance project, and we are in receipt of the development packet. 15 proposals were received; we narrowed it down to 4 for the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory Exploration & Terrace Garden Design Project, as we explore other funding sources. We continue to look at designs for the Reservoir and Wells Street Park Projects. We will be putting an RFP for the Hanna Homestead Project sometime this winter. Looking at Monument Restorations for the near future

6. **AGREEMENTS / FEES/ RESOLUTIONS / POLICY APPROVALS:**

- A. *2026 Department Budget –Berg* Commissioner Jauch moved, and Commissioner Briley seconded the motion to approve as presented by Deputy Rhonda Berg, the 2026 Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation Department Budget, presented and passed by the City Council on October 28, 2025, including the CIP budget, highlighting the employee increases, salaries, and the 2026-2030 Capital Improvement, Program budget, full-time and seasonal wage increases, property taxes, insurance and liability (doubled) increases, various department renovations, projects, programs, services, and the increase of 9% for health services coverage. Director McDaniel offered a percentage summary and projects to conclude the 2026 Budget report, thanking the Staff and Deputy Berg. The motion was duly carried. On file is the approved 2026 Department budget.
- B. *Foellinger Outdoor Theatre Fees – Berg/Hart* Commissioner Jauch moved, and Commissioner Briley seconded the motion to approve the Non-Profit Schedule, with

mandatory proof of non-profit status, residency request, allowing fee adjustments and additional pricing approval in writing by the Deputy Director and/or the Director. The motion was duly carried. On file is the approved Foellinger Outdoor Theatre Fee Schedule.

- C. *Proposed Foellinger Outdoor Theatre Rental Contract – Berg/Hart* - Commissioner Briley moved, and Commissioner Jauch seconded the motion to approve the pricing updated fee schedule, to reflect the non-profit organizations, giving the authority to the Deputy Director, or Director, to modify, adjust, and make changes with written approval. The motion was duly carried. On file is the non-profit organization agreement/contract.

- D. *Proposed Foellinger Outdoor Theatre Co-Pro Contract – Berg/Hart* - Commissioner Jauch moved, and Commissioner Briley seconded the motion to approve the proposed fee recommendations for the co-promotional agreement, terms of the agreement, and authorizing the request of the Deputy Director and/or the Director to adjust, modify with written approval. The motion was duly carried. On file is the Co-Pro contract.

- E. *Winter 2025/2026 (December/January/February) Fun Time Brochure - Kathy Pargmann* - Commissioner Briley moved, and Commissioner Jauch seconded the motion to approve the proposed fees for the Fun Times Brochure and catalog highlighting “traditional and intriguing” programs and services for the Winter months of December, January, and February; as well as granting authority to modify, adjust and add programs (and their associated fees if applicable) with written approval from the Deputy Director or Director. The motion was duly carried. On file are the Fun Times Brochure Winter 2025/2026 Fee recommendations.

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

- A. *Shoaff Park Playground Replacement Project: 2025066– Superintendent David Weadock* - Commissioner Briley moved, and Commissioner Jauch seconded the motion to approve a contract with Snider Recreation, Inc., through Sourcewell, for a complete replacement of equipment made by Burke, to accommodate over 250 children at one time. The motion was duly carried. On file is the bid tabulation sheet, the contract , and the signed approval form.

- B. *Ronald G. Repka Memorial Park Playground Replacement Project: 2025068 – Weadock* – Commissioner Briley moved, and Commissioner Jauch seconded the motion to approve a contract with Commercial Recreation Group (*aka CRG*) for the scope of work and the installation of a new Playcraft playground equipment, to include a custom fire truck-themed play structure, and a custom sign for Fire Station #18. The motion was duly carried. On file are the bid quote sheet, and the contract, and the signed approval form.

- C. *Mechanic Street Bridge Renovation Project: 2024005 Change Order #1*– Commissioner Briley moved, and Commissioner Jauch seconded the motion to approve a change decrease in the initial contract amount with Hamilton Hunter Builders. The motion was duly carried. On file is the bid-tabulation sheet, the original contract, and the signed Change Order forms.

*D. Brewer Park Redevelopment Professional Design Services Project: 2023007 Change Order #3– Weadock* - Commissioner Briley and Commissioner Jauch seconded the motion to approve an increase in the contract amount with Jones Petrie Rafinski Corp, for the scope of work for additional Design Services. The motion was duly carried. On file is the original contract, the three change orders, and the signed change order approval form.

*E. Brewer Park Construction Project: 2024049 Change Order#1 – Weadock*- Commissioner Jauch moved, and Commissioner Briley seconded the motion to approve a change increase to the original contract with Schenkel Construction, Inc. The motion was duly carried. On file are the bid tabulation sheet, the original contract, the signed change order, and approval forms.

8. **Project Updates:** - Deputy Director Steve Schuhmacher presented highlights and updates of projects led by Deputy Director Chad Shaw, Superintendent Dave Weadock, Troy Bates, and Brian Fielder. Included in the presentation were: pictorials highlighting 2025 projects, with emphasis on new electrical and plumbing upgrades, sculptures, parks, and facilities. Photos of renovations, structures, monuments, corridor improvements, new playground equipment, pavilion improvements, linkways at the Botanical Conservatory, and a new elevator. Shoaff Park Riverlodge, and the Fort Wayne Zoo roof improvements, new railings, structure support s to various fishing piers, boardwalks, and arbors improvements in various parks, Salomon Farm Park upgrades, the Community Center new parking gate, shuffleboard improvement, and sun shades. The Lawton Greenhouse and Salomon Farm Park projects are ongoing. New themed playgrounds were installed in Franke Park, Jehl Park, Indian Village Park, McCormick Park, Waynedale Park, Kreager Park, irrigation, replacement, and improvements of bridges, improvements to Headwaters Park, and various improvements to drainage, paving, pathway improvements, pathway lighting, arbors, monuments, and sidewalks in parks. McMillen Park pool improvements. Completing the presentation were various before and after photos, Foellinger Outdoor Theatre lighting, and the Brewer and Packard Parks redevelopment projects, funding sources to complete various projects, and a look at intended projects, replacements, restorations, and playgrounds for 2026.

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

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

- ✚ A new flag pole in Memorial Park will be installed on Saturday, November 8, 2025
- ✚ New Inductees into the Department's (25 years of service) Quarter of A Century Club **are Linda E. Miller, Mark Stafford, Christina Hoy, and Travis Roth**, joined by current members with 25 years plus of service are; Kathy Pargmann, Deborah Dierkes, Jill Bowyer, Walter (Wally) Johnson, Thomas (Tom) Ransom, Steve McDaniel, Rhonda Berg, Keven Richardson, Patti Davis, Mike Gore, Kaye Callow, Jason Smith, Zynette Paige, and Chuck Reddinger.

- ✚ Joana Garcia has been hired in the Rental Reception area.
- ✚ Deputy Berg has been assigned to attend the Southeast Area Partnership meetings
- ✚ Headwaters Park Ice Skating Rink is preparing for opening in a few weeks
- ✚ Park Facility Maintenance Crews are busy turning on the water at various facilities, preparing equipment for winter, and installing holiday lights.
- ✚ The Forestry Crew's fall tree planting is underway
- ✚ The Riparian and Landscape Crews continue with Fall clean-up, planting pulps, turf repair and bed reductions, pruning work, the Greenhouse (prepared 3,000 for the Spring), and prepared, installed plants, flowers, and delivered to several local events. The Foellinger Freimann Botanical Conservatory Café Flora opened on October 30, 2025. The entire east wall of the showcase house in the Botanical has been renovated, and the exhibit showcase is in progress, entitled “Fern’s Fairylight Express”, which opens on November 22. Veteran’s Day in the Garden is FREE admission to all Veterans. \$1-Night admission will resume on Thursdays at the Botanical Conservatory.
- ✚ The Riparian Crew removed approximately 2.5 tons of debris and approximately 200 pounds of litter in and around the rivers.
- ✚ The Forestry Staff is working with members of Wildwood Park Community Association and Heritage Landscapes to find historic photos of the park for the Wildwood Park and Rockhill Park Historic Landscape Study and Guidelines project.
- ✚ Over 60 individuals attend the McMillen Family Pavilion in Franke Park open-house
- ✚ Winterval sponsorship opportunities have been solicited
- ✚ Received 78 Media mentions, including 12 Media interviews.
- ✚ There are four different Veterans’ Day events this year
- ✚ 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](http://www.fortwayneparks.org)

**COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:** Commissioner Jauch mentioned it was nice to see the images of various projects at completion. Commissioner Briley stated that we are a growing community, and with that comes cost. Board President Shurley mentioned how much he enjoys the distribution of the quarterly Fun Times Brochure. All of the Commissioners expressed their gratitude to the Staff.

No further business was to come before the Board of Park Commissioners on Thursday, November 6, 2025, in the City Council Discussion Chambers of Citizens Square, Suite 30 (*garden level*), 200 East Berry Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802. At 11:00 am, the meeting was adjourned.

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

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**Justin Shurley, Board 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, November 6, 2025**, meeting online:**

**<https://acpl.viebit.com/watch?hash=t1FIIRk4QOm7v1Mc>**