

## SUMMARIZATION OF MINUTES FOR THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Following the conclusion of the 2026 Annual Organizational Meeting, the Board of Park Commissioners held its monthly Board meeting on Friday, February 6, 2026. The meeting was held in the City Council Discussion Chambers Room 30 (garden level), Citizens Square Building, 200 East Berry Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana 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, Kathy Pargmann, Chris Rudolph, Jason Smith, Mike Gore, Dave Weadock, Derek Veit, Greg Reith, Chad W. Shaw, Mike Cremeans,

*Others in attendance were:* Pat Stelte of the Allen County Public Library.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** After the Annual Organizational meeting, Board President Justin Shurley called the monthly Board meeting to order at 10:04 am.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Board President Shurley called for approval of the minutes from the Thursday, December 11, 2025, meeting. Commissioner Richard Briley moved, and Commissioner Jauch seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The motion was duly carried. On file are the monthly Board minutes.
3. **PAYROLL & COMMERCIAL VOUCHERS:** Deputy Director Rhonda Berg 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 11/07/25 and 11/21/25, account payables payment vouchers #3083 to #3367, with a Payroll Sub-Total of \$1,055,035.63. **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 \$4,506,306.93 and a total of \$5,561,342.56. Commissioner Jauch 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. Deputy Berg continued the report with the number of full-time and part-time employees, for pay periods ending 12/05/25 and 12/19/25, account payables payment vouchers #3368 to #3681, with a Payroll Stub-Total of \$998,560.05. **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 \$1,822,421.39 and a total of \$2,820,981.44. VP Miller moved, and Commissioner Jauch seconded the

motion to approve the December Payroll and Commercial Vouchers. On file are the **November and December 2025** financial reports.

4. **TRUST FUND DONATIONS:** Deputy Director Rhonda Berg navigated the Board members through a listing of the donors, amounts, and purpose, along with donations, endowments, and grants for Trees for Lafayette Place Neighborhood, to the General Park Areas, in Memorial of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Allison, Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory Desert Trust, the (Downtown) Community Center Veteran’s Day Breakfast, Santa’s Workshop and Active Aging Week; Lifetime Sports Academy, the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, Community Center, Salomon Farm Park and Lindenwood Nature Preserve; all received as of **November 2025, \$8,461.00 - YTD \$1,327,721.46, Franke Park Renaissance Project – Fort Wayne Park Foundation Donors - July-25 \$350,000.00 Grand Total Including Franke Park Renaissance Reimbursements \$1,677,731.46.** Also included in this report, are the listing of donors, amounts and purpose, along with donations, endowments, and grants for December were donations to; Riverfront Levee Wall Mural, General Park Areas, in Memorial of Mr. & Mrs. Michael Allison, the Youth Centers for shoes and clothing, Junior Golf Program, Parks Unrestricted Trust, Weisser Park Youth Center, Foellinger-Freimann botanical Conservatory General Trust, Community Center (Downtown) Winterval, Veteran’s Day Breakfast, Volunteers, Memorial Dedication -Jerry Hakes and Salomon Farm Park; all received as of **December 2025, \$36,155.00 – YTD \$1,363,876.46, Franke Park Renaissance Reimbursements: Fort Wayne Park Foundation Donors – July-25 \$350,000.00. Grand Total including Franke Park Renaissance Reimbursements - \$1,713,876.46.** By acclamation, the Board accepted the Trust Fund Donations report.
  
5. **PARK PRIORITIES:** Deputy Director of Planning and Landscape, Chad Shaw, briefly updated the Board on the progress and planning on the Riverfront Phase II construction schedule with Hagerman Construction, AEP, and the Foster Entrance Project design team, budgeting, and bidding phases. Funding through the Community Foundation has been received for the Hanna Homestead Project to complete construction drawings, as collaborative work continues with Stakeholders and the Neighborhood Association, as we prepare an RFP to be sent out in a few weeks. The Botanical Conservatory has received the purchase order for the design project of the Terrace Gardens, with a light ” kick-off” online, and the Design Team will be flying in next week for site tours and interviews with the Staff, to start a six-month process. The Reservoir Park Master Plan was on hold, and will be revived with a Stakeholder group to start discussions and communications on the project.
  
6. **AGREEMENTS / FEES / RESOLUTIONS / POLICY APPROVALS:**
  - A. **AEP EASEMENT APPROVAL- Shaw** Commissioner Jauch moved, and Commissioner Briley seconded the motion to the request from Indiana Michigan Power Company: Melita-Spy Run Easement (new transmission line) project for the proposed area located northwest of the Historic Wells Street Bridge. The motion was duly carried. On file is the proposal for the easement, the signed project summary, the easement payment schedule, the signed and notarized non-exclusive easement and right-of-way document, and three exhibit A diagrams. The motion was duly carried.
  
  - B. **2026 SPRING FUN TIMES BROCHURE APPROVAL - Reddinger** VP Miller moved, and Commissioner Briley seconded the motion to approve the fee recommendations for the 2026 March-May Spring Fun Times Brochure, giving 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 is the 2026 Spring Fun Times Brochure.

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

**2026 STUMP REMOVAL PROJECT - Veit** Commissioner Jauch moved, and Commissioner Briley seconded the motion to approve entering into a contract with Mudrack Tree Service for the removal of street tree stumps and site restoration of 298 stumps. The motion was duly carried. On file is the contract, scope of work, bid tabulation sheet (received October 2021), and the signed purchase order approval form.

**RIVERFRONT STEEL PROJECT - Schuhmacher** VP Miller moved, and Commissioner Briley seconded the motion to approve the Riverfront Phase 2B Construction project steel sale, due to Federal regulation changes by accepting the bid from R. L. McCoy, Inc., for the sale of the steel materials. The motion was duly carried. On file is the contract, the scope of work, the bid tabulation sheet, the signed project summary, and the purchase agreement.

**MCMILLEN GOLF IRRIGATION PUMP HOUSE – Smith** Commissioner Briley moved, and Commissioner Jauch seconded the motion to approve a contract with Automatic Irrigation Supply Company for the irrigation system project in McMillen Park Golf Course. The motion was duly carried. On file is the contract, the material listing, the certificate of liability insurance, and the signed approval form.

**PARKS & RECREATION ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES / PSI OATE PAVILON (upper/lower) AND THE LAWTON PARK OFFICES CLEANING CONTRACT – Gore** Commissioner Briley moved, and Commissioner Jauch seconded the motion to approve three (3) buildings for a contract with Clean Team. The motion was duly carried. On file is the contract, scope of work, calendar year pricing on hold from 2025, and the signed approval form.

**LAFAYETTE PARK PLAYGROUND – Weadock** VP Miller moved, and Commissioner Jauch seconded the motion to approve a contract with Sinclair Recreation for the installation of new combination play structures, playground equipment, and synthetic turf safety surfacing at Lafayette Park. The motion was duly carried. On file is the contract, the scope of work, the signal quote through Omina Partners, from Game Time, and the three renderings from Sinclair Recreation.

**BREWER PARK CHANGE ORDER - Weadock** VP Miller moved, and Commissioner Briley seconded the motion to approve an increase in the amount of the contract with Jones Petre Rafinski Corp. The motion was duly carried. On file is the contract, the scope of work, the change orders, and the signed project summary sheet.

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

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

✚ Director McDaniel thanked the Staff for all their hard work and efforts to maintain clean and accessible facilities and parks.

✚ Staff is in communication with the Inclusion Institute

✚ The Ice-Skating Rink in Headwaters Park is going well, with the offering of

✚ Seasonal trainings are going well

✚ Winterval went well, with good attendance, and some cancellations due to the record freezing temperatures **-6°F**

✚ 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) Our goal is to fill approximately 250 positions

✚ Maintenance Crews, facility Crews, and Project Administration are busy with weather-related issues, cleaning facilities, maintaining accessibility to our locations, and Project Technicians are busy with proposals of new projects, renovations, and repairs.

✚ Administration is in the process of an Internal Audit, with Deputy Berg as the person of contact

✚ Online Rental of Garden Plots is being encouraged

✚ A new Record Retention process is being formulated for the Administrative Office and Lawton

✚ We are working to get our 2026 Foellinger Theatre Concert series confirmed

✚ Over 14,000 seeds and plants have been preserved for the “Grow It” School Plant Program

✚ An Orchid show will run through the weekend at the Botanical Conservatory

✚ Our Department will be represented at the Home and Garden Show, running from February 26 through to March 1

✚ 170 tons of woody debris and 7 tons of other litter, etc., were removed from the river by the Riparian Crew

✚ Full team effort on the Fun Times Brochure and Winterval

✚ Our goal is to

✚ The Marketing Staff is working on a grant application for accessibility at Headwaters Ice Skating Rink and the Sensory Clubhouse

**COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:** Board President Shurley acknowledged the hard work of the Parks Staff in 2025 and thanked all of the Community for their support of the Parks & Recreation Department.

No further business was to come before the Board of Park Commissioners, on Friday, February 6, 2026, in the Citizens Square Building, City of Fort Wayne/Allen County, City Council Discussion Room (garden level), Suite 30, 200 East Berry Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802. At 10:58 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 **Friday, February 6, 2026, meeting online:****

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