

SUMMARIZATION OF MINUTES FOR THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

The Board of Park Commissioners held its monthly Board meeting on **Thursday, June 11, 2026**. At 10:00 am, 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, Steve Schuhmacher, Rhonda Berg, Chuck Reddinger, David Weadock, Mike Gore, April McCampbell, Jarin Hart, and Chad W. Shaw.

Others in attendance were Ms. Dawn Ritchie, MPA, Greenways & Trails Manager; Mr. Allen Donnelly and Mr. Cody Short, Genesis Farms Company, Anderson, Indiana; and Mr. Patrick 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, May 20, 2026, meeting. Commissioner Jenna Jauch 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:** 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 04/10/26 and 04/24/26, account payables payment vouchers #0597 to #0926, with a Payroll Sub-Total of \$1,043,592.99. **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 an Accounts Payable Total of \$2,583,626.48, and a total of \$3,627,219.47. 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. On file are the **April 2026** financial reports.
4. **TRUST FUND DONATIONS:** Deputy Berg navigated the Board members through a listing of the donors, amounts, and purpose, along with donations, endowments, and grants from the following donations and grants from a complete listing, which is on file. Received as of **April 30, 2026 - \$19,921.20, YTD – \$306,753.74, Franke Park Renaissance Reimbursements: Park Foundation Donors – February -26 \$50,000.000**(Franke

Park Renaissance Project), **Grand Total including the Franke Park Renaissance Reimbursements, \$356,753.74.** By acclamation, the Board accepted the Trust Fund Donations report.

5. **PARK PRIORITIES:** Deputy Director of Planning and Landscape, Chad Shaw, gave a brief on planning projects and the current construction. At the Riverfront Phase II section on the south side of the Eddy. Concrete foundations have been installed for the seating for the amphitheater in the North Lawn section of the project; work continues, and we continue to coordinate with AEP on the overall project. The Design Team is working to finalize plans for the Foster Park Entrance design. Staff and members of the Wildwood Park Community Association have completed a section of the draft CLR Wildwood Park and Rockhill Park Historic Landscape Study and Guidelines. A selection has been made for a Consultant for the Hanna Homestead Project, with plans to request Board approval in the fall of this year. Design work continues on the Wells Street Park project. A dedication of the Harvester sculpture - “The Garner”, and installation in Rea Park is scheduled for 2:00 pm on Monday, June 15, 2026
6. **AGREEMENTS / FEES / RESOLUTIONS / POLICY APPROVALS:**
Foellinger Outdoor Theatre - Berg- Jarin Hart, along with Deputy Rhonda Berg, announced the 2026 Foellinger Theatre schedule, dates, ticket sales, fees, prices, and events. On file is a complete list of concert dates, events, and activities.
7. **BIDS / CONTRACT / CHANGE ORDER APPROVALS:**
 - A. *Hanna Homestead Park Design Contract- Shaw -* Commissioner Jauch moved, and Commissioner Balie seconded the motion to approve entering into a contract with Anderson + Bohlander, LLC for the Hanna Homestead Park Redevelopment, for the preparation of Construction Documents and Specifications, including Construction Administration for the project. The motion was duly carried. On file is the list of funding sources, scope of work, base bid sheet, the project’s general components, and the signed approval form.
 - B. *McMillen Park Pool Deck Replacement Project – Weadock* – Commissioner Briley moved, and VP Miller seconded the motion to approve the scope of work for the project proposals, entering into a contract with Hamilton Hunter Builders to begin at the end of this year’s Aquatic season. The motion was duly carried. On file is the signed Purchasing Project Summary form, the cost, the terms of the contract, conditions, photos, and bid tabulation sheet.
8. **RIVERGREENWAY UPDATE AND HIGHLIGHTS** – Dawn Ritchie, MPA, Greenways and Trails Manager, narrated for the Board a PowerPoint presentation, highlighting the collaborative efforts with several divisions/departments of the city, and the partnership efforts of Fort Wayne Trails. Connectivity and safety have been the focus under Dawn’s leadership for the past 21 years. Featured on a color-coded map were existing trails in the city, trails in the county, and proposed trail development locations for the next 2-3 years. Supporting efforts have also come from the Board of Park Commissioners, the Board of Works, the Mayor and City Council. Also mentioned in the presentation were connecting pathways, bike trails, loops, parking lots for trail users, the Maumee Pathway, completion of the Hanna Street trail, realignments, trailheads, new constructions as part of

the road improvement projects, sidewalk connectivity in Aboite, the Towpath trail, DNR grants, the Van Family and Bob Thomas Ford donations, the support of the Redevelopment Commission, the Urban trail, the Pufferbelly Trail, the painting of caution signs on boardwalks, new signage, and the replacement of signs along the trails, along with revised ordinance signage referencing certain electric vehicles, and the explanation, size, and definition of a trail, a curve face sidewalk, bike lanes and bike trails. Concluding with a list of future city projects, 11 programming events, 21 Trail Counters, 62 Adopt-A-Trail groups, 127 Greenway Rangers monitor the trails, and the Poka-Bache Connector project, with a Task Force that meets monthly. Under the leadership of Dawn Ritchie, Rick Zolman, along with several other departments, agencies, and companies, is a community event in August that will take place on Calhoun Street from Pontiac to Superior Street, entitled “Open Streets”.

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

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

- ✚ Director McDaniel “Welcomed” the Seasonal Summer Staff and “Thanks” to the TEAM, as many programs, services, events, Youth Centers, Festivals, and summer activities are up and running
- ✚ Deputy Chuck Reddinger echoed the comments from Director McDaniel as the German Festival is a kick-off event, signaling the beginning of several summer activities, including Community Outreach, the Jennings Recreation Center, the 47th Annual Seniors Games led by the downtown Community Center, youth and adult programming in the McMillen Park Community Center, registration of youth for the summer activities in the Weisser Park Youth Center, Riverfront activities, Salomon Farm Park camp, Sweet Breeze river tours, Franke Day Camp, fishing and free derby at Hurshtown Reservoir, Splashpads are on and running, the hiring and training for the Aquatics, Golf, and continued reservations taking place on our Athletic fields and Courts. We are ready for the summer season.
- ✚ Currently, we have 490 employees on our payroll.
- ✚ A tour of Riverfront Phase II was appreciated
- ✚ The Foellinger Outdoor Theatre Staff is preparing for the season, replacing the Bar with a General Information Tent, adding a Slushie and Wine tent.
- ✚ Maintenance Techs and Projects Administration are busy with Splashpads and playgrounds
- ✚ The Greenhouse has delivered over 20,000 plants for the Mother’s Day Plant Sale – Annual – 6,172 sent, 5,843 sold, Herbs – 3,046 sent, 3,010 sold, Houseplants – 866 sent, 715 sold, Perennials – 3,481 sent, 3,052 sold, Vegetables – 2,409 sent, 3,385 sold. Very few plants were left from the event. They were donated to non-profit groups throughout the city. This was the 40th year for the Annual Mother’s Day Plant Sale, started in 1986, now a collaborative effort between the Botanical Conservatory and the Greenhouse, with 2026 being the third highest revenue year
- ✚ Landscape Crews have partnered with St. Francis University to spread 260 yards of mulch at Headwaters Park and some removal of Honeysuckle
- ✚ The Riparian division has installed all the docs, with improvements to the Shoaff Park dock path with stone.
- ✚ Removed 47,032 pounds (23.516 tons) of woody debris, removed 12 bags of litter and a variety of debris (600 pounds) from the riverbanks.
- ✚ Forestry continues its windshield inspections, driving the city streets
- ✚ The Citizen’s match tree planted in the right-of-way project continues with applications until July 1st
- ✚ The Color in Motion display runs through June 21st
- ✚ The Pueblo Garden exhibit begins on June 27 and will run through to November 15th

- ✚ Camp ActiVenture is full at the Botanical Conservatory
- ✚ Back To Our Roots will take place on Thursday evenings
- ✚ A special thank you to all who were able to attend the Press Conferences on May 12 and May 19th
- ✚ We had 65 Media mentions in May
- ✚ The Department was featured as the Community Organization at the Tin Caps game on May 22
- ✚ Staff assisted with the booth, and our intern Pierre Loya threw out one of the first pitches
- ✚ Customer Service training continues with a face-to-face presentation
- ✚ The next scheduled Board of Park Commissioners meeting will be held on **Thursday, August 13**, at 10:00 am, at **Hefner Pavilion, in Franklin School Park, 1908 St. Marys Avenue, Fort Wayne, IN 46808**

✚ **COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:** Board President Justin Shurley thanked the Commissioners, Staff, and everyone in attendance.

No further business was to come before the Board of Park Commissioners on Thursday, June 11, 2026, Room 30 of the Citizens Square Building, 200 East Berry Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802. At 11:01 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 Parks and Recreation Department office. This meeting was recorded by the Park & Recreation Staff and videotaped by Pat Stelte, Government Access Coordinator, in Television Services of the Allen County Public Library.

Here is the link to the **June 11, 2026, meeting online:**
<https://acpl.viebit.com/watch?hash=Phb1aqGf78XuPSkQ>

