

SUMMARIZATION OF MINUTES FOR THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

The Board of Park Commissioners held its monthly Board meeting on **Thursday, August 13, 2026**. At 10:00 am, the meeting was held at the David Hefner Pavilion, in Franklin School Park, 1908 St. Marys Avenue, 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, Kathy Pargmann, Mike Gore, Jessey Sayre, David Weadock, Chad W. Shaw, Stacy Haviland, Chuck Reddinger, Steve Schuhmacher, Robert Hines, and Rhonda Berg.

Others in attendance were Mrs. Julie Inskeep, representing the Park Foundation, 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 and welcomed Mrs. Julie Inskeep.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Board President Shurley called for approval of the minutes from the Thursday, June 11, 2026, meeting. Commissioner Jauch moved, and Commissioner 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 05/08/26 and 05/22/26, accounts payable payment vouchers #0927 to #1232, with a Payroll Sub-Total of \$1,095,626.23. **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 \$2,342,341.94, and a total of \$3,437,968.17. Commissioner Briley moved, and VP Miller 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 **May 2026** financial reports. Also reported were: The number of full-time and part-time employees for pay periods ending 06/05/26 and 06/18/26, accounts payable payment vouchers #1233 to #1612, with a Payroll Sub-Total of \$1,366,683.56. **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 \$2,360,069.49, and a total of \$3,726,753.05. VP Miller moved, and Commissioner Jauch 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 **June 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 **May 31, 2026 – \$522,011.90; Franke Park Renaissance Reimbursements: Park Foundation Donors** (Franke Park Renaissance Project) **\$50,000.00; YTD \$828,765.64; Grand Total including the Franke Park Renaissance Reimbursements, \$878,765.64.** Also included in this report was a listing of the donors, amounts, and purposes, along with the donations, endowments, and grants received as of **June 30, 2026: \$7,081.60; Franke Park Renaissance Reimbursements: Park Foundation Donors** (Franke Park Renaissance Project) **\$50,000.00; YTD \$835,847.14; Grand Total including the Franke Park Renaissance Reimbursements, \$885,847.14.** By acclamation, the Board accepted the Trust Fund Donations; the complete listing is on file.
5. **PARK PRIORITIES:** Deputy Director of Planning and Landscape, Chad Shaw, updated the Board on the construction and planning efforts at the Riverfront site, despite the recent storms and current muddy conditions. A lot of concrete and landscape work is being done, including making pathway connections, lighting, irrigation, plantings, and hardscape work. Private development's timeline is on schedule, with plans to finish this fall. Still undetermined is the opening of shops in the Schaab building, which will wrap up and be announced in the next month. At the Foellinger Freimann Botanical Conservatory, the exploration and terrace project is progressing on the concept design and will wrap up in 6-8 weeks. Hanna Homestead Master Plan Kick-Off with the Team was completed last week, and looking at next action steps with the community needs to be addressed for the project design, with an approximately 8-month to next spring timeline on this project. Plans are being formulated to get monument restorations finalized, and Stacy Haviland continues to work on the Wells Street Park design and construction contract.
6. **AGREEMENTS / FEES / RESOLUTIONS / POLICY APPROVALS:**
Fall 2026 (September/October/November) Fun Times Brochure - Reddinger – For public notification, Commissioner Jauch moved, Commissioner Briley seconded the motion to approve the fee recommendations for the 2026 Fall (September, October, and November) Fun Times Brochure as presented with 146 fee-based programs, also granting the permission and authority of the Deputy Director and/or Director to be responsive to unforeseen circumstances such as health emergencies, severe weather, etc., to modify, adjust and add programs (and their associated fees if applicable) with written approval. The motion was duly carried. On file are the electronic approvals from each Board member, the approved fee recommendations, and the 2026 Fall Fun Times Brochure.
7. **BIDS / CONTRACT / CHANGE ORDER APPROVALS:**
A. Headwaters Park fountain Project Change Order #1 - Schuhmacher – Commissioner Briley moved, and VP Miller seconded the motion to approve the original scope of work for the project and the change order increase to the original amount of the contract with Hamilton Hunter Builders, Inc. The motion was duly carried. On file are the original contract, the bid tabulation sheet, increased change order form, and the signed project approval form.

- B. Bob Arnold/Northside Park and McMillen Park Pool Slides Reconditioning Project - Weadock* – Commissioner Jauch moved, and VP Miller seconded the motion to approve the scope of work (approved approximately every 10 years) and enter into a contract with Amusement Restoration Companies for the completion of the two (2) projects. The motion was duly carried. On file are the original contract, the bid tabulation sheet (2 quotes), and the signed approval form.
- C. Foellinger Freimann Botanical Conservatory South Linkway – Weadock* – Commissioner Jauch moved, and Commissioner Briley seconded the motion to approve the project that will improve accessibility while modernizing the linkway (tunnel) to create a more welcoming and functional connection, entering into a contract with CME Corporation for the total cost of the project. The motion was duly carried; on file are the scope of work, the original contract, the bid tabulation sheet, and the signed approval form.
- D. Hanna Homestead Playground Project Change Order #1 – Weadock* – Commissioner Briley moved, and Commissioner Jauch seconded the motion to approve a change order for the scope of work, creating an increase to the original contract with Landscape Structures, Inc, and allowing the project to be in compliance with the Master Plan. The motion was duly carried. On file are the Master Plan, the original contract, the bid tabulation sheet, the scope of work, the change order, and the signed approval form.
- E. Kreager Park Tennis Courts Change Order #1 – Weadock* – VP Miller moved, and Commissioner Briley seconded the motion to approve a decrease in the original contract amount with K & M Asphalt Sealing Maintenance Inc. The motion was duly carried. On file are the original contract, the scope of work, the bid tabulation sheet, the change order, and the signed change order approval form.

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

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

- ✚ The great summer has gone fast as we finished our summer camps and PODS programs with approximately just under 3,000 youth participating; about 1,000 youth were involved and signed up, and participated in golf, tennis, and swimming during the season of the Lifetime Sports Academy. We provided 2,176 tennis lessons, 2,057 golf lessons, and 1,014 swimming lessons to youth who passed the skills testing; we awarded 43 tennis rackets and 35 sets of golf clubs during the 2026 summer session.
- ✚ We dedicated Shoaff Park Playground, concluding the completion of six (6) playgrounds
- ✚ Our Parks Staff decorated a flatbed with floral arrangements, provided a bubble machine along the parade route, and 2 Commissioners and their families participated in the City of Fort Wayne's celebration of the country's 250th Birthday parade
- ✚ Salomon Farm Park has the U-Pick Sunflower program on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, 11:00 am – 7:00 pm
- ✚ Recreation Staff are transitioning to the fall season programming and services
- ✚ Our Youth Centers are preparing for the After-School services and programs

- ✚ The participation numbers for the summer programs will be forthcoming
- ✚ Fort Wayne Community Band was postponed and rescheduled for September 8.
- ✚ Due to the air quality (record hot summer), the 3-Dog Night Concert has been rescheduled to September 20th
- ✚ Kansas and 38-Special with Kolby Oakley Concert was a success, with attendance of 2,062; paid tickets totaled 2,195, and 2,341 were distributed
- ✚ Jarin Hart has worked hard with the placement of the bars on the grounds of the Foellinger Theatre to decrease the accumulation of long lines during events/concerts
- ✚ An amazing, fun evening was enjoyed by all during the Debutantes concert after their “Boot Camp” in July
- ✚ Crews are preparing to close pools and get ready for winter
- ✚ Flood areas are being handled and cleaned by the Grounds and Facilities Crews
- ✚ The new Supervisor of Facility Maintenance was introduced – Jesse Sayre has been with the Department for 14 years
- ✚ We are starting to separate seasonal and part-time employees
- ✚ The Greenhouse is prepping for fall and will be moving into poinsettias
- ✚ Pushing to prioritize weeding and cleanups
- ✚ Supported the Dragon Boat races with necessary cleanups along the riverbanks
- ✚ Formally opened the Discovery Garden in the Botanical Conservatory with good plant labels
- ✚ Celebrated the 4th of July with Jazzworks
- ✚ The Pueblo Garden showcase exhibit is open
- ✚ Good attendance with the Thursday dollar nights, including the Roots Concerts
- ✚ Organizing the volunteers for the Grow It school children’s flower and vegetable show is going well
- ✚ Marketing Staff assisted with several events, including the Dragon Boat Festival with 18 teams participating
- ✚ The Fall Fun Times Brochure was distributed on August 5th
- ✚ The Annual IPRA Conference will be hosted at the Grand Wayne Centre in November
- ✚ We received 168 Media mentions in June and July
- ✚ To review available positions, please click on the following link:
www.fortwayneparks.org
- ✚ The next scheduled Board of Park Commissioners meeting will be held on **Thursday, September 10**, at 10:00 am, in **Citizens Square**

✚ **COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:** Board President Justin Shurley, after welcoming Mrs. Julie Inskeep, expressed the desire to continue the strong relationship with the Park Foundation. Additionally, Board President Shurley thanked and recognized all donations, especially those from the community and repurposed reimbursements. Commissioner Briley commented on the enthusiasm and stamina of Justin and his family as they distributed candy to parade-goers during the City’s 250th USA parade.

No further business was to come before the Board of Park Commissioners on Thursday, August 13, 2026, at the David Hefner Pavilion, in Franklin School Park, 1908 St. Marys Avenue, Fort Wayne, IN 46808. At 10:45 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 office of the Parks and Recreation Department. This meeting was recorded by the Parks & 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 Thursday, August 13, 2026, meeting online:

<https://acpl.viebit.com/watch?hash=PalwQDN1vxCbABhO>

