SUMMARIZATION OF MINUTES FOR THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

The **Board of Park Commissioners** held its monthly Board meeting on **Thursday, October 8, 2026.** At 10:00 am, the meeting was held in the City Council Discussion Chambers (garden level) of the Citizens Square building, Suite 030, 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, Vice President

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Steve McDaniel, Harlean Falls, Kathy Pargmann, Rob Hines, Rhonda Berg, April McCampbell, Chad W. Shaw, Steve Schuhmacher, Stacy Haviland, Chuck Reddinger, and Mary Wagner-Stockman.

Also in attendance: Mr. Patrick Stelte of the Allen County Public Library.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** **Bo**ard President Justin Shurley called the monthly Board meeting to order at 10:00 am.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Board President Shurley called for any questions, corrections, and/or approval of the minutes from the Thursday, September 10, 2026, meeting. Commissioner Richard Briley moved, and Commissioner Jenna Jauch seconded. The motion was duly carried. The monthly Board minutes are on file.

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 08/14/26 and 08/28/26, accounts payable payment vouchers #1941 to #2242, with a Payroll Sub-Total of $1,201,402.20. ***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 of $1,230,262.16, for Accounts Payable Total of $2,369,170.98, and a total of $3,570,573.18. 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. **August 2026** Payroll and Commercial voucher financial reports are on file.

4. **TRUST FUND DONATIONS:** Deputy Berg navigated the Board members through a listing of the donors, amounts, and purpose, along with cash donations, registration/Web donations, endowments, and grants; a complete listing is on file. Received as of **August 31, 2026, Total: $17,423.60. Franke Park Renaissance Reimbursements:** Fort Wayne Park Foundation Donors February-26 $50,000.00. **Grand Total Including Franke Park Renaissance Reimbursements: $922,739.93. YTD $872,739.93.** By acclamation, the Board accepted the Trust Fund Donations; the complete listing is on file.

5. PARK PRIORITIES: Mr. Chad W. Shaw, Deputy Director of Planning, Landscape, Horticulture, Forestry, Riparian and the Botanical Conservatory, updated the Board on the continued construction and progress of Riverfront Phase II. Substantial completion is estimated in approximately 6-7 weeks, as landscape, sidewalks, and coordination with AEP continue. The Foster Park entrance project anticipates bidding and construction soon. The Hanna Homestead project is still working through the feasibility of the project. Stacy Haviland continues to work on the Terrace project at the Botanical Conservatory, as we move forward with cost estimates and design in the next weeks. We have been talking as a team to submit a phase one proposal for a Lily grant, to take place over the next 8-9 months, with phase 2 due in August of 2027.

6. AGREEMENTS / FEES / RESOLUTIONS / POLICY APPROVALS:

A. CopperRock (The Eddy) Right-of-Entry Agreement – ***Shaw***

Commissioner Jauch moved, Commissioner Briley seconded, a motion to approve a right-of-entry (essentially the same as right-of-way) agreement, drafted by Copper Rock Construction of Grand Rapids, Michigan, for the proposed area (access site by crossing a walkway) northwest of the Historic Wells Street Bridge in the Riverfront Phase IIB construction zone. The motion was duly carried. On file are the signed summary and the terms of the signed agreement.

B. Headwaters Park Fees – **Reddinger**

Commissioner Jauch moved, Commissioner Briley seconded, a motion to approve the Fee Recommendations for the rental, amenities, Wi-Fi, and other necessities for the Headwaters Park Ice Skating Arena. The motion was duly carried. On file are the fee comparison statistics, the comparable rental venues, and the 2026 fee recommendations for Headwaters Park festivals, concerts, charitable and other special events.

C. Promenade Park Fees – **Reddinger**

Commissioner Briley moved, Commissioner Jauch seconded, a motion to approve the Fee Recommendations for Promenade Park and the Riverfront areas, esplanade, and the north lawn areas. The motion was duly carried. On file are the projected results, outcomes, park maps, proposed 2026 fee schedule, and rental comparison.

D. Youth Scholarship – **Hines**

Commissioner Jauch moved, Commissioner Briley seconded, a motion to approve a revision making 2 changes to make the scholarship more accessible, and 1) to a credit

system, to be used for the calendar year in another program and/or services; 2) provide a $100.00 and a $50.00 scholarship based on criteria of the USDA free lunch levels or receiving federal food assistance benefits. The Department's Youth Scholarship Program (totally funded by donations), Section C, Item: 21, was approved in 2003, revised in February 2023 and August 2024, under the Policy and Procedures for the purpose of standardization and clarification. The motion was duly carried. On file is the Policy and Procedure Youth Scholarship Program, revised October 8, 2026.

7. **Community Center Presentation** *(Downtown/233 West Main Street)* **– Wagner-Stockman** Manager Mary Wagner-Stockman narrated a PowerPoint presentation for the Board, highlighting the Staff, the mission/purpose, and offerings within the Center. Input is generated from evaluation of programs, services, and events. Officially opened in May of 1977, the Center will celebrate 100 years in 2027. Also highlighted in the presentation were special events, themed events, and collaborations with other venues within Northeast Indiana, city and non-profit agencies, retention of programs, sponsorships, partnerships, various training successes, a $2.00 drop-in fee for special programs for the entire family, attendance, private rentals and revenue, holiday dinner and light tours, monthly luncheons, current movie screening on Tuesdays of each month, Older Adult Classes, creative and hands-on experiences, and PODS = Positive Outdoor Days of Summer. All programs and services are listed on the Department website and in the Fun Times Brochure.

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

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

- Golf courses, Sweet Breeze tours, and other programs and services were impacted by the most recent flooding.
- We have used Placer.ai to generate a presentation along with our proposed 2027 Budget to the City Council.
- Staff attended the annual NRPA Conference for 3 days in Philadelphia
- Seasonal operations are concluding as we begin Fall events
- Fall Harvest Festival, final Movie Night in Reservoir Park, and Fright Night as a collaborative effort at the Community Center (Downtown) will be offered in October
- Headwaters Park Ice Skating Rink is scheduled to open on November 21, 2026
- 97 Employees were separated in September
- 281 containers of records have met the retention compliance set by the State and the County

- Mowing Crews are switching over to mulching and preparing for the fall and winter seasons
- Landscape has assisted with various events and exhibits
- Riparian has been assisting with Riverfront Phase II and, along with Forestry, assisting with the storm clean-up/damage/removals
- The Pumpkin Patch and Discovery Gardens in the Botanical Conservatory have had good attendance, along with the Pueblo exhibit that will run through to November 15
- 284 Student entries for the Grow It! Program was celebrated at the McMillen Park Community Center
- The Ghostbuster Concert is scheduled for Saturday, October 10
- The Marketing team is working on various promotions, grants, media interviews, and publications

  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, November 12, 2026**, at 10:00 am, in **Citizens Square**

- **COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:** Board President Justin Shurley thanked everyone for their donations and gifts, stating that as summer is winding down, there are still lots of activities, programs, and services being offered. Placer.ai, a customer data provider, has generated a little over ½ a million visitors to our parks, events, and facilities so far this year.

There was no further business that came before the Board of Park Commissioners on Thursday, October 8, 2026, in the City Council Discussion Chambers of Citizens Square, 200 East Berry Street, Suite 030, Fort Wayne, IN 46802. At 10:56 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, October 8, 2026, meeting online:
https://acpl.viebit.com/watch?hash=CqtGZbYJHoBakOgi

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