



TOWN OF CEDAR LAKE PARK BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Cedar Lake Town Hall, 7408 Constitution Avenue
August 7, 2025, at 5:30 pm

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Rodriguez called the Park Board Public Meeting to order on Thursday, August 7, 2025, at 5:30 pm, with its members attending on-site. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Paul Rodriguez, President; David Jostes, Vice-President; Gayle Brannon, Member and Greg Marquardt, Member. A quorum was attained.

Also present: Mindi Ray, Parks & Recreation Superintendent; and Sharon D'Apice, Administrative Assistant; Josh Banhart, Maintenance Foreman and Nick Recupito, Town Council President

Absent: Julie Rivera Town Council Liaison; Benjamin Eldridge, Town Manager; David Austgen, Town Attorney and Greg Wiesemann, Recreation Coordinator;

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. **Minutes** July Meeting Minutes
2. **Claims:** Parks & Rec General Fund: \$9,923.65; Park Impact Fee Fund: \$108,674.27; Parks & Rec Non-Reverting Fund: \$1,675.54; Clubhouse Non-Reverting Fund: \$3,397.35;
Total Expenditures: \$123,670.71
3. **Donations:** Faith Church donated two tickets to the annual Global Leadership Summit; Vito's LLC donated \$122.30 worth of Italian Ice for the Senior Picnic and Cedar Lake Kitchen donated 10 - \$10 gift certificates for Senior Bingo prizes

Mr. Marquardt made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and Ms. Brannon seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by roll-call vote.

Mr. Marquardt Aye
Ms. Brannon Aye
Mr. Jostes Aye
Mr. Rodriguez Aye

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Founders Creek Trail

Mr. Recupito updated the board that the Parks Department has one final parcel left to acquire. Mr. Recupito stated that he talked to the Town Attorney in regards to this and he informed Town Council that there have been multiple attempts to reach out to the property owner to see if they are willing to sell a piece of the property. Mr. Recupito is hopeful that Attorney Austgen can come up with a plan to acquire the parcel without using eminent domain. The Parks Department cannot proceed with the Founders Creek Trail until the final parcel is acquired. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Marquardt made a motion to defer the Founders Creek Trail to the September meeting and Mr. Jostes seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by roll-call vote.

Mr. Marquardt Aye

Ms. Brannon Aye

Mr. Jostes Aye

Mr. Rodriguez Aye

2. Park Maintenance Shop

Mrs. Ray stated that in the Superintendent Report that she was working on preliminary costs for engineering on the project. Mrs. Ray also stated that she does not have those yet but has been in contact with both engineering firms.

Mr. Marquardt made a motion to defer the Park Maintenance Shop to the September meeting and Ms. Brannon seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by roll-call vote.

Mr. Marquardt Aye

Ms. Brannon Aye

Mr. Jostes Aye

Mr. Rodriguez Aye

3. Park Maintenance Truck

Mr. Rodriguez stated he has the same quote that was looked at during the last meeting. Mrs. Ray stated that the Park Board was provided two new quotes for the trucks, three of the trucks were from the John Jones group that Officer Doug had recommend. Ms. Brannon stated that she is unsure if Mr. Jostes saw last year's budget, line item 446, new vehicles. Last year there was \$50,000 in that GL Account and the Jeep Compass was purchased. The next sheet is this year's budget and there is no GL Code for new vehicles. Ms. Brannon recommends that we defer a new truck until there is a line item in the budget for vehicles. Mrs. Ray stated that there is an equipment line item which could be trucks, mowers or tractors. Mrs. Ray stated that the department is growing, with new duties and more responsibilities, roles and staff. She also stated that though there was not a plan to buy a new pick-up truck it was identified as a need. Discussion ensued.

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Mr. Banhart stated that he would like the board to consider the daily duties that the crew is doing. Mr. Banhart stated that one truck is used for watering duties. The watering duties takes one person about three hours per day. The other truck is used for mowing. There have been multiple situations where Mr. Banhart has had to leave for a meeting, an issue with the team or a park issue and he has had to leave equipment or people at a job site, since there is only one truck for special projects. Mr. Banhart also stated that if a truck is down, no special projects can be done. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Marquardt made a motion to amend the purchase for a new Park Truck from \$30,000 to \$37,477 for the Parks Maintenance Truck to the August meeting and Mr. Jostes seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by roll-call vote.

Mr. Marquardt Aye

Ms. Brannon Aye

Mr. Jostes Aye

Mr. Rodriguez Aye

DISCUSSION:

1. Grant Project

Mr. Rodriguez stated that the grant is the T-Mobile Grant. Mrs. Ray updated the board that she has received a price point on a shovel ready project which was proposed as a digital marquee to be placed on Town Grounds for multi-use purposes. The T-Mobile Grant is up to a \$50,000 award. Mrs. Ray stated that she has worked with the company and received a quote and spoke with IT about needs and recommendations to the Park Board. Mrs. Ray is looking for direction from the Park Board if the project would come in higher than what is awarded for the grant would they still move forward with the project. Discussion ensued. Mrs. Ray received direction to apply for the grant and decisions about additional funding over the quoted amount would be considered at the time of grant award.

REPORTS:

1. Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Ray updated the board that she is looking for further direction on the proposed site plan to include the ADA accessibility to the donated bench at Meyer Manor. Mrs. Ray also stated that if the board would like her to provide quotes for the concrete work. Mrs. Ray stated that the crew cannot get to this project until October or November. Discussion ensued. Mrs. Ray received direction to place the bench in the park space without the sidewalk and concrete pad.

2. Recreation Coordinator's Report

Mrs. Ray updated the board that the Recreation Coordinator's report is outlining the programs that he is currently working on. The Agents of Discovery Application has already had 154 people play on the first launch.

The Stay Fit and Active fitness class is going strong.

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Tonight, is the last Lakeside Artist Guild Summer Concert series.

3. Maintenance Report

Mr. Banhart updated the board that both gazebo sites have been completed. Mr. Banhart also stated that the crew has completed their first concrete project thanks to Mr. Kubiak.

He also stated that the crew has been busy with maintenance repairs to the playground getting ready for the upcoming inspection. Discussion ensued.

4. Town Council

5. Park Foundation Report

Ms. Sumara stated that the last meeting was held on July 5th. Summerfest Bingo was a financial success. The Fall Festival was further discussed for September 27th. The Town Council approved the request to waive the fee for use of Town Grounds.

The Park Foundation sent a request to Culver's for a Fundraiser.

Ms. Sumara also stated that the Farmer's Market will give the Park Foundation a table to sell merchandise.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that a good fundraiser might be memorial bricks around the old gazebo location. Discussion ensued.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Cheryl Parker, 7227 W. 136th Court, asked if the trees that were removed need to be replaced. Mrs. Parker was asking which GL item would the purchase for new trees be taken from. Mrs. Ray stated that there were funds that were encumbered to purchase trees. Discussion ensued.

Marie Sumara, 13318 Morse Street, wanted to know how Bugaboos was picked as the alcohol vendor for the Fall Festival. Ms. Sumara also wanted to know how the bands were picked.

Kathleen Broomhead, 14351 W. 135th Avenue, wanted to know if the new truck was inspected by anyone but the park foreman. Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Broomhead had questions about the Digital Marquee sign. Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Broomhead also had questions about the age of the playground on Town Grounds. Mrs. Ray stated that there are no records but it is believed to be over twenty-three years old. Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Broomhead thanked the board and let them know that she had a great time on the Bus Trip to Shipshewana.

ADJOURNMENT Ms. Brannon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 pm and Mr. Jostes seconded the motion. The next meeting is scheduled for September 4, 2025 at 5:30 pm.

TOWN OF CEDAR LAKE PARK BOARD

Paul Rodriguez, President

Dave Jostes, Vice-President

Gayle Brannon, Member

Greg Marquardt, Member

ATTEST:

Sharon D'Apice, Recording Secretary

These minutes are transcribed pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-4(b) which states:

(b) As the meeting progresses, the following memoranda shall be kept:

(1) The date, time, and place of the meeting.

(2) The members of the governing body recorded as either present or absent.

(3) The general substance of all matters proposed, discussed, or decided.

(4) A record of all votes taken by individual members if there is a roll call.

(5) Any additional information required under section 3.5 or 3.6 of this chapter or any other statute that authorizes a governing body to conduct a meeting using an electronic means of communication.