



TOWN OF CEDAR LAKE PARK BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Cedar Lake Town Hall, 7408 Constitution Avenue
September 4, 2025, at 5:30 pm

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Jostes called the Park Board Public Meeting to order on Thursday, September 4, 2025, at 5:30 pm, with its members attending on-site. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

ROLL CALL:

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

Also present: Julie Rivera Town Council Liaison; Benjamin Eldridge, Town Manager; David Austgen, Town Attorney; Mindi Ray, Parks & Recreation Superintendent; Greg Wiesemann, Recreation Coordinator; Sharon D'Apice, Administrative Assistant; and Josh Banhart, Maintenance Foreman.

Absent: Paul Rodriguez, President.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. **Minutes** August 7th Meeting Minutes and August 7th Work Session Minutes
2. **Claims:** Parks & Rec General Fund: \$140,418.26; Park Impact Fee Fund: \$-; Parks & Rec Non-Reverting Fund: \$2,307.19; Clubhouse Non-Reverting Fund: \$1,423.38; Total Expenditures: \$144,148.83
3. **Donations:** Olthof Homes donated \$200 for Trunk or Treat; Culver's of Cedar Lake donated 500 Custard Scoop Tokens valued at \$1,750 for Trunk or Treat.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Founders Creek Trail

Mr. Austgen updated the board that he made contact with the property owner regarding the remaining property needed for the Founders Creek Trail.

Mr. Marquardt made a motion to defer the Founders Creek Trail to the October 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

2. Park Maintenance Shop

Mrs. Ray updated the board that she is trying to include some preliminary costs of the actual build while she is working on the preliminary engineering costs. Mrs. Ray stated that she should have some information by the next sub-committee meeting.

Mr. Marquardt made a motion to defer the Park Maintenance Shop to the October 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

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Instructor Agreement – Adult and Youth Art Classes

Mrs. Ray stated that this is for a ratification of the Instructor Agreement for the return of art classes for adult and youth for the months of October, November and December.

Mr. Marquardt made a motion to approve the Instructor Agreement for Adult and Youth Art Classes and Mr. Jostes seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by roll-call vote.

Mr. Marquardt Aye

Ms. Brannon Aye

Mr. Jostes Aye

2. Park Impact Fees 1375 – Recommendation to Town Council/Impact Fee Committee to Amend

Mrs. Ray stated that this is the first time that the Park Impact Fee which is adopted by ordinance by the Town Council with a Park Board in place. Mrs. Ray has had rapport with Attorney Austgen about next steps. Mr. Austgen did supply a packet to the Park Board for further review at the start

of this meeting. Mr. Austgen stated that the Park Board, Town Council and Planning Commission will be involved in the Park Impact fees. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Brannon made a motion to recommend to Town Council to work on revisions to the comprehensive plan and to establish an impact fee study committee and Mr. Marquardt seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by roll-call vote.

Mr. Marquardt Aye

Ms. Brannon Aye

Mr. Jostes Aye

DISCUSSION:

1. Walking Path on Town Grounds

Mrs. Ray updated the board that this is an opportunity to identify 2026 projects and for end of year encumbering opportunities for the department. In one of the conceptual plans a walking path on Town Grounds was identified. Mr. Jostes stated that one of things discovered during the master plan was that residents wanted walking paths and not being near a street. Mr. Jostes also stated that as of now there is an estimate for an asphalt path that is roughly nine feet wide. Discussion ensued.

2. Park Spaces for Fall Tree Planting

Mrs. Ray updated the board that funds were encumbered from last year to bring nineteen shade trees into the park spaces. Fall planting will begin the first week of October at Woods of Cedar Creek, Lynnsway Park and Kiwanis Park.

3. Park Office Relocation

Mr. Eldridge updated the board that since the Police Department has moved into their building. The Building Department will be moving into the old Police Department at the end of September and the Town Council would like to have the Parks Department move into Town Hall by the end of October.

REPORTS:

1. Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Ray updated the board that she has been working on the tree placement and schedule of tree installation at the park spaces. Mrs. Ray also updated the board that she will be bringing some conversations before the Park Board on steps to become a Tree City.

Mr. Eldridge stated that in his past community to be a Tree City you would have to identify all the trees, have an arborist on staff that would take care of the trees. Mrs. Ray stated that you would have to have an Arbor Day Event yearly to be part of a Tree City Community.

Mrs. Ray stated that the crew has been able to complete some special projects.

Mrs. Ray also stated that the department is working on 2026 programming and creation of a National Night Out with the Cedar Lake Police, Fire and Public Works planning will begin in January for the August 2026 event.

2. Recreation Coordinator's Report

Mr. Wieseemann updated the board that the Stay Fit and Active class currently has twenty-five participants at each class.

The next Senior Gathering is Monday, September 8th. Sheryl Corey with Cedar Lake Heart & Soul Initiative will be the guest speaker and will be bringing some bingo prizes.

The stand-alone Bingo has twenty-six participants.

Fall Soccer has shown growth and had twenty-three more children signed up than last fall. Mr. Wieseemann thanked the park crew and Administrative Assistant for helping get the program off the ground.

The Parks Programs at the Cedar Lake Farmers market has been a huge hit.

Agents of Discovery will be launching another mission around Halloween.

The Parks Department is working with Lake County Parks for a "Party in the Park" on Friday, September 6th from 4pm to 6pm.

Hanover Central High School Soccer will be hosting a Cedar Lake Parks Soccer Recognition Night. The Cedar Lake Parks Department Soccer the first twenty-two players will be able to go on to the field with the High School Team.

Adult and senior and youth art classes will be beginning again monthly on October and end in December.

3. Maintenance Report

Mr. Banhart thanked the Park Board for the purchase of the new truck and noted that it has improved the daily operations.

Mr. Banhart updated the board that they installed a paver walkway into Bartlett Wahlberg Park and they added topsoil around the shelter.

Mr. Banhart also stated that he has contacted the manufacturer of the Dog Fountain and is waiting on parts.

4. Town Council

Mrs. Rivera stated that she wanted to let the public know about the events that are coming up on Town Grounds. The first event is Bands, Brews and Bugaboos will be held on September 13th. The second event will be sponsored by the Park Foundation and is a Family Fall Festival held on September 27th.

5. Park Foundation Report

Ms. Sumara updated the board that that last board meeting was held on August 4th. They discussed the Fall Festival that will be held on September 27th. Mrs. Sumara stated that they will have several vendors and volunteers.

Mrs. Parker stated that they are planning on finishing up the Lake County Master Gardeners Grant project at Potawatomi Park and wanted to discuss what they would like to do with the Park Foreman.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Cheryl Parker, 7227 W. 136th Court, stated that there is an Urban Tree Canopy project with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Urban Forestry. Mrs. Parker stated that she will reach out to them for more information.

Mrs. Parker wanted to know what is going to happen to the current Parks Office once they move to Town Hall. Mr. Eldridge stated that there has been talk of having it demolished.

Kathleen Broomhead, 14351 W. 135th Avenue, was concerned that the possible digital communication sign by the Public Safety buildings would obstruct being able to see the roadway.

Nolan Scott, 8714 W. 139th Court, stated that he is sixteen years old and there are not many things to outside or on the lake and he would like to propose a Fishing Club for the youth. Mr. Scott also inquired about the kayaks that are on the shed by the Park Office. Mrs. Ray stated that the kayaks are not for rent and the Recreation Coordinator is looking into how the department could incorporate water sports.

Nicholas Yukon, 8125 Lakeshore Drive, referencing the property at 13043 Polk Street. Mr. Yukon owns the property and stated that he has been in contact with Ms. Ray. He commented that the property that the Parks Department that during the tear down of the property he was offering his property for dumpster placement. Mr. Yukon was looking for permission to remove the tree that is on Potawatomi Park that is entangled in his fence line at his cost. Mr. Yukon stated that if he was to remove that tree, he would pay for another tree in its place. Mr. Marquardt stated that he is unsure about the other Park Board members but he likes the idea of if you take one down you put two up. Mr. Yukon stated that he has been in contact with Leo's and they will be the one to install the new trees.

Mr. Austgen stated that this needs to be brought to the Town Council for approval since Potawatomi Park is in the towns name. Discussion ensued

Ms. Brannon made a motion to amend the agenda to include making the recommendation to the Town Council for tree removal on Potawatomi Park by Nicholas Yukon and Mr. Marquardt seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by roll-call vote.

Ms. Brannon made recommendation to the Town Council for tree removal on Potawatomi Park by Nicholas Yukon and Mr. Marquardt seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by roll-call vote. Discussion ensued on this topic.

Mr. Eldridge stated the August 28th there was a Staff Appreciation picnic and he wanted to thank Mindi and her staff for assisting in setting up and tearing down for the picnic.

ADJOURNMENT Ms. Brannon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 pm and Mr. Marquardt seconded the motion. The next meeting is scheduled for October 2, 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.