

PARK BOARD

May 12, 2025

The May 12, 2025 Park Board meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers by Kate Niederkohr, Chairperson. Park Board members present were Jennifer Banta, Dean Leonard, Kate Niederkohr, Erin Smith, and Bill Sturgeon. Jon Blackburn was absent.

Others present included: Keith Niederkohr, Parks Manager; Tom Martin; Laura Wines; Janeen Heilman; John Walker; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The summary of bills totaling \$99,695.83 was presented.

A motion was made by Mrs. Banta, seconded by Mrs. Smith, for the approval and payment of bills totaling \$99,695.83. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

The minutes of the April 14, 2025 Park Board meeting, having been mailed to each Park Board member, were approved as received.

Mr. Tom Martin again addressed the Park Board and inquired as to if any additional thought has been placed into his suggestion, presented at the February 12, 2024 Park Board meeting, to plant tall grass and wildflowers in the center areas in Stepping Stones Park and these area not be mowed. Mr. Niederkohr indicated that there are some areas along the river that would be good for tall grass and wildflowers and he still wants to meet with a representative from Pheasants Forever and discuss this further. Mr. Martin also inquired as to if there are plans to seal the paths in Stepping Stones Park. Mr. Niederkohr stated that the paths were sealed several years ago and the project took all summer to complete and the seal did not last very long.

Mrs. Laura Wines and Mrs. Janeen Heilman, co-pool managers, addressed the Park Board noting that twenty-seven (27) pool parties have been booked so far for the summer of 2025, and they have been at the pool cleaning and preparing for the season. Mrs. Heilman has started an app for the lifeguards that will help with communication and include work schedules.

Mr. Niederkohr noted that the Water Treatment Plant employees have been working to prepare the swimming pool including cleaning the pool and filling cracks. The pool is expected to be filled with water soon.

The hiring of lifeguards for the 2025 swimming pool season was addressed.

A motion was made by Mr. Leonard, seconded by Mrs. Banta, to hire Aiden Bacon, Ashton Bacon, Aleena Bendele, Jayne Blackburn, Brynlee Cundiff, Nora Estes, Leah Herring, Arabel Kreais, Callie Lynch, Christian Miller, Levi Plymale, and Ellie Zeller as lifeguards for the 2025 swimming pool season. Upon Voice Vote, all members except Mrs. Niederkohr voted Yes, Mrs. Niederkohr abstained. The Chairperson declared the motion carried by a 5-0-1 vote.

The hiring of cashiers for the 2025 swimming pool season was addressed.

A motion was made by Mr. Sturgeon, seconded by Mr. Smith, to hire Franklin Arnold, Elaina Conigy, Samantha Strong, and Simon Treadway as cashiers for the 2025 swimming pool season. Upon Voice Vote, all members except Mrs. Niederkohr voted Yes, Mrs. Niederkohr abstained. The Chairperson declared the motion carried by a 5-0-1 vote.

It was reported that it has been determined that it is in the best interest for the City's annual fireworks display to be held at the high school again this year.

Mr. Niederkohr reported that he was recently contacted by Micah Shasteen and Zach Sheaffer who would like to continue the Robby Lee 3-on-3 basketball tournament in Bicentennial Park. It was noted that they have been in contact with Mr. Lee’s wife Sharon regarding the tournament and they intend to donate the proceeds to a charity with that charity to be determined. The requested date for the tournament is Saturday, June 21, 2025 with check-in beginning at 9:00 a.m. They plan to have a reporter and photographer present at the tournament and hope to attract many participants. They will be present at the June 9, 2025 Park Board meeting or provide an update of the plans for the tournament.

Mr. Niederkohr also reported that the Parks Department employees have been mowing the parks non-stop this spring.

Mrs. Niederkohr thanked the members of the Park Board for their efforts and support of the ½% income tax increase measure which was defeated at the May 6, 2025 primary election.

Mrs. Niederkohr also thanked the members of City Council for their efforts and support of the ½% income tax increase measure which was defeated at the May 6, 2025 primary election.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned.

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

Kate Niederkohr, Chairperson