

PARK BOARD

June 9, 2025

The June 9, 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, Jon Blackburn, Dean Leonard, Kate Niederkohr, Erin Smith, and Bill Sturgeon.

Others present included: Kyle McColly, Mayor; Keith Niederkohr, Parks Manager; Eric Honaker, Water Distribution Supervisor; Laura Wines; Janeen Heilman; Cassidy Heilman; Brittany Rayl; Brian Webb; Lydia Schneider; Shawn Schneider; Kendall Blair; Jim Stauffer; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The summary of bills totaling \$112,435.49 was presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Blackburn, seconded by Mr. Leonard, for the approval and payment of bills totaling \$112,435.49. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

The minutes of the May 12, 2025 Park Board meeting, having been mailed to each Park Board member, were approved as received.

Ms. Brittany Rayl inquired as to how to secure Harrison Smith Park for a pride celebration event. Available dates for the Bandshell area were discussed and Ms. Rayl indicated that Sunday, July 13, 2025 would work best for her event. Ms. Rayl indicated that food trucks will be invited to participate in the event. Park Board members voiced no objections.

Miss Lydia Schneider introduced herself and indicated that she is in attendance to fulfill a merit badge requirement for scouts.

Ms. Kendall Blair addressed the Park Board requesting permission for Kalmbach Feeds to again hold a 5K in Stepping Stones Park on Saturday, September 27, 2025 beginning at 9:00 a.m. Park Board members voiced no objections.

Mrs. Laura Wines and Mrs. Janeen Heilman, co-pool managers, addressed the Park Board noting that thirty-three (33) pool parties have been booked so far for the summer of 2025 and available dates are becoming limited. The first home swim team meet for the Black Marlins was held on Saturday, June 7, 2025. Mayor McColly indicated that in 2025 the pool sometimes closed early on Wednesdays to allow for pool parties to take place from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and this could be an option for this year at the pool managers' discretion.

Mr. Eric Honaker, Water Distribution Supervisor, presented the Park Board with prices of miscellaneous expenses for the swimming pool including paint, caulk, chemicals, equipment, and costs for water usage in the past two years. Mr. Honaker explained the past water usage, leaks, maintenance and condition of the swimming pool, etc. Mr. Honaker noted that the swimming pool is required by the Health Department to maintain a certain flow rate and this year the swimming pool is borderline meeting that flow rate. Mr. Honaker also noted that any equipment changes at the swimming pool must go through the Health Department for approval. Mrs. Niederkohr stated that the Park Board needs to be financially responsible and inquired at what point does the Park Board decide when it is feasible to keep the swimming pool open for operation. Mr. Sturgeon expressed his belief that the Park Board needs to focus on keeping the swimming pool open and when something catastrophic happens with the operation of the swimming pool the Park Board should ask City Council for the funds to repair the swimming pool and have City Council make a determination as to whether the swimming pool should continue or discontinue operation.

Mr. Niederkohr reported that the Lions Club maintains the playground equipment in the tot lot in Harrison Smith Park and they recently voted to add more features to this playground area. Mr. Niederkohr shared pictures of the equipment including Bongos on Post, Rocksanity See Saw, and a Steam Roller Crawl Tunnel. The Lions Club is willing to donate and install the equipment to the tot lot.

Mr. Niederkohr also reported that the Spin Station for Bicentennial Park has been received and he will be working with the Wastewater Collections Department to ensure that storm water beneath this playground equipment is not an issue.

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

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

Kate Niederkohr, Chairperson