

NORTH MANCHESTER PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

February 24, 2025

MINUTES

The North Manchester Parks & Recreation Board met in regular session at the Strauss-Peabody Aquatic and Fitness Center Conference Room. Members present: Vice-President Jack Vineyard (29), Rick Espeset (25), Becky Kreps (26) and Bobbi Lautzenheiser (27). Also present were Jennifer Hotchkiss (Director), Linda Miller (Assistant Director), Gee Gee Tharp (American Legion President of Auxiliary NM) and Alleigh Daniels (Executive Director of Daniels Place).

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-President Jack Vineyard called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

There were none.

VISITOR COMMENTS

There were none.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

American Legion Request for Halderman Park

Gee Gee Tharp (American Legion President of Auxiliary NM), acknowledged receiving the letter from the board. She had spoken to Jennifer about the sign and Miriah came up with an example modeled after Ogan's Landing. She also asked about the approximate cost of the sign so they can get started on fundraising. Jennifer said the last sign purchased was for Ogan's Landing in 2017 and it was around \$2,700. She will contact that company to get a current price. Gee Gee also said that she should have the landscaping drawing for the next meeting. It was decided that the rock will remain in its current location. Jennifer spoke to Adam about the two different spellings over the years. At some point, a clerical error had changed it from Holderman to Halderman. From this point on, the park name will be spelled Holderman.

NEW BUSINESS

Alleigh Daniels, the new Executive Director of Daniels Place, introduced herself to the board. She explained they provide respite care for adults and children in the community, but also offer services to older adults experiencing Dementia, Alzheimer's, those visually and hearing impaired, cerebral palsy, limited mobility, and veterans who cannot walk; basically any individual who requires constant care and cannot live independently. They currently operate out of Zion Lutheran Church, but will be breaking ground across from Warvel Park where the bowling alley used to be. The connection being made is important because one of their grant providers, the Ft. Wayne AWS Foundation, will give grant money to the Parks to place adaptable equipment in the SW area of Warvel Park.

MINUTES

Minutes from the January 29, 2025 Regular Meeting were presented for approval. Motion for approval (RE/BL) was passed by a voice vote of members present.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

The Maintenance Report was reviewed. (Copy attached)

DIRECTOR REPORT

The Director's Report was reviewed. (Copy attached)

MRA REPORT

Jack reported that the MRA Board is meeting tonight. They are busy working on the Jr. High Boys and Girls teams. Also, they may be renovating the High School Press Box.

Monthly Park and Recreation Financial Reports

The February Claims Summary, Utility Comparison Report, January Expense Reports and January Revenue Reports were reviewed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Dog Park

Xavier has been emailing and has his supply list ready for Frantz Lumber. He is currently working on dates for an April installation.

Outdoor Pickleball Courts

Jennifer reported that the matching grant application was submitted on Friday, February 7, and Tim had pledges totaling \$191,000. They will announce the winners on March 19th. She also applied for a Good Deeds grant through the Community Foundation of Wabash County, to finish the landscaping and have a grand opening.

NEW BUSINESS

Master Plan

Jennifer gave the board copies of quotes to have a new Comprehensive Five Year Parks Master Plan completed. The first quote of \$35,000 is from JPR, the company that is already working on other projects for the town, such as Manchester Mile and Eel River Commons. The second quote of \$28,500 is from Cornerstone. After a lengthy discussion, it was the consensus of the board to recommend JPR for the project. They are already working on other projects for the town and may be able to reduce some costs.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

APPROVED _____

Mel Sautter, President

Jack Vineyard, Vice-President

Becky Kreps, Member

Bobbi Lautzenheiser, Member

Rick Espeset, Member

February Maintenance Report

Shop

- Washed trucks and snow equipment
- Metronet made repairs to Scout Hall phone
- Watched safety training videos
- Piled up snow to clear parking spaces

Parks

- Replaced lights at Scout Hall
- Snow and ice removal

Pool

- Rebuilt parts of sauna
- Dilling rebuilt both water heaters
- Dilling replaced 3rd boiler
- Dilling replaced pool thermostats
- Snow and ice removal
- Replaced lights in sauna

T.L.C

- Removed cork boards for a renter (Suite 1)
- Snow and ice removal

North Manchester Parks & Recreation Department February 2025

Aquatics:

- Our first session of swim lessons for 2025 started on Feb. 18th. Classes meet on Tuesday & Thursday evenings for six weeks. The beginner class meets from 6-6:45pm and then the intermediate/advanced class meets from 6:45-7:30pm. The fees for the classes are \$22 per child for a member or \$44 per child for non-members. We have 11 kids in the beginner class and 7 kids in the intermediate/advance class.
- Aqua Tots started a new session on Saturday, Feb. 15th. The 30-minute classes meet on Saturday mornings from 9-9:30am for six weeks. The fee is \$14 for members or \$28 for non-members. We have 12 tots registered for this class!
- Swim seasons for both MU and MHS have been completed. MAC will be done with their winter session on March 5th.
- Hailey recently took a recertification class for LGI and passed! She is certified for another two years to teach lifeguarding classes.
- The 6th grade classes from MIS are here all week (Feb. 24th- 28th) for swim lessons. MU swim team members will be helping teach the lessons.

Recreation:

- Tickets for the Daddy Daughter Dances are on sale! We have added a third dance this year since we have been regularly selling out two dances. They can choose from Friday, March 21st 6:30-8:30pm, Saturday, March 22nd 3:30-5:30pm or 6:30-8:30pm. Tickets are \$12 per couple and \$3 for each additional daughter. This year's theme is You Are My Sunshine.
- The grant for the pickle ball courts was submitted to Indiana Destination Development Corporation on Friday, Feb. 7th. Tim McLaughlin was able to raise half of the entire cost for the pickle ball courts, so if we get the grant, the entire project will be funded! The grant will be awarded on March 19th.

Misc.:

- I attended a meeting on Feb. 14th for the new Eel River Commons park. MKM Architects gave us a revised rendering of the new park area. I was also on a panel to select a construction manager for the project.
- There was a meeting for the Manchester Mile project today, Feb. 24th. MKM Architects provided the group with a preliminary rendering for the project as well as a timeline for the entire project.
- I have ordered new fitness equipment for the weight room and it should be delivered mid-March. We will be replacing 1 recumbent bike, 1 elliptical, 1 NuStep machine and will be removing the Sci-Fit machine and replacing it with a stair stepper.
- Kiwanis/AIB donated the new trees that have been planted near the new pavilion at Ogan's Landing and they would like to install a sign saying they donated the trees. I have a copy of the proof of the sign.

TLC:

- Suite 1 has now been rented to a barber. He will be open on Mondays.