

SUMMARIZATION OF MINUTES FOR THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

On **Thursday, April 10, 2025**, the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department, along with the Board of Park Commissioners held their monthly Board meeting in the McMillen Family Pavilion, 1750 Goshen Avenue (Franke Park) Fort Wayne, IN 46808

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Justin Shurley, President, Mr. Cory Miller, Vice President, Mr. Richard Briley, Commissioner, and Mrs. Jenna Jauch, Commissioner.

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Steve McDaniel, Harlean Falls, Rhonda Berg, Kathy Pargmann, Mike Gore, Rob Hines, Steve Schuhmacher, Chad W. Shaw, Troy Bates, David Weadock, and Chuck Reddinger.

Others in attendance were: Pat Stelte of the Allen County Public Library.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Board President Justin Shurley called the monthly Board meeting to order at 10:00 am.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Board President Shurley called for approval of the minutes from the Thursday, March 13, 2025, meeting. Commissioner Richard Briley moved, and Commissioner Jenna Jauch seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The motion was duly carried. On file are the monthly Board minutes.
3. **PAYROLL & COMMERCIAL VOUCHERS:** Deputy Director Rhonda Berg requested the Board's approval of payroll and commercial vouchers. Included in the report are the number of full-time and part-time employees, for pay periods ending 02/14/25 and 02/28/25, account payables payment vouchers #121 to #284, with a Payroll Sub-Total of \$952,806.18. **NOTED** were various Parks Capital projects. The totals are in the Park General Fund, Park Trust Fund, Park Non-Reverting Operating Fund, Park Non-Reverting Capital Fund, Park Cumulative Building Fund, and Other City Funds, for Account Payables Total of \$11,385,244.34 and a total of \$2,338,050.52. Commissioner Jenna Jauch moved, and Commissioner Richard Briley seconded the motion. The motion was duly carried. On file is the signed, recorded document and the **February 2025** report.
4. **TRUST FUND DONATIONS:** Deputy Director Berg navigated the Board members through a listing of the donors, amounts, and purpose, along with donations, endowments, and grants for Riverfront IIB Sculpture, from the Public Art Commission, Foellinger-Freimann Botanical conservatory – 2025 Butterfly Exhibit – In memory of Jo Ann and

William Wyatt, from Katharine Rowell, Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory – 20205 Butterfly Exhibit – In memory of Jo Ann and William Wyatt, from The Community foundation of Middle Tennessee, Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory Showcase Trust, from Michael Neal, and Community Care – Senior Games, form Home Instead. Registrations/Web Donations: Riverfront Development from Vijaya Michele Berkes-Adams, General Par Areas, from Melanie Clark, Youth Scholarships, form Kathryn Murray Melanie Clark, Rivergreenway, from Linda Colglazier, General Park Ares, from Mary Sokolowski Sandy Penland, Nkiru Eze, Pavilions from Kassidi Sanders, Amy Fisher and Meranda Garman, General Park Areas, from Gary Hogle and Marissa McGinnis, and Kathryn Murray, Community Center, from Mary, Sokolowski Tonya Resac, Missy Radovich, Sandy Penland, Marissa McGinnis, Lakeside Rose Gardens, from Mark Rogers, Tree Replacement Trust, from Kassidi Sanders, and Salomon Farm Park, from Erica Tunis and Lelia Vaden; all received as of **February 2025, \$52,717.00. Total year-to-date is \$248,742.77.** By acclamation, the Commissioners approved all donations and grants listed in the report. On file is the February 2025 Trust Fund Donations report.

5. **NON-REVERTING FUNDS:** Deputy Director of Finance, Rhonda Berg, reported to the Board on the Non-Reverting Capital and Operating Fund Budgets, associated with each Deputy Director as assigned. Commissioner Jauch moved, and Commissioner Briley seconded the motion to approve the annual 2025 Non-Reverting Capital and Operating Fund Budgets. The motion was duly carried. On file are both the Non-Reverting Capital and Operating Fund Budgets.
6. **AGREEMENTS / FEES/ RESOLUTIONS / POLICY APPROVALS:**
8200 North River Road Cash Agreement: Tom and Richard Hemsoth - Berg Board Vice-President Miller moved and Commissioner Jauch seconded the motion to approve the Cash Rent Agreement, effective as of January 1, 2025, between the City of Fort Wayne, Indian Board of Park Commissioners/Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department (Owner) and Thomas J. Hemsoth and Richard J. Hemsoth (Tenants), about land located in the 8200 block of North River road, known as tract #13128 by the Farm Service Agency and contains 29.4 farmable acres. The motion was duly carried. Three original documents were submitted for signatures. On file is the signed by all necessary parties, Cash Rent Agreement, and the applicable map of the land.
7. **PARK PRIORITIES:** Deputy Director of Planning and Landscape, Chad Shaw, updated the Board on larger projects, including construction site issues, for the Riverfront Phase IIB, working through storm line challenges, and site work. Working with AEP to coordinate all necessary utility lines. Approximately 99.9% complete with the Franke Renaissance project. The Foster Park entrance project is moving along well, semi-development drawing will be forthcoming, with continued communication with the Public. Packard Park foundations for the pavilion have been poured, all the drainage work is set, and paths and concrete work should be visible in a few months. Brewer Park playground is ahead of schedule. At Lawton Park, the Pedestrian Bridge is near completion, with plans for a handful of trees to be planted later.
8. **BIDS / CONTRACT / CHANGE ORDER APPROVALS:**
Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory elevator Project Change Order #1– Shaw
 Commissioner Jauch moved and Commissioner Briley seconded the motion to approve an addition to the contract with American Elevator, Inc. Commissioner moved and Commissioner

seconded the motion to approve. The motion was duly carried. On file is the original contract, the signed approval form, and the details for Change Order #1.

9. PARK AND RECREATION HISTORY AND HIGHLIGHTS – Schuhmacher

[https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fortwavneparks.org%2Fimages%2FPDF%2FHistory%2FPark Board Monthly Park Highlights 2025-April.ppt&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fortwavneparks.org%2Fimages%2FPDF%2FHistory%2FPark%20Board%20Monthly%20Park%20Highlights%2025-April.ppt&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)

- A. **Waynedale Gardens** – established in 1975, 1.1 acres in size, and is located near the intersection of Broadripple Drive and Beaty Avenue.
- B. **Williams Park** - Established in 1890, and is .75 in size, located at the intersection of Calhoun Street and Wildwood Avenue.
- C. **Zeis Park** – Established in 1972. It is owned by the City Water Department and is named in honor of former Mayor Harold S. Zeis. Is .05 in size, and is located near the intersection of Spy Run Avenue and Baltes Avenue.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no Public Comments during this meeting.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS: Director McDaniel and the Deputy Directors reported the following:

- ✚ The Marketing Team formulated, edited, and printed the 2024 Annual Report was distributed to all Commissioners.
- ✚ The Department is working on a graphic design for future usage, to include all of the names of our Parks
- ✚ On March 22, all three of our Golf operations opened under the direction of Golf Superintendent Christopher Rudolph
- ✚ We will be looking at our signage within our Parks for modification purposes, and possibly multi-lingual and accessible to everyone
- ✚ Youth Centers were in full operation and programming during the Spring Break
- ✚ The training process will begin in May
- ✚ We will be expanding the biking mileage in Franke Park, on the northwest side, for a new winding trail bike feature
- ✚ The Holland, Michigan, Cubs Baseball, and a Trip to Paris will be coordinated with our Travel program Coordinator, Mona Will, in May
- ✚ Joyce Enterline, our new Office Manager, has submitted a position analysis to fill an Administrative Assistant position in our Receptionist/Rental area.
- ✚ Richard “Rick” Kinney has submitted his resignation as the Foellinger Theatre Manager
- ✚ Grounds Operations has switched equipment from Winter to Spring, as we work on preparing the pools for usage

- ✚ Headwaters Park Fountain is still on schedule to open this Summer
- ✚ Thank you to Nicole Roth and all Maintenance Staff for their contributions and for working with the Miss Virginia Mission Staff, for an entire moving van full of food
- ✚ Landscape and Horticulture are busy working with over 50,000 plants for various events
- ✚ One new Gardner was hired to work in the Downtown area, and one full-time position has been filled in the Riparian Division
- ✚ On April 25, at 10:30 am, Kettler Park will be the host location for the annual Arbor Day
- ✚ 119 Volunteers were in attendance for the appreciation dinner
- ✚ The Annual Butterfly Exhibit, Color in Motion, will begin on April 15
- ✚ The Mother's Day Plant Sale at McMillen Park Community Center will begin on May 8
- ✚ The Café Renovations continue to proceed on schedule
- ✚ A Summary Report of the Annual Report will be forthcoming
- ✚ Started Youth Scholarship promotion plan for Camps and Summer programs
- ✚ Jobs are still being posted, and we are still hiring, and many job opportunities for those aged 16 years and older are listed at www.fortwayneparks.org
- ✚ The next scheduled meeting for the Board of Park Commissioners will be on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 10:00 am – **City Council Discussion Chambers-Room 030**, in Citizens Square Building, 200 East Berry Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS: Board President Shurley, thank everyone for their hard work, and the quality of work for the citizens of Fort Wayne, especially appreciative of the work being done in the areas that at now generating revenue and becoming more self-sustaining. No further business was to come before the Board of Park Commissioners on Thursday, April 10, 2025, in the McMillen Family Pavilion-Franke Park, 1750 Goshen Avenue, Fort Wayne, IN 46808. At 11:08 am, the meeting was adjourned.

CITY OF FORT WAYNE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Justin Shurley, Board President

Cory Miller, Vice-President

Richard Briley, Commissioner

Jenna Jauch, Commissioner

Steve McDaniel, Director/Board Secretary

All documentation, correspondence, and prints/site plans presented at this meeting are on file in the office of the Parks and Recreation Department. This meeting was recorded by the Park staff and videotaped by Pat Stelte, Government Access Coordinator, in Television Services of the Allen County Public Library.

Here is the link to the **Thursday, April 10, 2025 meeting online:**
<https://acpl.viebit.com/watch?hash=SFSg9Lb7Dfom8uZR>