

Seymour Parks & Recreation Department
Board Minutes
October 16, 2023 at 4 pm

Seymour Parks & Recreation Board met at Seymour City Hall on Monday, October 16, at 4 p.m. Members in attendance were Monica Riley, Bethany Rust, Kendra Zumhingst, Art Juergens, and Tim Ferret. Members of the Parks Department present were Stacy Findley, Chad Keithley, Tracey Cole, Kerry Bevers, and Allycen Wheeler. Also in attendance were Mayor Matthew Nicholson, Public Information Specialist January Rutherford, Bridget Deaton, Councilman Chad Hubbard, Diana Coombs, B.J. Robbins, and Kim Cowles. From the Tribune, Zach Spicer attended.

Monica called the meeting to order. A motion to approve the September minutes was made by Kendra and seconded by Bethany. Monica decided to abstain because she was not in attendance for the September Park Board Meeting. Motion carried. There was a question about two expenses on an Indiana American Water bill so a motion to table the August claims was made by Bethany and seconded by Tim. Motion carried.

Tim made a motion to approve both the 502 and 506-9 September balances. Kendra seconded the motion. Motion carried for approval of both funds.

Old Business:

- Stacy gave an update on the Gaiser Park restrooms. She said the original man that was hired to complete the repairs fell through, so we have Rick Phillips and Chase Kinworthy with the Parks Department that were able to do the repairs. Completion has been a slower process because Chase is a part time student that was hired through Gerald Hubbard's school-to-work program at Seymour High School. The bid we had presented before was for \$4500, but we were actually able to do the repairs cheaper because we had no labor cost. The repairs are expected to be completed at the end of this week.
- Stacy gave an update on the IDOH Grant. Site prep has been completed at Freeman Field Recreational Area and Gaiser Park. Westside Park has started site prep, the old playground has been removed, and excavation has begun. Kasting Park will be the final site prep, because we will be having tournaments through the first of November so we are trying to keep the playground there as long as we possibly can. PlayPros will start on Freeman Field Recreational Area tomorrow, and they will continue to be here in Seymour until four park playgrounds are completed.

Updates:

- Stacy presented the Coombs family with a plaque identifying Coach Steve Coombs Field of Dreams Diamond at Shields Park. The plaque was in recognition of the late Steve Coomb's 20-plus years of coaching baseball and working for the parks department. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be conducted in the spring of 2024 when the sign is placed at Shields Big Diamond.
- Stacy discussed the INDOT 5310 Grant. She stated INDOT has given her suggestions to update her 5310 Grant plan; which she is in the process of doing. Once her updates are complete, she will have them approved by INDOT and emailed to the Park Board for approval by the end of 2023.

- Stacy discussed FPBH, Inc. with City Engineer Bernie Hauersperger will be bidding out all our paving projects we have coming up. We have four different paving projects that will be funded through three different funding streams. The paving projects include the following locations: Gaiser Park parking lot, Gaiser park pickleball court, Westside Park angled parking lot, and Westside Park basketball court.

Park Incidents:

- Stacy discussed the incident at Shields Skatepark. She said an individual did not agree with the design of the stamped brick so he took it upon himself to pour quikrete in that area of the skatepark. We contacted Stuckwisch Power Washing LLC and they were able to remove the quikrete from the stamped brick.
- Stacy told the Park Board about the hypodermic needle found at Gaiser Park. It was found near the restrooms and was loaded with some type of substance.
 - Kerry added there was also a case with bags and a measuring cup found in center field of Gaiser Park ball field.

Program/Leagues Update:

- Men's Fall Softball/Co-Ed Softball - Tournament will be October 18, 2023 with awards being presented that night.
- Adult Kickball - Tournament will start on October 17, 2023 and will end on October 24, 2023
- Women's Winter Volleyball/Co-Ed Winter Volleyball - Registration started on Sept. 1, 2023. The women's league will start on Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2023. The Co-Ed league will start on Sunday, Nov. 5, 2023. There are currently 10 Co-Ed teams, and 16 women teams.
- Christmas Parade of Lights - This event will take place on Saturday, Dec. 16, 2023. The parade line up will start at 5 p.m. and the parade is set to start at 5:30 p.m. The plans for the parade route are still in discussion. We are going to have to use the Farmers Market Lot and Robertson Lot for sure. Stacy has asked the Jackson County Public Library if we could use their lot as well, for the walkers we may have; we are currently waiting to hear back from them. We are thinking that once we have the parking lots secured we will close down Chestnut Street to St Louis to Hwy 50. We will come onto St. Louis turn right, then take a left onto Chestnut Street, down past City Hall to 5th Street, turn right, then we will end up over by Mellencamp Plaza and K of C Lot. There will also be Christmas fireworks, activities at the K of C lot, and the FOP will be serving hot chocolate.
- Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration - This event was held at Shields Park, Sept. 15, 2023. This was our second year for this event, and we had a great turnout!
- Dia De Los Muertos/Day of the Dead - We will be partnering with Su Casa for this event. Su Casa will be celebrating Day of the Dead from October 31-November 2, 2023 at the Community Center. One night will be a movie, the next night will be face painting and cookies, and the final night will be at the altar outside of the Community Center.
- Zumba in the Park - This activity will be continuing through the fall and winter thanks to the IDOH Grant. We will be moving this activity into the Community Center once the weather gets cooler.

- All-Inclusive Play - This event took place on Sept. 16, 2023, at Boys & Girls Club of Seymour, from 10 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. There were 4 individuals signed up to participate in this event, and 6 actually showed up.
- Bleached Pumpkin & Fresh Floral Arrangement - This event took place on Sept. 29, 2023, at Seymour Community Center, from 6-8 p.m. Jubilee Flowers and Gifts hosted the event. There were 25 spots available and 21 spots were taken. This event had great feedback and we are currently looking to have a similar event in the future.
- Candle Making Workshop - This event was postponed due to an illness.

Reservation Requests:

- None

Miscellaneous Business:

- Ally discussed how Cailin Neely and Brandon Crumb had called and wanted to clean the headstones at the City Cemetery. They were said to be coming to the meeting on Monday night, but did not attend. So, after discussion with the Park Board it was decided that we would wait to see if Cailin and Brandon reached back out to us for further discussion.
- Kendra thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for their assistance at the Oktoberfest.
- Kendra wants to also get a picnic table discussion going for the future so that the guys are not having to haul the heavy tables to the Oktoberfest.
- Kendra discussed some issues on the trails; there are some areas that are falling apart. She specifically mentioned an area on the eastside of the overpass, and in a curve by Pepsi that is starting to give away also.

Bethany made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tim seconded. Motion carried.

The next Parks Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, Nov.13, at 4 p.m.