

**West Lafayette Parks and Recreation  
Park Board Minutes**

02/22/2021

The **Parks and Recreation Board** met Monday, February 22, 2021, 4:30 pm, virtually, via Microsoft Teams. Present at said meeting were Brandt Patz, Pat Flannelly, Karen Springer, David Purpura and Park Board Attorney, Andy Gutwein. Kathy Lozano, Greg Mitchell, Kevin Noe, Dan Dunten, John Muller, Heather Wiltse and Cheryl Kolb represented the department. City Council representatives, Gerald Thomas and Kathy Parker, attended. Additional guests included Adam Kotanko, Bryce Patz, Rebecca Gale Martinez, Zoe Nyssa and Samy Tindel. Absent was Park Board member, Jim Pitoukkas.

Brandt convened the Board at 4:32 pm.

**Consent Agenda Items**

**Minutes** – provided online

**Staff Management Report**

**PARKS:**

**COVID-19**

The Parks and Recreation Department has remained open to continue to serve the City of West Lafayette, with limited contact with the public. Parks and trails remain open for citizens to be able to walk or just enjoy the outdoors while using social distancing methods. According to trail counts, the citizens of West Lafayette are enjoying our trails approximately twice as much as last year at this time.

**Basketball courts, tennis courts and ball fields** are still open as weather permits. Many individuals and small groups have taken advantage of the opportunity for a pickup game here or there.

**Shelters** closed for the season. No reservations.

**PROGRAMS:**

**All West Lafayette Parks and Recreation programs and activities remain suspended until further notice due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.** This closure which included all workshops, rental groups, as well as all events at the Lilly Nature Center, continues. No classes will be offered at the City Hall Community Building until all COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

**LILLY NATURE CENTER:** Lilly Nature Center remains closed until Spring 2021.

**VOLUNTEERS:** Outdoor volunteering continues to help improve our beautiful parks and nature areas.

**WELLNESS CENTER:** The West Lafayette Wellness Center opened its doors to the public on Saturday January 30, 2021. Over three-hundred individuals toured and talked about membership. Swim lessons sold out in the first two hours. **Membership Sales are brisk. Please consider becoming a member! Apply online at:**  
[Catalog - City of West Lafayette Parks & Recreation \(rec1.com\)](http://rec1.com)

**NOW HIRING:** Wellness Center continues to seek staff members to work part time in the following areas: Custodians, Lifeguards. Swim Instructors, Water Safety, Water Exercise, Group Exercise Instructors, personal trainers, fitness coaches, front desk, housekeeping, childcare and many more.

**Apply online at:**

[Employment opportunities \(in.gov\)](#)

**RIVERSIDE SKATING CENTER:** The skating center is open and doing a brisk business at 50% of capacity.

**Please reserve your skate time online at:**

[Catalog - City of West Lafayette Parks & Recreation \(rec1.com\)](#)

**PLAYGROUNDS:** Open

**DOG PARK:** Stay tuned. Work will resume on an off-leash dog park at Happy Hollow Park as weather permits.

**PARK MAINTENANCE:**

Keeping our parks clean and attractive takes hard work and diligence. Aside from normal activities like mowing, cleaning and mulching, our Parks department accomplished the following list of projects in the past month:

- Preparation for the new building opening
- Snow, snow, snow
- Rink maintenance

Preparation to move into the new facilities is also a primary focus.

**Claims – provided online**

Pat motioned to approve the Consent Agenda Items as presented. David seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**Old Business**

**WL Wellness Center**

- Kevin reported things are moving along after three weeks of being open. We're experiencing some growing pains, but they are all good growing pains. Currently we are over 600 membership units, which is good, considering where we are in terms of COVID, and people's comfort level of coming to facilities such as this one. Summer camp registration is going well. We currently have a couple of weeks that are already filled, with most weeks at about 90% capacity. Group exercise classes are filling up and swim lessons are full. What we are able to offer is filling up, and hopefully as people are able to be vaccinated, we can expand those offerings and offer more classes and programs, along with expanding capacity on our current offerings. Overall, with a brand-new staff, things are going well.
- Kathy added some perspective, noting we currently have 600 membership units, (includes all types of memberships) and our goal is to have 2,000 membership units by the end of the year. We have time, and with COVID, we don't want to bring them on too quickly. We still maintain social distancing to keep everyone safe. Discussion followed.

**Cason Family Park**

- Kathy reported Cason Family Park is moving along. We are almost at 100% of construction documents to build the park, noting an RFP from the Redevelopment Commission was sent

out will be sent out to build the park by the BOT method. It is a new type of construction method that allows for a two-year project to be built in one-year, but not completely clear on the process of how it all works.

- The big news is the West Lafayette Parks & Recreation Foundation is applying for some federal money through the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and are doing a zoning request to change the zoning for the park, which will increase the per acre value of the area. This will, in turn, maximize the amount of grant money available. Any information needed, or questions, can be directed to Andy Gutwein.

#### **Consideration of Special Request – Sammy Tindel**

- Brandt presented a brief overview of Mr. Tindel's request presented at last month's meeting. Mr. Tindel showed pictures representing different views from his property. Discussion followed. Moving forward, Andy suggested we have something in place if we allow the planting of trees by a homeowner, that we have a release from the owner, acknowledging that if we decide later the trees need to be trimmed, or removed, etc., we can do so without any responsibility or liability that the trees will remain on the property. This would allow us not to be stuck with any lingering obligations. The Board agreed with the items outlined by Andy. Per contingency of drawing up a release form with the items outlined items by Andy, Pat motioned to approve the request as presented. Karen seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

#### **New Business**

##### **WLPR Special Event – Run for Justice 2021 (Calvary Church)**

Greg presented information regarding the request. Part of the plans for the Wellness Center was to be able to offer these types of events. The Architects for the Wellness Center laid out four different options/plans for 5K runs, with none of them set in stone. Part of it was to have a designated Start/Finish line right outside of the Community Rooms. The Church is requesting to do this run to raise money for the Human Trafficking for the International Justice System. The main purpose of bringing it before the Board for approval of using the Park, is for using one or two of the Community Rooms if the weather is inclement, for registration, coffee, etc. We would offer this at "no charge" for use of the room(s). Our thought is it would be a potential opportunity for the 250 registrants coming in and seeing the Wellness Center, we would possibly gain some new memberships. Discussion followed. David motioned to approve the request as presented. Karen seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

##### **WLPR Special Event – Girls on the Run Central Indiana**

- Kathy presented some background information about the group, on Lorri Brune's behalf, pertaining to the group's mission and their request. Discussion followed. There was general Board concern regarding setting a precedent regarding no fee vs. fee for use of the Wellness Center. Pat motioned to approve the request, with the contingency of using the Wellness Center if inclement weather or an emergency occurs. Outside of that, arrangements would

need to be made with the Wellness Center personnel, in which a fee would be required for use of the facility. Karen seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**WLPR Special Event – Purdue University Anthropology Department**

- Bryce Patz introduced the group, noting Dr. Nyssa would speak more on the request. Dr. Nyssa spoke briefly about the request before turning in over to Grad student, Rebecca Gale Martinez, who provided a more in-depth look into the research project/survey. Discussion followed. Karen motioned to approve the request as presented. Pat seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**West Lafayette School Board**

- Karen reported the School Corporation will continue to partner with the Indiana Online Academy for High School, Summer School students. The partnership has been going on for several years. It allows students to pay \$50.00 and they can take 1-2 courses maximum. Some students use it as an opportunity to take a class that they might have struggled with during the year. Others utilize the opportunity to take a class, or two, which allows more space in their for electives during the year.
- Last week was disrupted because of the weather. This week will be a four-day week. Friday will be a Staff Development Day (No Students). Last March, the School Corporation hired Dr. Renae Azziz, Director of Virtuoso Education Consulting. All teachers will meet with her in the morning, via Zoom. The topic is “Navigating the Journey Towards Educational Equity”. In the afternoon teachers will have school specific professional development.

**Other**

**Request to use West Lafayette Wellness Center Parking Lot**

- Kathy presented, along with Pat, a request for use of the Wellness Center parking lot for filming a short film. Jason Doty, a West Lafayette resident, and owner of Indiana Filmworks LLC provided an in-depth description, in writing, of the details pertaining to the film. If approved, the plan would be to film on a Saturday evening in early spring (March 27 or April 3, weather dependent) from 7 pm – midnight, after the Wellness Center is closed. It was noted the physical building of the Wellness Center would not be seen in any of the shots, wanting the parking lot location in the film to be as non-descript as possible. Discussion followed. Karen motioned to approve the request as presented. Pat seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**Master Plan**

- Kathy reported a Request for Proposal will be going out for work on a new 5-Year Master Plan for the West Lafayette Parks and Recreation.

**Riverside Skating Center**

- Karen asked about the status of the Rink. Greg responded, noting the Rink had to close for the season due to the unseasonably warm temperatures, which caused the ice to soften too much to remain open.

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**Adjourn**

- David motioned to adjourn the meeting. Pat seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

**Next Meeting Date**

- The next Park Board meeting will be a virtual meeting, Monday, March 22, 2021.

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Presiding Officer

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Secretary