

Peru Park and Recreation Minutes

February 11, 2025

Board Member Ray Zborowski called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm.

Attendance: Board Members – Ray Zborowski, John Fusinatto, Dan Eiten, Jill Bernal, Scotty Miller, Douglas Olivero, Jeff Puetz, Liz Grzybowski, Recreation Manager Seth Brannan, Director of Parks, Recreation and Special Events - Adam Thorson

Absent: Board Member – Steve Michelini, Recreation Manager Seth Brannan

I- Guests: Sherry Mayszak, Jerry Eick

II- Previous Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the January 14, 2025 meeting was made by Ray Z and seconded by John F.

III- Revenue and Expense Report

Adam T presented the Parks expense report and stated that the overall percentage of the budget was good standing, but much of the expenses for the OSLAD grant had not been expensed yet, which would take up a large portion.

IV- New Business

Communications:

Guest Jerry Eich was introduced. Jerry E was a previous Park Board member from 1971-1981, also president of Peru Girls Softball for many years. Jerry stated that there were many issues with diamonds years ago, both surface issues, along with league issues and girls' teams not being able to utilize the diamond as much as boys' teams. Jerry E stated he was on the Park Board when the City of Peru added Sunset Park, Mckinley Park, Rotary Park, and 28th St Park, and for the longest time the only two parks in Peru were the original Washington Park and Centennial Park. Jerry E stated that Peru has by far the best parks in the area and is happy to see them well kept at a high standard. Jerry E proposed an idea to the Park Board on Peru being known for something special. Jerry's proposed idea was that Peru should be known for their City Parks and a motto should be put in place regarding the City parks and posted on the City signs welcoming people into Peru.

Adam T and the board agreed that we can place this item on next month's Park Board agenda for discussion. Adam T and the board thanked Jerry E for his proposal to the City, along with thanking him for his commitment years ago for his role in bringing more parks to the City of Peru.

Ray Z stated the timer of the lights at the dog park needs to be adjusted, some of the dog equipment needs to be replaced because it has started to show its age, and one of the lights is currently burnt out.

Liz G stated that Peru Catholic, Trinity, and Holy Family have formed a committee and plan to consolidate athletic teams, some of which play their home baseball games in Peru.

V Unfinished Business

2025 Easter:

Adam T asked the board if they had any suggestions on how to better control the Easter Egg Hunt that we have had in previous years at Centennial Park. Many ideas were considered, the final idea and most agreeable was to consider moving the event to Washington Park and using the baseball diamonds for certain age groups to be able to control the attendees. The event is planned for Saturday, April 12 beginning at 11am for a Reserved Sensory Hour, followed at noon for children of all ages, separated in different diamonds.

Discuss 2025 League Ceremony:

Adam T stated that with the Peru Little League merger, there will be many more kids involved in the league, which would result in a larger event at Washington Park. Adam T spoke with an employee from the City of Oglesby and mentioned Peru could be host to the event, but Oglesby would like to have a part in it as well, along with hosting an event to kickoff the season as well. Liz G suggested waiting until after registration was completed to see how many kids are expected to play in the league and proceeding from there. Adam T stated that he does not expect Park Board member Liz G to take on the role of having to coordinate a larger event with all towns combining, like Liz G has previously done with just the Peru league. Adam T believes the City's can host the event and assist to supply what is needed, but the league coordinates the event.

Discuss Washington Park OSLAD Grant:

Adam T stated that the sidewalks throughout the West side of the park have been completed and that the bid for the rest of the project including the ice rink chillers had been awarded to Ski Sealcoating and Maintenance. At this time, the City was awaiting word from Ski Sealcoating on which supplier they were planning to use for the chiller and piping system. The project is expected to be completed by the Fall of 2025 and the rink operational for skaters in the Winter of 2025.

Discuss 2025 Summer Events:

Adam T stated that he has almost finished planning the summer events and should be completed by the end of February. The plan at this time is to have 8 Music Under the Oaks concerts, a Movie in the Park, Comedy Night which is new this year, and a Blue's Night to end the music season, along with the bigger events such as July 3rd fireworks show and The Taste of the Illinois Valley scheduled for July 31, August 1 and August 2.

Ray Z stated that the Touch a Truck event should be moved this year to Saturday, June 28 to prevent conflicts with the Oglesby festival and Spring Valley festival. There were no issues with that request and the event will take place Saturday, June 28 at Centennial Park.

Discuss 2025 Park Projects:

Adam T suggested moving forward with the process of trying to fund the project at Washington Park considering how much activity Happ Field gets, and the need for improvements.

Adam T stated that there is an upcoming meeting with Cunningham Recreation taking place at McKinley Park to see what park playground upgrades can be made. Adam T stated that the City hopes to take advantage of the grant again this year, which has assisted in being able to improve Sunset Park and 28th St Park.

Adam T stated that the pickleball courts at Veteran's Park are currently not in the plans for the upcoming year, due to the increase in courts in the surrounding areas. The City is taking a "wait and see" kind of approach on this to gauge if the need is there as much after many courts are being constructed locally. Adam T recommended this item being tabled to the City Council during a Committee Meeting in February.

Ray Z stated that the concession stand at Sunset Park that Peru Girls Softball utilizes is in need of improvements, or replacement sometime in the near future.

VII- Public Comment

VII- Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 7:25pm was made by Ray Z and seconded by Dan E. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

*** Minutes submitted by Adam Thorson