

Peru Park and Recreation Minutes

August 13, 2024

Board President Steve Michelini called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Attendance: Board Members – Steve Michelini, John Fusinato, Dan Eiten, Jill Bernal, Director of Parks, Recreation and Special Events - Adam Thorson

Absent: Board Member - Liz Grzybowski, Jeff Puetz, Ray Zborowski. Recreation Manager Seth Brannan

I- Guests: Alderman Andy Moreno, Mayor Ken Kolowski, Peru Resident Connie Schwingle

II- Previous Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the July 9, 2024 meeting was made by Dan E and seconded by John F.

III- Revenue and Expense Report

Adam T presented the Parks expense report. Stated that the Events/Programs line item was over budget due to not factoring in 2024 camp materials in the original budgeted figure. Also, Taste of the Illinois Valley expenses are shown, but not sponsor revenue which assists with canceling out expenses.

IV- New Business

Communications:

Adam T stated that GMB baseball's request to use Peru diamonds on weekends in September has been approved. The weekends are September 14, 15 and September 28, 29. The age groups are 12u, 13u, & 14u. Games will be played at Veteran's Park and one age group at Washington Park the second weekend.

Adam T stated the Taste of the Illinois Valley feedback was positive, especially regarding the Kids Fun Zone. The City has received many positive comments about the free activities that are provided. The sponsor revenue was \$23,750 and the 50/50 winner won \$4,000. Expenses are still being calculated and can be shared during the September meeting.

Update 28th St Park:

Adam T provided a rendering of 28th St Park and what the project will look like once completed. The total price of the playground equipment is \$106,727.65. The total price of the installation of the equipment is \$50,840. The total price for surfacing is \$13,371. The proposal for the concrete border is \$14,628. The project total calculates to \$185,566.65. The order will be placed, with the delivery in September and final installation in October. Adam T also stated that the current playground at the park will be torn down on September 1.

There was discussion on which direction the playground should be situated, discussing if swings should be closer to the road or if the play set be closer to the road. Adam T mentioned that a location of utilities would likely determine where certain things are installed.

Dan E asked if the sidewalk from the road is part of the concrete proposal. Adam T said it was not included in this proposal and that just the concrete border/sidewalk is included but can be done later.

Update Sunset Park:

Adam T stated that new sport lighting will begin to be installed at Sunset Park by the end of September by the Electric Department. Once the project is completed, the cost of the lights is fully reimbursed to the City of Peru.

Adam T stated once the lights are completed, concrete work and backstop work for the diamond will begin.

Discuss Washington Park OSLAD Grant:

Adam T stated that the City is working with Chamlin to put bid documents together for the chiller project.

Adam T stated that he is working with Cunningham Recreation – GameTime to get pricing on other parts of the project at Washington Park, which includes stationary exercise equipment along a new sidewalk path through the park and a challenge course. The timeline for these items would be ordering in the fall and installation in the spring of 2025.

Jill B asked if the City had received the \$600,000 from the State of Illinois. Adam T, Mayor Ken K and Alderman Andy M all stated that we have received \$300,000 from the State and the other 50% later.

Mayor Ken K stated that the City of Peru matched the total of \$600,000, plus an additional \$200,000 to make a total of \$800,000 of City funds and \$600,000 from the State of Illinois, for a grand total of \$1.4m project at Washington Park.

Discuss Splash Pad:

In the absence of Seth B, Adam T stated that the Splash Pad is returning to back-to-school hours, which are 4-7pm and that the facility closes on Labor Day weekend.

Discuss Music Under the Oaks:

Adam T stated there are two more events left. Saturday, August 17 She's a Maybe from 6-9pm with Maria's food truck. Also, Friday, September 6 Those 2 Guys Plus 1 from 6-9pm, which is a makeup date from June 18.

Discuss Central States Regional Tournament:

Adam T stated that Michigan won the tournament, and the dates next year are TBA.

Discuss Pickleball Courts:

Adam T stated that in the last week the City had decided to wait until the Spring of 2025 to construct new pickleball courts at Veteran's Park on the concrete parking lot East of the dog park. The plan includes 8 new courts. The project will continue to be discussed at the committee meetings to decide how to proceed.

Discuss Park Board Member Terms:

Adam T mentioned that each Park Board Member's term is due to expire at the end of September, and for each member to decide if they would like to be re-appointed to another term on the board.

V Unfinished Business

VII- Public Comment

Connie Schwingle stated that the new updates at Sunset Park are fantastic, along with the planned update at 28th St Park. Connie S asked if there was a plan for McKinley Park yet. Adam T stated there has not yet been conversations on which park to look at updating yet for 2025.

Dan E mentioned the West side parking lot at Baker Lake has recently had an increase of speeding traffic. Adam T stated that it would be relayed onto the Peru Police Department.

VII- Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 6:59pm was made by Dan E and seconded by John F. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

*** Minutes submitted by Adam Thorson