

## **Peru Park and Recreation Minutes**

**March 11, 2025**

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

**Attendance:** Board Members – Steve Michelini, Ray Zborowski, John Fusinatto, Jill Bernal, Douglas Olivero, Jeff Puetz, Recreation Manager Seth Brannan, Director of Parks, Recreation and Special Events - Adam Thorson

**Absent:** Board Member – Liz Grzybowski, Dan Eiten, Scotty Miller

**I- Guests:** None

### **II- Previous Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes from the February 11, 2025 meeting was made by John F and seconded by Ray Z.

### **III- Revenue and Expense Report**

Adam T presented the Parks expense report. Questions regarding Engineering Expenses were raised and Adam T stated that the expenses were from the OSLAD project at Washington Park. The Airshow line item was also questioned, Adam T stated that it was over budget because the City provided \$175,000 for the 2025 show, rather than the budgeted \$125,000.

### **IV- New Business**

#### **Communications:**

Steve M asked if getting batting cages at Sunset Park was an option. Adam T stated that the plan for the green space in the park is for parking at some point in the future, so we would have to wait to see where batting cages could be placed when needed.

Seth B stated that a back up pump for the splash pad should be ordered and in stock in case needed this summer. Adam T stated that he would speak with TEST Inc and make sure that we have the pump.

### **V Unfinished Business**

#### **2025 Easter:**

Adam T stated the Easter event will be Saturday, April 12 at Washington Park beginning at 11am for the Sensory Hour, followed at 12pm for others. There will not be a rain date. Age groups will be split up into different ball diamonds. Adam T mentioned that anyone available to assist with setting up the event and staying throughout the event would be greatly appreciated and to arrive to Washington Park between 10-10:30am and we would finish around 12:30pm.

**Discuss City Park Signs:**

Adam T and the board agreed that we could ask Jerry E, guest at the February meeting who proposed the idea of City Park signage to mockup a drawing and get his ideas for what this idea would look like, and then we can proceed from there.

**Discuss 2025 League Ceremony:**

Adam T explained the league merger and mentioned at this time we are unsure of where the league ceremony is going to take place with other cities involved. Board President Steve M asked if we could invite the League President to our next meeting to get a better understanding of what the league will look like.

**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. 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 finished planning the summer events. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

Seth B stated that there are 26 weeklong confirmed camps, with 9 more being discussed. There are 2 confirmed 1-day camps. Along with 5 confirmed 6-week long programs which is the same as previous years. Camp signup begins online on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Discuss 2025 Park Projects:**

Adam T stated that he is working alongside Alderman Andy Moreno, Parks Foreman Bob Ghighi, and Park board member Ray Zborowski to get a plan for the project at Washington Park for Happ Field. Andy Moreno is assisting by speaking to the unions to assist with getting the project completed Fall 2025.

Adam T has met with Cunningham Recreation about plans for McKinley Park. He mentioned that we should have pricing in the next month, and that the City will look into taking advantage of the grant that we have been awarded in recent years to assist in completing the park playground projects.

**VII- Public Comment**

**VII- Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn at 6:54pm was made by Ray Z and seconded by Jeff P. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

\*\*\* Minutes submitted by Adam Thorson