

Peru Park and Recreation Minutes

April 8, 2025

Board President Steve M called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

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

Absent: Board Member – Liz Grzybowski, John Fusinatto

I- Guests: Mayor Ken Kolowski, Alderman Andy Moreno

II- Previous Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the March 11, 2025 meeting was made by Jeff P and seconded by Ray Z.

III- Revenue and Expense Report

Adam T presented the Parks expense report. Questions regarding Construction were asked and Adam T stated that a large amount of that budgeted construction expense will be moved to FY26 to continue the OSLAD project at Washington Park.

IV- New Business

Communications:

Seth B gave an overview of the 2025 summer camps and programs that the City of Peru is offering. Seth B stated that there are 5 programs that are 6 weeks long, along with 44 summer camps.

V Unfinished Business

2025 Easter:

Adam T stated the Easter event will be Saturday, April 12 at Centennial Park beginning at 11am for the Sensory Hour, followed at 12pm for others. There will not be a rain date. 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 at Centennial Park between 10-10:30am and we would finish around 12:30pm.

Discuss 2025 League Ceremonies:

Adam T stated that the IV Baseball League ceremony would take place in Oglesby on Saturday, May 3, and that the City of Peru would host the 2026 ceremony. Adam T stated that the Peru Girls Softball ceremony would take place at McKinley Park on Saturday May 3.

Discuss 2025 Projects:

Adam T reported that there is a group working to complete the diamond project at Washington Park's Happ Field. This project will likely begin in the Fall of 2025 once the summer season and school seasons end. The goal is to have this project completed by the spring of 2026. This project includes new dugouts, backstop, storage/announcing booth, and tearing out the current bleacher system to have a complete and more updated field for games and tournaments that take place at the facility throughout the year.

Adam T reported that there is a plan made for restructuring the playground equipment at McKinley Park if the budget allows. This includes keeping the current swing set at the park since it is not outdated but removing the current play system and replacing it. Adam T stated if allowed to proceed, he would apply for the grant that has assisted the City of Peru in funding the recent playground projects.

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 3rd fireworks show and The Taste of the Illinois Valley scheduled for July 31, August 1 and August 2. Adam T reported that he is working on scheduling food vendors for these events.

Ray Z stated that the Touch a Truck event will 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 FY26 Budget:

Adam T reported that there have been meetings with the Finance Director, Mayor Kolowski and Finance Chairman Payton about the upcoming budget and what projects can be completed in the upcoming fiscal year. A better idea of the budget should be had by the May meeting.

VII- Public Comment

Mayor Ken Kolowski stated that the engineering department is working on a master plan for Baker Lake.

Mayor Ken Kolowski stated that July 2026 is USA's 250th birthday and to begin brainstorming ideas for the celebration.

Mayor Ken Kolowski stated that the North Peoria water tower is going to get painted and any creative ideas are welcome.

VII- Adjournment A motion to adjourn at 6:57pm was made by Dan E and seconded by Jeff P. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned. *** Minutes submitted by Adam Thorson