

## **Peru Park and Recreation Minutes**

**May 13, 2025**

Board President Steve M called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

**Attendance:** Board Members – Steve Michelini, Ray Zborowski, John Fusinatto, 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

**I- Guests:** Alderman Bob Tieman

### **II- Previous Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes from the April 8, 2025 meeting was made by Ray Z and seconded by Dan E.

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

Adam T presented the Parks expense report. Adam T stated that we are currently in FY 26, but the new budget has not been approved at that time and is expected to be finalized and approved in the upcoming weeks.

### **IV- New Business**

#### **Communications:**

Ray Z mentioned a wiffle ball league might be worth looking into. The league could begin in the fall and play on Saturday or Sunday mornings at Washington Park. Adam T stated that he could call the local men's softball league to see if there is any interest in coordinating the league.

Ray Z mentioned that he fielded a complaint from a Peru resident claiming that their child is part of the new combined Little League, and the child has very little practices and games in Peru.

Seth B gave an update on camps/programs stating that roughly half of the camps are 70% full and overall, the signups are going well.

Adam T stated that the splash pad repairs have been completed, other than the concrete stitching which is scheduled before opening day.

Steve M requested that McKinley Park batting cages could get a sign that states that Peru Girls Softball has priority to utilize.

Jill B stated that 28<sup>th</sup> St Park is getting a lot of usage, but the ground restoration mats are beginning to make it hard for kids to walk in the grass without tripping. Adam T stated that we can likely begin cutting the green space there now that it has grown and shred the pieces.

## **V Unfinished Business**

### **2025 Events:**

Adam T stated that Touch a Truck would be held at Centennial Park on Saturday, June 28 from 12-3pm. Ray Z stated that this date was chosen so there would be no conflicts with neighboring community events that weekend. Ray Z and Steve M will have all the vehicles and equipment coordinated. Adam T would find an organization to sell food during the event, along with reserving inflatables for children.

Adam T stated that the first Music Under the Oaks is Friday, May 23 and the Tim Ajster band will be performing, Mario Data providing sound and Thyme Craft Kitchen serving food.

### **Discuss Washington Park OSLAD:**

Adam T stated that the playground equipment and the standalone exercise equipment that will be installed at Washington Park will be approved by the City Council and ordered with the vendor by Memorial Day weekend. The ice rink work is ongoing.

### **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 stated that McKinley Park improvements will likely be pushed back a year due to a 13% budget cut to all City of Peru departments.

### **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. All City of Peru departments were asked to cut 13% of their proposed budget. Adam T stated that the Parks department cuts included McKinley Park playground improvements, and decreasing costs with the new playground and exercise equipment for Washington Park. These decreases amounted to \$319,000 worth of cut expenses.

## **VII- Public Comment**

**VII- Adjournment** A motion to adjourn at 7:03pm was made by John F and seconded by Ray Z. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

\*\*\* Minutes submitted by Adam Thorson