

## **Peru Park and Recreation Minutes**

**October 14, 2025**

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

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

**Absent:** Board Members – Liz Grzybowski, Dan Eiten

**Guests:** None

### **Previous Minutes –**

A motion to approve the minutes from the September 9, 2025 meeting was made by Doug O and seconded by Jill B.

### **Expense Report –**

Adam T presented the parks expense report. Adam T reported that the department is currently on track with finances.

### **New Business**

#### **Communications:**

Ray Z stated that he recently went to the new Challenge Course at Washington Park and there were many kids with parents there. Stating that the course was well designed and extremely well done, applauding all involved to make it happen.

Ray Z stated that Music Under the Oaks on September 19 was successful and that someone mentioned to him that a Beatles Tribute band would be nice to have next summer. John F named the Fab 4, and Ray Z named American English as Beatles bands.

Seth B stated that Waltham had their first soccer season at Veteran's Park this fall, and it was great and will request use of the park in 2026.

Jill B stated it would be a new idea to host a night at the park next summer or fall to watch an MLB baseball game on an inflatable screen for those that do not want to watch at home or go to a bar to watch.

Adam T stated that the recent Blues Night at Centennial Park was successful, and applauded Alderman Rick O'Sadnick for his assistance with coordinating the event and having the contacts to get the Blue's members to Peru.

### **Update Washington Park OSLAD:**

Adam T stated that the Challenge Course is now completed, and the 40-yard dash is scheduled to be completed in the upcoming week. The standalone exercise equipment along West Street is nearly completed with 4 out of 6 stations. There was a manufacturing error and the parts needed to be ordered to complete the other two stations.

Adam T stated that the ice chiller unit is scheduled to be delivered on Thursday, October 16.

Adam T stated that the bocce ball court in the park will not be completed until spring 2026.

### **Update Washington Park Happ Field:**

Adam T stated the tear down of the bleachers and the old fencing has been completed. The forming of the concrete work is ongoing, and half of the concrete has been poured. The fencing quote for \$30,000 from Illinois Valley Fencing will be approved on Monday, October 20. Adam T, Alderman Andy Moreno and Parks Foreman Bob Ghighi are working with Mertel Gravel to receive materials donated to complete the project but pay Ladzinski's for the labor.

### **Discuss 2025 Halloween in the Park:**

Adam T stated that the event is scheduled for Saturday, October 25 from 12:30-3pm at Washington Park. 12:30-1pm is reserved for Sensory Time.

Adam T stated that many local businesses will be in attendance participating in the Trick or Treat, along with the Hocus Pocus Hags, Didoughs Pretzels, and the Peru Police and Fire Departments.

Steve M stated that County Kids will donate pumpkins for the event.

Adam T stated that Trick or Treat will be Friday, October 31 from 5-7pm.

### **Discuss Christmas Event:**

Adam T stated that the Christmas Parade is scheduled for Saturday, December 6 at 5pm. Lineup begins at Washington Park at 4pm and will follow the same route as previous years.

Adam T stated that parade information will be released by October 17.

### **Public Comment:**

Ray Z stated that the new dog park on Water Street looks nice but questioned if there was now any space for the kids' activities for the event on July 3. Adam T mentioned that he was told there would still be space for those activities.

Adam T stated that the Baker Lake walking path construction started on Monday, October 13 and will be completed by early December.

Adam T stated that the next Park Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 11, but the City offices are closed for Veteran's Day. The board decided to move the meeting ahead a day to Monday, November 10 at 6pm following the City of Peru Committee meeting.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn was made at 6:48pm by Ray Z and 2<sup>nd</sup> by John F.