

The Regular Park Board Meeting of the Town of Schererville, Indiana, was called to order by President Brad Bassick, at 5:00 p.m. in the Schererville Town Hall, 10 East Joliet Street, Schererville, Indiana.

The Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance was taken with the following Board Members present: Brad Bassick, Ed Repay, Nicole Kelly, and Jen Wilson. Board Members not present: Joe Skvarek. Staff members present: Superintendent John Novacich, Assistant Superintendent Irene Mireles, Facilities Supervisor Karley Morris, Attorney Christian Bartholomew, Councilwoman Robin Arvanitis and Recording Secretary Kristen Bohling.

THEREUPON, Approval of minutes for January 3, 2024

Ms. Kelly made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 3, 2024 meeting, seconded by Ms. Wilson. All in favor (4-0).

Mr. Bassick said if the Board agreed he would like to skip ahead to Business from the Floor as there is an audience. The Board agreed.

THEREUPON, Business from the floor

Alexis Monrostro, 3417 West 78th Avenue, in Merrillville, introduced herself to the Board. She informed the Board that she has a son on the spectrum. She requested that Board consider creating a park that for special needs children. Mr. Bassick said that one of the ideas for the Illiana Property is to develop an inclusive park. Ms. Monrostro, also requested that there be more programs for those with special needs. Mr. Novacich said that the Parks Department is part of a cooperative with CSRI and the Department would look into doing more with them.

Nicole Carillo, from 5805 Iris Lane, approached the Board and said that inclusive programs is an area that the Park Department falls short. Ms. Carillo said that speaking with local therapy agencies, is great place to start to create programs.

THEREUPON, Correspondence NONE

THEREUPON, Reports

ITEM A. Staff

Mr. Novacich said there was a preconstruction meeting for Autumn Creek Park and all the contracts were signed. He said that work should begin this month.

Ms. Mireles presented an overview of accomplishments and revenue numbers for the Park Department in 2023.

Mr. Skvarek arrived at 5:51pm.

THEREUPON, Old Business

ITEM A. Consider Approval of Tri-Town Safety Village Special Event Request

Councilwoman Arvanitis said Bill Jarvis, from the Safety Village, has not yet received his Special Event Permit from the Town, which is why he did not attend tonight's meeting.

Mr. Bassick asked staff what the guidelines are to waive a fee for In-Town 501c3 organization. Staff began searching for the guidelines.

Mr. Repay made a motion table the request until later in the meeting, seconded by Ms. Wilson. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM B. Consider Approval of Schererville Soccer Lease Agreement

Mr. Novacich said that the Schererville Soccer Club President reviewed the lease with the rest of their Board and approved it.

Mr. Repay made a motion to approve the Soccer lease for 2024, seconded by Ms. Kelly. All in favor (5-0).

Mr. Repay made a motion to untable the Safety Village's event request. Ms. Kelly seconded the motion.

ITEM A. Consider Approval of Tri-Town Safety Village Special Event Request

Ms. Mireles informed the Board that the full fee for a public event would be \$540.00, plus a \$250.00 security deposit.

Mr. Repay made a motion to accept the Tri-Town Safety Village Special Event Request on Saturday, August 17, for a fee of \$250.00, plus \$250.00 security deposit. Mr. Skvarek seconded the motion. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM C. Any other from Park Board NONE

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. Any other from Park Board NONE

THEREUPON, Business from the floor

Terry Jones, from 1709 Kennedy Avenue, Schererville, approached the Board to speak about the need for inclusive parks. Mr. Bassick informed Ms. Jones of what was discussed earlier in the meeting.

Norma Santiago, from 5816 Arrowhead Court, Schererville, approached the Board also to discuss the Town's need for inclusive parks and activities. Ms. Santiago, also said she saw that New York had a Boston Terrier Festival and thought that could be something we could do in Schererville.

Mr. Repay made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Kelly.

Next Park Board meeting is on March 6, 2024 at 6pm.

NICOLE KELLY
PARK BOARD SECRETARY

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