



VALPARAISO/CENTER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF PARKS & RECREATION

Regular Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2025

The regular meeting of the Valparaiso Park/Center Township Board was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at the Forest Park Golf Course Welter Room. Vice President Mark Hardwick presided.

Members present: Kevin Cornett, Mark Hardwick, Martin Sonnenberg, Don Clark and Kay Magnetti. President Tim Warner was absent. Also present were Park Director Kevin Nuppau, Assistant Director Tristan Leonhard, Director of Events & Venues Dan McGuire, Recreation Superintendent Madison Bell, Administrative Assistant Tracy Betustak, Special Events Director Tyler Ingram, Maintenance and Facilities Director Matt Slack, Special Projects Director Chuck Gleason, Councilwoman Diana Reed, Special Guest Presenter Bob McKinney, and Chris Savoia and John Kish of Berglund Construction. Public guests included Jessica Kroenke, Taysha Thompson, Sandy Belancin, Madilyn Mayernik of Holladay Construction Group, Shane Osborne of New Tech, and Matt Gariup of Gariup Construction.

MINUTES:

Motion: Martin Sonnenberg made a motion to approve February 25, 2025, regular meeting minutes as presented. Kevin Cornett seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and unanimously carried.

Motion: Martin Sonnenberg made a motion to approve February 25, 2025, Executive Session meeting minutes as presented. Don Clark seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and unanimously carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Valpo Parks Update - Kevin Nuppau announced that we are going to first do the ValPLAYso Improvement Project Bid Opening. There are six bids. Kevin thanked the project team for getting us to this point, V3 Engineering & Design Firm and Berglund Construction.

John Kish will do the reading of the bids. The bid will be awarded at the Board of Works meeting on March 28, 11:00 a.m. at City Hall.

BIDS: (Envelopes opened by VP Mark Hardwick, Read by John Kish of Berglund Construction.)

Gariup Construction	\$463,700
Hasse Construction	\$443,000
Larsen Danielson	\$469,715
Holladay Const.Group	\$475,000
Gough Inc	\$526,000
New Tech	\$474,575

Kevin announced that Berglund Construction would be out in the hallway if anyone had any questions. At this point in the meeting Kish, Savoia, Thompson, Belancin, Mayernik, Osborne and Gariup all left the room.) Kevin said the bids would be taken under advisement and then go before the Board of Works with a recommendation on March 28th.

The Valpo Parks Update continued.

Mark Hardwick asked if any of the bids included lights. Kevin replied that none of them had lighting. The base bid did not include lighting. But the way the park layout is designed, lights can be added immediately or later.

Kevin introduced Tyler Ingram the new Special Events Director and welcomed him to the team. Madison Bell gave an update for Spring Giving. We gathered 800 more items than last year, reaching almost 3000 items total. Some local businesses also collected then brought their items into us. We then delivered the items to Vale and helped sort them. Madison thanked everyone for participating. Kevin gave credit to the Parks team, including Maintenance, as they wrap up from winter, while simultaneously unfolding for spring.

Valpo Parks Foundation Update - Kevin Cornett – A tour was scheduled of Discovery Cottage for Foundation Board members and several attended. It really brought about many thoughts about expanding and improving the program and building.

Party in the Park has chosen to do a lip sync battle. The event is June 6, 6-9pm.

The Foundation Board won the Spring Giving contest and received Parlor Donuts at the last meeting.

Stratelign Presentation: Bob McKinney from Stratelign gave a presentation on Stratelign's Energy Audit of all our facilities. The report will be made available to the Park Board members.

FINANCIALS:

Tristan Leonhard reported that the General Fund Balance as of February 28, 2025, is \$377,687. The NRO Balance is \$1,095,539. The total balance of the two funds is \$1,473,227.

Looking at the appropriations for the department General Fund you can see everything tracks year over year and no abnormal expenditures. We are actually tracking slightly ahead of fiscal year 2024.

Motion: Martin Sonnenberg made a motion to approve the financials as presented. Kay Magnetti seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and unanimously carried.

CLAIMS: Mark Hardwick advised that claims documents were provided to members in advance of tonight's meeting. There were no questions.

Motion: Martin Sonnenberg made a motion to approve all presented monthly claims subject to appropriations balances. Don Clark seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and unanimously carried.

DIVISION REPORT:

The Division Report was provided to the Members in advance of tonight's meeting for their review.

Q. Martin Sonnenberg asked if the Bender Golf Teehouse was going well.

A. Tristan replied that we are putting on the finishing touches of the Gariup work.

BOARD ACTION:

NRO Transfer – Tristan Leonhard – We are asking for an NRO transfer of \$350,000 to the General Fund. This is the 2nd of 3 requests. This is all in line with our projections from last fall.

Motion: Martin Sonnenberg made a motion to approve the \$350,000 NRO transfer to the General Fund. Kevin Cornett seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and unanimously carried.

OPEN TOPICS:

Neighborhood Grants – Kevin Nuppnau – Five projects were granted through the Redevelopment Commission’s Neighborhood Grants. We’d like to share them here.

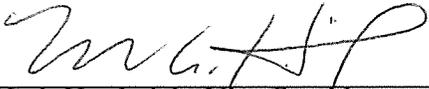
- **Banta Neighborhood Assoc** – Applied for an art sculpture to be added to the Banta property.
- **Jefferson Park Association** - Pollinator Garden and art sculpture in 200 East Park.
- **Jessee Pifer Neighborhood** – Social space in the park for adults.
- **Berkley Neighborhood** – Concrete game table in the park.
- **Will Park** – Tree plantings throughout the neighborhood and in the park.

rePLAY Update – Kevin Nuppnau – Fairgrounds Park, Butterfield Pavilion are getting significant work done and the parking lot lights were changed out to LED’s. Tower Park will be the next project you’ll see in its totality and the next one we bring before you for bid opening or awarding.

Comment: Kevin Cornett shared a concern of a citizen that the ValPLAYso playground has poor sightlines and two exits for kids to escape. Kevin asked that we take that under consideration as we design playgrounds and look into options at that location.

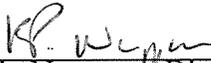
ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business the March 18, 2025, Park Board meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.



Mark Hardwick, Vice President

ATTEST:



Kevin Nuppnau, Director