

ROCHESTER PARK & RECREATION BOARD MEETING MEETING MINUTES

Date: 7/14//2025

Time: 6:00PM

Location: 320 Main Street, Rochester, IN 46975

1. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 6:00pm.
- Pledge

2. Roll Call

- **Board Members Present:**
 - Kim Landis, President
 - Ed Richard, Vice President
 - Mitch Hayes, Board Member
 - Jon Burnett, Board Member
- **Board Members Absent:**
 - N/A

3. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

- Motion to approve minutes by Ed Richard.
- Seconded by Mitch Hayes
- Motion carried/failed. Motion carried.

4. Public Comments

- N/A

5. Old Business/Reports

Kim Landis - Creating a parking lot at City Park

- An area across from the baseball field has been marked off with stakes for potential use as overflow parking. Currently, attendees are parking in the grass and using the adjacent field during events, which has highlighted the need for a more permanent solution.
- Billy Morris provided a quote for leaving the area open and installing gravel to create a designated parking lot. The estimated cost is approximately \$2,000 with REMC, with the possibility of donated lighting to support evening use.
- The board acknowledged the growing need for additional parking during events and will continue exploring this option.
- E&B Paving - gravel this year, and next year and have them pave it. 37 spots minimum with room to expand.
- Zimplemans Quote - \$36,275
- Bill Morris - \$33,172 (REMC fee included)
- Disc golf reconfigured.
- Motion to accept bid by Ed Richard. Jon Burnnett Second motion. Motion carried.

Kim - Pavilion

- Up to \$15,000 to finish pavilion at the city
- Ed Made a Motion. Jon second.

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Kim - Alcohol sales to Lee

- Raise petty cash from \$2,000 to \$3,000
- Mitch made a motion to approve. Ed second. Motion carried.

- Redid entrance to the park with flowers and created another flower bed along the trail by the golf course.

Anthony Johnson - Course Maintenance

- Lightening strike blew out a line
- Storm clean up for 2 weeks
- Replaced drain lines - on 15 and 12. Found some issues on 8, 9, 10, and 17.
- Mower should be in by August
- Geese issues - get permits ready for when they need to round them up. Has to be within park limits

Lee - Course Update

- Up \$5K from last year to date.
- Little City Tour - 72 golfers (6 years old to 17 years old)
- Upcoming events
- Starting next week - kids clinic starts
- Getting prepared for Mayor's outing - need more teams

Driving Range

- Lee owns driving range equipment not the property
- Making an agreement to be signed by the park
- Potentially fencing in the range.
- Make a motion to approve a memorandum to sign an annual contract for next year.

Lori Simpson - City Pool Update

- Square Reports
- Saturday - 27, 083
- Chicken sales - subtracted \$410
- Duane -subtracted \$152.40
- 4,982 attendees. Almost even from last year after opening 24 days later than 2024.
- Swim Lessons - 76 swim lessons in 8 days. Collected \$3,000. The health department will double the amount.
- Pool running great with no mechanical issues.
- Possible shed replacement in the future, roughly the same size, not smaller. Only a few things stored inside. Pitch being a student project.

Landon Notz/Duane Border - Park Supervisor and Maintenance

Daily duties: Bathrooms/Mowing/Landscaping/Trash/Inspections/Maintenance etc.

City Park

- Helped with Parks Program
- Repaired water fountain

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- Power washed bathrooms
- Power washed pavilions
- Painted bathrooms

Fansler Park

- Power washed bathrooms and pavilion
- Painted bathrooms

Boat Ramp

- Power washed bathrooms and pavilion
- Painted Bathrooms
- Raked sand at lake
- Prepared for kids that came from Kokomo

Golf Course

- Installed new American Flag

Pool

- Painted small bathroom
- Replumbed pool bathrooms
- Patched roof (holes from previous pavilion)
- Installed screen door at concession stand
- Lifeguard stands installed
- Installed privacy wall for bathrooms
- Pool chemicals
- Repaired faucets and showers
- Replaced cracked toilet
- Repaired broken pool ladder
- Power washed pickleball court

Lindsay Barts - Summer Parks Program

- Attendance - highest was the second week
- Still have 50 kids every day this week with the first time having the program in July and the 4H fair.
- Meeting with Jana Vance about the day care integration as fundraising, aftercare, before activity and work out details.
- Transportation seems to be the biggest issue. Most kids are attending who registered.
- Budget - in total (all weeks), total spent was \$21K by the end of July. Original was \$44K. Less because the kids didn't use as many hours. Doesn't include \$8K of grants coming through.
- Good Oil Grant - receive end of July
- Duke Energy - Beth's department at City Hall needs to get involved. Issues with the portal and asking for documents to be filled that Lindsay can not provide and needs extra assistance.
- Chicken sales. Info provided in pool section of minutes.

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Jessica Shafer - Marketing Update

SWIM

- Serenity on the Water marketing prep - July 15th (45 have signed up) - 50 max (working with rebekah and she has the RSVP list and will check people in.) fundraiser for the pool pavilion.
- Adult pool party marketing done this week and approved by board to post

PARKS

- Take new summer photos
- Create Summer Newsletter (park program, pool update, swing for the parks, 5 year plan is completed and approved, liberty tree, pool ceremony)
- Christopher with Light Up Rochester would like to work with the park to do a back to school event for the kids either this year or next.
- Switched outdoor yoga with Roots over the Lakeside on the beach. Visited the Butterfly garden.

JUNE ANALYTICS - Past 28 Days

Parks Facebook Overview

Views - (% from followers, % from non-followers)

Reach - (from followers, from non-followers)

Content interactions - (from followers, from non-followers)

Followers - (New)

Parks Website Overview - Last 30 Days

- Site Sessions - 2,742 +18% (1,944 unique visitors) +22%
- Clicks toTop traffic sources
 - >Google (Organic) - 1,734
 - >Direct - 1,207
 - >Facebook (Organic) Sessions - 341
 - >Top page visit - Golf (1,012) Swim (1,083)

Golf's Google

- People viewed your Business Profile - 1,201
- Asked for direction - 291
- Calls - 302
- Website Clicks - 779
- Searches - 621

Top search terms

1. golf course - 145
2. round barn golf club, lakeview drive, rochester, in - 126
3. golf courses near me - 96

Park's Google

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- People viewed your Business Profile - 588
- Directions (City Hall) - 54
- Website Clicks - 23

Pool's Google

- People viewed your Business Profile - 1,375
- Calls - 205
- Directions - 183
- Website Clicks - 491
- Searches - 430

Top search terms

1. pools near me 100
2. public pools near me - 65
3. rochester city pool, east 6th street, rochester, in - 62

6. New Business

Debbie Fernandez - Celebrate Recovery

- Recovery event in September for Recovery Month
- Event at the park
- Becky Clark - Peer recovery services
- Recovery day of service - community, giving back to an organization, for fulton county, host a sober event, a movie about addiction, live testimonies, show what services are available locally
- Board will discuss with

Trent Odell - Potential Field House/YMCA Facility

- A group is exploring the possibility of developing a Field House or YMCA-style facility in the community. There are plans to sit down with Jana to review preliminary concepts and bring in a team to evaluate the project and potential locations.
- They are currently seeking acreage suitable for the facility. One possible site under consideration is the northeast corner near the house recently acquired by the Parks Department. If the adjacent property becomes available for purchase, it could present a strong opportunity for development.

Jana Vance

Summer Parks Program & Future School-Based Daycare Collaboration

- The board expressed appreciation for the Summer Parks Program and acknowledged past collaboration efforts, particularly with Lindsay.
- It was shared that beginning in summer 2026, the school district plans to open a full-time daycare program for Rochester students in kindergarten through 5th grade. This program is not intended to compete with the Parks Department offerings but to enhance and align with existing efforts.

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- Concerns were noted regarding parents' challenges with mid-day scheduling, such as lunch breaks. The goal is to support families by improving access to the free lunch program and coordinating with other district-based and community programs.
- There is interest in leveraging local assets, including The Times Theater, the 4-H Fairgrounds, and partnerships inspired by places like Hickory Creek, to address identified childcare needs and enhance youth programming.
- Fees to be discussed at a later time.

School District Community Give-Back Day – October 8

- The school district will be organizing a district-wide community service day on October 8, during which regular classes will be paused to allow students and staff to give back to the community. This initiative will involve donations, service projects, and acts of giving.
- Each grade level will participate in age-appropriate projects, with activities tailored to their capabilities. Potential projects include tasks such as painting curbs, cleaning up local parks, and other community improvement efforts.
- A list of proposed projects will be finalized by the end of August, with the goal of narrowing down assignments and ensuring meaningful student engagement. The overarching theme is to inspire students to grow through service and make a positive impact in their local community.

Softball Field & Athletic Facility Updates

- There was discussion regarding the softball field located behind Rochester schools and the opportunity to update and repurpose the space to better serve student-athletes and the community.
- The goal is to keep students engaged in athletics while addressing existing barriers such as transportation. There is interest in transferring ownership or responsibility of the property to the school district in order to bring it up to IHSAA standards and make athletics a greater priority on campus.
- Potential improvements and uses discussed include:
 - Renovating the existing Fansler Field
 - Exploring options for additional amenities such as a concession stand
 - Considering alternative recreational uses like a frisbee golf course
 - Converting the current football practice field into a soccer field
- This is part of a broader vision to bring all Zebra athletic programs to one unified campus. A partnership with Baker Tilly is underway to explore bonding options—specifically, determining how much can be bonded without increasing the current tax rate while still prioritizing key facility needs.
- The board expressed support for continued collaboration and exploring a formal relationship between the Parks Department and the school district for shared use and stewardship of athletic facilities.
- Make an agreement: Bond Council - not dependent on the project, but help prioritize the list of projects. The transfer of the property would have to come to Rochester Schools. Attorneys between school and park would agree on what both parties would need.
- What is the next step? - Go back to the school board and bond council, attorney engagements.

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7. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn by Mitch Hayes
- Seconded by Ed Richard.
- Motion carried.

Minutes submitted by:

Jessica Shafer, Marketing Consultant

July 14, 2025