

**Chesterton Park Department
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2022**

Those in Attendance: President Wendy Marciniak, Vice President Paul Shinn, Member Bruce Mathias, Bob Cohn VIA conference call, Park Superintendent Shane Griffin, Town Engineer Mark O'Dell, Town Manager David Cincoski, Town Attorney Connor Nolan, Administrator Hilary Thomas Peterson

Wendy Marciniak called Roll – Paul Shinn, Bruce Mathias, Bob Cohn VIA telephone – present.

Wendy Marciniak called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the assemblage with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Wendy welcomed Bruce to the Board and thanked Mark Dickinson for his years of service.

Reorganization of the Board was called–

A motion to elect Paul Shinn President was made by Bob Cohn via telephone - roll called – Wendy Marciniak, Bob Cohn, Bruce Mathias - yes. Motion passed.

A motion to elect Bob Cohn Vice President was made by Paul Shinn - Roll called – Wendy Marciniak, Bruce Mathias, Paul Shinn – yes. Motion passed.

A motion to elect Bruce Mathias Secretary was made by Paul Shinn - Roll called – Wendy Marciniak, Bob Cohn via telephone, Paul Shinn - yes, motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve December minutes was made by Wendy Marciniak. Seconded by Bruce Mathias. Roll called – Bruce Mathias, Wendy Marciniak, Bob Cohn via telephone – yes. Motion passed. December minutes approved.

Comments from the Public

Dan Amling – Duneland Diamonds. Requesting usage of Chesterton Park baseball fields for the year. Had 5 teams last year. Won championship, advanced to state and regional. 4 teams enrolled in fall, 90-100 games were played. Continued to work on the fields, Eagle scout project by David Archibald was done, 2 benches and trees were put in. Projects this year would be a scoreboard, new roof on the shed, maintenance repairs, brick repair, planter repair, bleacher sides will need to be put up. Asking for a rebuilding together team up with the Park. Looking to get some art into the Park. Has some donors, looking for some recognition plaques for them. Paul asked for him to get together with Shane for miscellaneous and Rebuilding Together. Also told him to get with Shane about the scoreboard and signage. As per discussion.

A motion to approve usage of Chesterton Park was made by Wendy Marciniak. Seconded by Bruce Mathias. Motion passed. Roll called – Bob Cohn via telephone, Wendy Marciniak, Bruce Mathias - yes. Motion passed.

Richard Riley – looking for recommendation from the Park Board to Thomas Park name change, scheduled to present to Town Council. Bob suggested that Thomas still be included in any name change. As per discussion.

A motion to recommend the name change of Thomas Centennial Park to Thomas Railroad Park was made by Bob Cohn via telephone. No second, no motion. It will move onto Town Council.

Superintendent/Engineer Report

Will start to take down Christmas deco in Thomas this week. Train car bathrooms have been closed for the rest of the season. Equipment maintenance is being done for upcoming spring season. Ordered a shipping container for storage, has been delivered. Picked a potential location for pickleball courts. Working with engineer with costs. Annual report also being worked on. Would like to apply for the Indiana Dunes tourism grant, seek permission to pursue.

A motion to pursue Indiana Dunes tourism Grant was made by Wendy Marciniak. Seconded by Bruce Mathias. Roll called – Bob Cohn via telephone, Wendy Marciniak, Bruce Mathias - yes. Motion passed.

Mark O'Dell stated that he will work with Shane on the pickleball courts, will have something together by next meeting.

Glen Peterson – SEH update. Submitted for the Lake Michigan Coastal Grant. Enough proposals have come in, will work with Shane and Mark on it. Wrapped up Master Plan, still working on a few projects that have changed, continue to work on the priorities. Paul reiterated the priorities, and any changes with possible grant funding. As per discussion. The earliest funding is available will be September after a February due date. As per discussion. Bob Cohn doesn't want to delay potential bids going out. As per discussion.

Comments from the Board

Bob asked if Shane can get a calendar in place for summer programs. Also asked about a change in logo, Shane replied that there is nothing at this time. Bob asked for an update of the Garden club plaque in Thomas Park, Hilary will update after reaching out to the company.

Wendy thanked the Dunbar Family foundation for their \$20k gift to the Coffee Creek Park project, looking forward to working with them in the future.

A motion to accept the \$20k gift was made by Bruce Mathias. Seconded by Wendy Marciniak. Roll called – Bob Cohn via telephone, Bruce Mathias, Wendy Marciniak - yes. Motion passed.

Paul asked Shane if the bike trail and parking lots get plowed, Shane stated they do and they go all the way to 149. The first snow accumulation was missed on New Years Day, and was frozen by they time they went out. Paul asked if the Christmas tree will be properly stored. Also asked if Kiwanis will pull out the festival of trees in Thomas Park, yes per Shane.

Bruce asked for copies of Coffee Creek Park Project plans.

Approval of Claims

A motion to approve January claims was made by Bob Cohn via telephone. Seconded by Bruce Mathias. Motion passed. Roll called – Bob Cohn via telephone, Bruce Mathias, Wendy Marciniak – yes. January claims approved.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Bruce Mathias. Seconded by Wendy Marciniak. Roll called – Bob Cohn via telephone, Bruce Mathias, Wendy Marciniak – yes. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

President Paul Shinn

Date