

**HARRISBURG PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD  
APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2018  
HELD AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Tank called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Members present: Bergsmith, DeBruin, Kindt, Larson, Maxwell, Lois McMahon, and Tank.  
Staff present: McMahon, Thurston, Mergen and Dorhout. John Ratzloff and Ryan Berg were also present as well as Becky Viel and Alisha Hudson of Tiger Softball Club.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

1. To approve the agenda for the September 12, 2018 regular meeting.

Maxwell moved, with DeBruin seconding, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

2. To approve the meeting minutes of July 11, 2018.

Kindt moved, with Bergsmith seconding, to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2018 Park Board meeting as presented. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Chairman Tank welcomed the representatives of the Tiger Softball Club and asked them to describe their program.

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

3. Review of National Night Out Event. The Board discussed what worked well and what needed to be improved at the Event. Improvements discussed for next year's event were adding a public address system, reserving an inflatable for small children, and relocating trash receptacles.
4. Discussion of land purchase proposal. The Board reviewed their 2019 budget and discussed whether or not to make an offer to purchase a parcel of land on West Elm Street. The consensus of the Board was to not make a purchase offer.
5. Discussion of fencing at fields B and C. Thurston reported on efforts to improve lighting at these fields in Legion Park due to the much increased usage of the fields this year. He noted that there is a significant safety issue from foul balls going over the existing fence (which is not high enough to be an effective separator) into the adjoining field. He has obtained two quotes (\$17,000 and \$19,000) to install a taller separation fence between the fields. There was an extensive discussion but no action taken.
6. Discussion of child/parent swings. The Board discussed several types of these swings. The consensus of the Board was to apply for a Mid-American grant to help defray the \$1,300 cost of installing one of these swings in a park.

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7. Discussion of LWCF grant application. The Board extensively discussed different projects for a grant application. The consensus of the Board was to apply for a grant to install the concrete pad for a picnic shelter and extend the walking path in Lions Park.
8. HBA Update. Ratzloff discussed HBA efforts to create new ball fields for different age groups of players. He also discussed the need to remove and replace turf on Field 1 at Legion Park because of the uneven surface under the grass around the infield. He also explained how the growing youth softball clubs are being included in the scheduling of use of ball fields.
9. City Update: Thurston reported that winterization of the parks is about to begin. McMahon provided a short update on the Willow Street Trail project.
10. Discussion of bat houses. The consensus of the Board was to table this topic due to lack of resources.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Bergsmith moved, with DeBruin seconding, to adjourn. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

The next regular Board meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 10 in the City Hall Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael McMahon  
Planning & Zoning Administrator