

## PARK BOARD

February 9, 2026

The February 9, 2026 Park Board meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers by Kate Niederkohr, Chairperson. Park Board members present were Jon Blackburn, Cathy Browne, Dean Leonard, Kate Niederkohr, Erin Smith, and Bill Sturgeon.

Others present included: Ethan Korte, Administrative Assistant; Natalie Mouser, Acting Parks Manager; Breanne Pelfrey, Blue Star Mothers of America; Kathy Tracy, Blue Star Mothers of America; Rachel Pool, Wyandot County Board of Developmental Disabilities; Ben Brandstetter, Brandstetter Carroll, Inc.; Charlie Schneider, Brandstetter Carroll, Inc.; Phil Schilffarth, Brandstetter Carroll, Inc.; Greg Knestrick, Peterman Associates; Eric Trout, Peterman Associates; Todd Karg; Julia Lemire; Genevieve Lemire; Sam Lemire; John Walker; Brian Hemminger, Daily Chief Union; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The summary of bills totaling \$254,536.49 was presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Sturgeon, seconded by Mrs. Browne, for the approval and payment of bills totaling \$254,536.49. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

The minutes of the January 12, 2026 Park Board meeting, having been mailed to each Park Board member, were approved as received.

Mrs. Breanne Pelfrey, Blue Star Mothers of America Chapter 32, addressed the Park Board requesting permission for the Blue Star Mothers of America to host a community fundraiser, entitled Stars and Stripes Honor Walk, in Stepping Stones Park on Saturday, May 16, 2026 with the walk to begin at 2:00 p.m. Proceeds from the walk would benefit a local outreach supporting active-duty military members and veterans. Park Board members voiced no objections.

Mrs. Rachel Pool addressed the Park Board requesting permission for Wyandot County Developmental Disabilities to host a Color Fun Run in Harrison Smith Park on Saturday, April 25, 2026 with registration to begin at 2:00 p.m. and the run to begin at 3:00 p.m. Park Board members voiced no objections.

At this time Mrs. Niederkohr asked Mr. Todd Karg to introduce himself. Mr. Karg introduced himself and indicated that he will begin working for the City next week as the Parks Manager.

Park Board members reviewed information from Mr. Brad Taylor, Street and Sanitation Supervisor, for the Parks Department purchase of a 2015 Dodge 2500 pickup truck with snow plow attachment from the Street and Sanitation Department at a cost of \$10,000.00. It was noted that the Street and Sanitation Department has ordered a new pick-up truck and the Parks Department will not be taking delivery of this vehicle until the Street and Sanitation Department takes delivery of the truck that's been ordered. Mrs. Mouser noted that the Parks Department will only take delivery of the 2015 Dodge 2500 pickup provided it is in the same condition it is currently in and the Parks Department will also be looking to sell their 2000 Ford F150 pick up truck once they receive the 2015 Dodge 2500 from the Street and Sanitation Department.

Mrs. Mouser thanked Mr. Jon Blackburn and Mr. Dean Leonard for assisting with contacting contractors to address repairs to the bridge, White Shelter, and Bandshell in Harrison Smith Park. Mr. Blackburn presented a scope of work proposal from CSI Construction Services, Carey, Ohio, for these structures as follows: Bandshell - \$4,352.00; White Shelter - \$6,003.00; and Bridge - \$11,040.00. An estimate of \$24,925.00 from Schalk Brothers Inc., Tiffin, Ohio, to repair the bridge was presented and reviewed. It was noted that a quote from another contractor for the White Shelter repair is expected.

A motion was made by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Mr. Sturgeon, to hire CSI Construction Services, Inc., 13860 TH 42, Carey, Ohio 43316, to repair the Bandshell at a cost of \$4,352.00. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

At this time the Park Board addressed the hiring of a new Parks Manager.

A motion was made by Mr. Leonard, seconded by Mrs. Browne, to approve the hiring of Mr. Todd Karg as Parks Manager at a salary of \$70,000.00 per year. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

Job postings for lifeguards and cashiers at the swimming pool for the 2026 season was discussed.

A motion was made by Mr. Blackburn, seconded by Mrs. Browne, to authorize the Human Resource Officer to advertise for lifeguards and cashiers for the swimming pool for 2026. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

The hiring of pool manager(s) for the 2026 swimming pool season was discussed.

A motion was made by Mr. Sturgeon, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to hire to hire Mrs. Laura Wines and Mrs. Janeen Heilman as co-pool managers at \$6,000.00 each for the 2026 swimming pool season plus a \$500.00 conditional bonus for each to be paid at the end of the season. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

At this time Mr. Greg Knestrick and Mr. Eric Trout, Peterman Associates, presented a timeline schedule for engineering services to address the planning and construction of a new community pool. Mr. Knestrick indicated that they would need approval this evening in order to maintain the timeline schedule and be able to open the new pool on June 1, 2027.

Mr. Ben Brandstetter, Mr. Charlie Schneider, and Mr. Phil Schilffarth, Brandstetter Carroll, Inc., presented information regarding their experience in planning and designing aquatic center projects, splash pads and spray grounds, and natatoriums. It was noted that Brandstetter Carroll, Inc. has designed aquatic projects in Ohio, Kentucky, Texas, North Carolina, New Jersey, etc

A motion was made by Mr. Sturgeon, seconded by Mr. Leonard, to enter into an executive session to discuss personnel. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried. Upon completion of the executive session, the Park Board reconvened into regular session.

Park Board members reviewed the Pool Rules and Regulations for 2026 and indicated no changes are needed. The information regarding swim team meets will be updated when those dates are made available. The possibility of also providing these rules in Spanish was discussed.

Pool admission rates for 2026 were discussed. Mrs. Niederkohr requested the members of the Park Board think about the possibility of weekly, biweekly, or monthly charges for pool passes for 2026 with the operation of the pool all season questionable due to the possibility of the filter system failing which could cause the pool to shut down for the season at any time. Park Board members will discuss this matter at the March 9, 2026 Park Board meeting.

Chlorine for the swimming pool for the 2026 season was discussed.

A motion was made by Mrs. Niederkohr, seconded by Mr. Sturgeon, to authorize a request for quotes for chlorine be sent to interested suppliers for the 2026 swimming pool season. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

Job postings for two Parks Department seasonal positions for 2026 were discussed.

A motion was made by Mr. Leonard, seconded by Mrs. Browne, to authorize the Human Resource Officer to advertise for two Parks Department seasonal positions for 2026. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

Mrs. Mouser reported that the Winter Fantasy of Lights (WFOL) Committee would like to raise money and have concrete poured in the area that is currently stoned in front of the Red Shelter in Harrison Smith Park, where the decorations for the WFOL are stored. Park Board members voiced no objections.

Special Park Board meetings to further discuss the repair of the bridge in Harrison Smith Park and engineering services for a new swimming pool were discussed. It was agreed that special Park Board meetings will be held on Monday, February 23, 2026 as follows: 5:30 p.m. – Bridge repairs; and 6:00 p.m. – engineering services for a new swimming pool.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned.

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Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

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Kate Niederkohr, Chairperson