



PARKS MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

April 8, 2026

Attendees

Matthew Weyer
Jill Schipp
Andrew Berg
Rich Clark
Eric Rahman

The meeting started at 4:30 p.m. Meeting minutes were reviewed. Matt made a motion to approve the minutes; Rich seconded. All were in favor of approving the minutes. Finances were presented and discussed. Matt made a motion to approve the finances and Jill seconded.

2025 Encumbrance

Discussion of the 2025 encumbrance was tabled until May pending further discussion with Tammy.

5th Street Park

The concession and storage building project is very close to completion. League representatives are looking forward to using the new space, and it was noted the park looks significantly improved with the removal of the old structure. Jill presented an idea for a plaque expressing appreciation for the Mobel Foundation's support and will coordinate with Hoosier Laser. Matt discussed the possibility of a dedication to recognize the Mobel Foundation; however, the Foundation expressed gratitude for the thought and declined a formal recognition event.

Repairs to the irrigation system are still needed and Eric anticipates completing the work within the next couple of weeks. Baseball and softball scoreboards have been installed, and the soccer scoreboard is expected to arrive this week. Jill will confirm which soccer scoreboard is to be replaced.

Football storage remains an unresolved issue due to challenges related to utility costs, the fact that the town does not own the property, and existing field conditions that limit feasibility.

Regarding sunshades, Jill has obtained two quotes but would like to determine potential fundraising options or Park Board commitment before requesting additional quotes.

Work on the small baseball field has been completed and the league is prepared for use. Drainage will continue to be evaluated, as there has been no significant rainfall recently. Eric noted a low spot near first base, which may be intentional to direct excess water. Landscaping and cleanup are complete. The Liberty Tree has been planted. A ceremony is planned for late spring or early summer, along with appropriate signage.

Signage and reminders to keep cleats off playground areas appear to be effective. The Park Board will

continue distributing reminders as needed.

Potential interest in hosting a Memorial Day baseball tournament was discussed. Andy will follow up to determine if there is continued interest.

18th Street Park

The previously reported water leak has been repaired. Eric will connect with Jeff regarding potential low-spot corrections. Andy will follow up with Jeff to confirm the current status. Repairs are needed on the turf in the small upper playground, and while equipment remains in generally good condition, minor repairs were noted. Matt and Jill will follow up.

Potential ADA compliance improvements at 18th Street Park were discussed, including whether these could be included in future CCMG funding requests. The Park Board expressed strong support.

Old Town Lake

Additional bird spikes will be installed on the shelter house ceiling by Eric. Jill will follow up with Tammy for additional ideas or solutions.

Equipment Purchase

The Town Council approved the purchase of a new tractor. The cost was split among five departments. The tractor is expected to arrive next week, with the mower arriving shortly thereafter.

Seasonal Employees

Hiring of Dean Verkamp and Scott Berg was approved by the Town Council. Eric reported that both employees are working out very well.

Other News

Tom requested that a memorial bench dedicated to him be placed at Old Town Lake near the sidewalk by the restroom. Eric will handle installation.

All park restrooms are now open.

Eric inquired about the possibility of permanent pickleball courts. Matt explained this has been discussed in the past, but ideal locations were not identified due to various challenges. Some ideas were shared, though limitations remain.

Rich asked whether New Town Lake is part of Ferdinand Parks. It was clarified that it is not currently a park, but it could be considered as a future park opportunity.

Matt motioned to adjourn the meeting; Andy seconded and all were in favor. The meeting ended at 5:25 pm.

The next meeting is May 13th at 4:30 pm at 5th Street Park.

Minutes submitted on 11 May 2026


Jill Schipp