



MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Tuesday, June 16, 2026 / 5:30 p.m.

Emery Lee Building
503 S. Park Ave.
Alexandria, IN 46001

Present: Barrett Key, *Vice President*; Devin Powers, *Secretary*;
Angie Hilligoss, *member*; and Tom Johns, *member*.

Absent: Sam Drifill, *President* and Kim Terry, *member*.

Guest: Eric Freeman, Superintendent

Special Guest: Connie Thomas and, her daughter, Tracy.

Vice President, Barrett Key led the pledge and called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

1. Connie Thomas presenting memorial bench for Mike Thomas

- a. Connie spoke about her late husband, Mike Thomas' passion for the parks. He served on the Park Board for a long time because he loved the parks. With this in mind, a park bench was created with a plaque honoring him. She would like to be able to put it along the south side of the Emery Lee building. The board agreed, but felt it would be a good idea to anchor the bench to the ground to prevent any possibility of someone trying to take it.
 - i. Tom seconded Barrett's motion to build a permanent area for the Mike Thomas memorial bench along the South side of the Emery Lee building. A more exact location to be decided once supplies are ready. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. Connie mentioned the sponsored flags around town and the need to raise money for it.

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Devin seconded Tom's motion to approve meeting minutes from 5/19/2026. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Financial Report

- a. Looking at the profit/loss statement, it shows that some employee insurance is still being paid by the Park Board. Mark Talmage is for sure one that the Board pays into. Though it is much lower than the previous year, the board would like clarity on what it includes. Revenue is up for the Non-Revert account. The Board will look into an ordinance for the Non-Revert account. There is a Bob Rogers charge for \$3,072.59 going to MacAllister Machinery Co. This was said to be the Park Board's half of the maintenance on Bob Rogers where the Fire Department pays for the other half. It is also brought up that the Park Board pays 1/8th of the office supplies for all City Departments.
 - i. Angie seconded Tom's motion to table the financial report approval until more details can be obtained.
- b. Lifeguard Certification Training is being paid by the Park Board as the cost is a lot for a teenager to put down before a paycheck. It has been a struggle enough to get certified lifeguards. It was difficult to get enough to pass at another location, so the Park Board paid Kimberly D'Angelo an American Red Cross Instructor to do the training. The cost of the training was \$3,435.00. Out of 10 that took the training 9 passed. We needed 11 certified. 2 previously certified lifeguards from a past season came back to fill the vacancies.

Financial Report Lifeguard Certification continued...

- i. Angie seconded Tom's motion to approve and pay the Certification Training in the amount of \$3,435.00. Motion passed unanimously.
 - ii. Tom seconded Barrett's motion to go ahead and add \$4000 to a certification training budget for next year. Motion passed unanimously.
- c. Eric presented an invoice and receipts for park expenditures in the past month including a hot dog roller for the concession stand, flowers for the park and other items to get the pool ready and park beautified.
 - i. Tom seconded Devin's motion to approve payment to Eric Freeman for reimbursement totaling \$869.10. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Old Business

- a. Angie proposed that we reconsider the purchase of a pool cleaner. She points out that the ones that we have are borrowed and we should not hold someone's personal property longer than needed. She presented a price quote for 2 smaller cleaners at \$1,799.00 a piece. With the 2 quotes that Tom had, the Board decided to move forward with the purchase of the best cleaner deal under \$4,000. The cost of the cleaners would be covered under the operations fund of the Park.
 - i. Tom seconded Barrett's motion to approve the purchase of the pool cleaners and states that future budget should include a fund for maintenance on said cleaners. Motion passed unanimously.

5. New Business

- a. Barrett presents the future online facilities reservation/payment system to navigate operations away from City resources. John Dockrey has a new city app that would help facilitate this. The offer was potentially \$1,500 purchase cost with a \$150 per month maintenance fee. This uses stripe as a platform for payment. It is understood that John would use our system to advertise his app as well. Movement on this as soon as possible is the goal. Board discusses a possibility to move monetary transactions to credit/debit. It is stated that concessions have a new register that tracks inventory for better accuracy.
 - i. Tom seconded Barrett's motion to table the purchase of the online reservation app until a true quote to paper is obtained and the approval of the mayor to move forward is received.
- b. Angie presents the need for a new diving board. While helping prepare the pool for opening, she noticed the metal holding the board is rusted and poses a real danger. She presents a few quotes out of a catalog. Eric states he has other pool catalogs he can look through as well to get a good board for a decent price.
 - i. Tom seconded Barrett's motion to replace the diving board as soon as possible at a cost no greater than \$9,000. Motion carries unanimously.
- c. Eric presents the need for new swings and benches at the Riverview Park. The current swing frame has no swings on it. There are 3 benches around the court that are falling apart with pieces poking out that could be dangerous if they further split. Eric proposed the purchase of 1 toddler swing, 2 straight board swings, and 2 flex swings. This is 5 proposed swings altogether, totalling approximately \$1,000. Eric also proposes the purchase of 3 6' leaf benches at \$742 a piece. Tom expresses that the school had several picnic-like tables they obtained during Covid and that they no longer use them. He will reach out to see if the school would want to donate them.
 - i. Angie seconded Barrett's motion to replace all swings and benches at the catalog prices Eric presented. Motion carries unanimously.
- d. The budgeting for future lifeguard certification cost was previously voted on.

New Business continued...

- e. Devin presents a list of follow up items
 - i. Future hiring of a Superintendent and Caretaker. Eric will be done with his role as superintendent at the end of this year, but offers to help guide and train the replacements in the first quarter of 2027. Tom will put together the hiring material and will come up with the timeframe needed to advertise, interview, and get someone started.
 - ii. Edited rental prices will be covered when the Park has their own online reservation platform.
 - iii. We are set for the 250-year celebration; unfortunately, the Park will not have their new sign in before then. Eric needs a Board member to take this project on to see it through. Board members will decide on that after members have an opportunity to look at the other commitments.
 - iv. Closing early or partly for the start of poolhouse repairs is suggested so that work can get done while the weather allows. This is tabled until we can get some quotes on what needs to be done and the time frame to get it done.
 - v. Electric line updates and State compliant report also need followed up on for the next meeting.
 - vi. Water supplies to the horseshoe pits is believed to be operational. This led to the discussion of the current group using the horseshoe pits tearing up the grass as they drive their car(s) up to the horseshoe pits. It had been discussed relocating these pits, but the Board wonders if it is worth investing in when there is only one group using it. Devin expresses that the Board could rebuild it with a multi-use function. That the sand area can be used for Bocci Ball, Cornhole, and Horseshoes. Devin will investigate further on what it will take to make the multi-use new area.
 - vii. Keys for the Bob Rogers building are tracked through Rachel. We currently know of 3 keys that are with the superintendent, the mayor's assistant, and the building cleaner. A further list will be obtained from Rachel.
- b. The public access complaint against the board was addresses by the mayor in a letter stating that the Park Board is not required to have a live recording available to the public as they are separate and meet separately from the City. Further investigation into whether this is truly the case will be done and reported back.

6. Superintendent's/Staff Report

- a. Eric reports that through his work as superintendent he finds that the work load is too much for just one person to take on permanently. He recommends hiring a superintendent AND a caretaker in 2027. As stated before he would help with the training.
- b. The pool is set to open this upcoming Saturday despite it being the 250-year celebration and pending the repair of the motor on the water slide set to be fixed before the end of the week. The pool has already been delayed too long and it needs to open as soon as possible in order to make any money on it. Parking will be set aside for the pool on Saturday.

Tom seconded Barrett's motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes Taken By: Devin Powers, Secretary

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 @ 5:30 p.m. @ Emery Lee Auditorium.