



## MINUTES

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Tuesday, September 15, 2026 / 5:30 p.m.

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

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

**Absent:** All board members were present

**Guest:** Eric Freeman, Superintendent

**Special Guest:** Adam Matson, Fire Chief

President Sam Driffill led the pledge and called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

#### 1. Public Comments and Announcements

- a. Adam Matson states the Fire Department's interest in taking over the Bob Rogers building.
  - i. Adam Matson tells the board that the Bob Rogers building would be an excellent addition to the Fire Department, as it would allow for a good training building for their department as well as a workout area.
  - ii. Adam will be attending a BOW meeting to get the City's permission for the exchange of the Bob Rogers building.
  - iii. Tom seconded Kim's motion to give the Bob Rogers building to the Fire Department pending the BOW approval. Motion passed unanimously.

#### 2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Barrett seconded Tom's motion to approve meeting minutes from 8/18/2026. Motion passed unanimously.

#### 3. Financial Report

- a. Update on the August vote to transfer funds from 2204 to the non-revert 2211.
  - i. There is no real update at this time. Barrett explained that the attorneys have been contacted, and they are waiting to hear back on it. We are getting both no response and some pushback on our movement forward.
  - ii. The Board discussed that a decision on what to do with the funds of 2204 will be needed in the next month and a half. Ideally, the Board would have liked to build up the non-revert for bigger projects down the line using matching grants. If the transfer of funds is not accepted, then the money needs to be spent before the end of this year. The amount in question is approximately \$50,000.
    1. Barrett mentions that investing in Hoop 24 could be a good way to spend any additional money we have to spend this year, and it will be easy to track. *Idea mentioned in the New Business*
    2. If plan B is the course we need to go, then the Board would like to see the pool focus on the diving board, pool cleaner, trash cans, among other things. The LED is a huge purchase and a top item to spend the money on, as it is a money maker.
    3. Eric is asked to list some items that are needed in the park, such as benches, tables, trash cans, etc.

## **Financial Report cont...**

- b.** Board states frustrations in the current order of things
  - i. Sam explains that it took over 100 days to pay a guy for the roof job that he had already completed. Tom adds that this expense was earmarked long before the job was done.
  - ii. Tom expresses that seeing our request receive no response and/or the runaround is frustrating.
  - iii. Barrett says there is a budget meeting at 10:30 on Friday, and he has not received any of the requests that he asked for in preparation for this meeting.
  - iv. The City cannot give timelines on when requests will be fulfilled, as they have several requests pending in their office.
- c.** The Park Board is requesting an additional appropriation of \$111,502.00 for 2027. Total request of the budget being \$300,000. With a promise that we'll try to double the non-revert fund.
  - i. Considering what the City is going through, we are looking at having the same budget next year as we did this year despite the request for an increase. Barrett is going to have informal talks regarding the budget on Friday and will report the results next meeting.
  - ii. Angie seconded Tom's motion to approve the proposed budget. Motion passed unanimously.

## **4. New Business**

- a.** Barrett states that a splash pad is something many residents would like to see
  - i. The board would like to look further into what would need to be done to make this happen; however, they agree that several more time-sensitive safety items will need attention first when it comes to the pool.
- b.** Turn Away No Longer presented by Angie
  - i. There were around 3,000 in attendance with 350 cars. All children received bikes, totaling about 120 kids.
  - ii. Aug 6-7, 2027: They would like to use the park again. Also, they request the use of Emery Lee for judges on the 7th.
  - iii. Tom seconded Barrett's motion to allow TANL to use the park and the Emery Lee building at no cost, as this program does not charge patrons and it gives back to the community. Motion passed unanimously.
  - iv. When Angie was asked by Barrett what would make the event even better that the board could do, she said that a PA system would greatly help when they are making the announcements. The board would like to discuss getting a bluetooth speaker/ PA system for the future.
- c.** Pow Wow report
  - i. Pow Wow rented the Emery Lee building during their stay. It was well maintained. The event was said to anticipate around 10,000 people. There were many in attendance, but no number was provided.
  - ii. Debbie Webb has expressed a desire to continue to use our park for their 2027 event.
  - iii. Barrett shared that he attended the Pow Wow and it was a great experience. He saw a patron with his family at Blueberry Hill who said that they were in town for the Pow Wow so that their kids could experience what they did as kids.
- d.** Barrett shared that Eric Davidson with the High School would like to do work-based learning with the parks.
  - i. Mr. Davidson is interested in having his classroom come help with park cleaning and beautification again once or twice a week. There will be approximately 23 kids in the class. Eric was asked to make a list of some work that can be done in any of the Alexandria Parks.

## **5. Old Business / Staff Report**

- a. Hoop 24 progress presented by Barrett**
  - i. The account has been opened, and the paperwork has started. They are moving along in finding donors.
  - ii. The City has been supportive in helping with demolition. Mark Talmage was helpful in showing Mickey what could and could not be done out there. The project is looking to keep both courts, taking out the asphalt and putting in concrete. They will have a company come out to paint the lines. They will be sure to build in ADA compliance.
  - iii. There will be sponsorships and they plan on having events not only through the school, but also through the Community Center. More updates will be at the October meeting
  - iv. Sam mentions the possibility of the Park Board contributing more to Hoop 24 by way of purchasing some bleachers for the area. This and other ideas will be discussed in the future as well.
  - v. Barrett mentions that a live camera would be good to have at the courts to both monitor for vandalism/misuse AND provide a way for parents to look in on their kids.
- b. Superintendent job description**
  - i. Tom presented the Superintendent job description with the changes that were given in the previous meeting.
  - ii. The job will offer \$35,000 to \$45,000 with potential housing and benefits. Salary based on experience. There is a potential for them to earn more at a later date, seeing if everything goes well and whether another person is needed for the Groundskeeper work.
  - iii. Tom will be the contact on this. It will be presented to the City for their approval. He will also see what is a part of the benefits package.
  - iv. Someone seconded Barrett's motion to approve the job description and move it to the City's approval. Motion passed unanimously.
- c. Thank-you letter to Kiwanis**
  - i. Eric had updated the thank-you letter to Kiwanis to include the electric bill being fully on the Park Board this year for the 4-H, as the Kiwanis has invested a large amount in the park this year on electrical updates. The Board signed the new version so it could be sent out.
- d. Park Restroom water monitor system**
  - i. Eric presented a possible water monitor system to be used in the bathrooms, as there are times that kids will just leave the water running. It is an app that helps monitor the water usage. It is \$54.90 a month. The board likes the idea of having something to help with water usage, but would like to look into other options. The sensors, foot pedal, or pressure knobs are possible solutions.
- e. Eric makes the statement that Autumn has gone above and beyond in her work. She found that someone had thrown away a memorial block from one of the memorial trees. When feeling that the trash was heavier than usual, she investigated, thus saving the memorial block from being lost. The board would like to thank her.**
- f. Weed trimming under the fence.**
  - i. Eric reports that he does go through the string for the weed eater, as getting under the fence has the string hitting the fencing. Riverview is a difficult fence and some of Beulah Park fencing.
  - ii. Sam will look into an under-fence solution so that weed eating under the fence will no longer be needed.
  - iii. Parts of the Riverview fencing needs fixed. Part of it was damaged in a tree fall.

## **Old Business / Staff Report cont...**

- g.** Devin requests an executive meeting to go over the remaining rental prices for the Park facilities to have in place for when the rental system is up and running. The board decided on 5:00, before the next meeting. Devin will provide rental rate paperwork to vote on in the public session.

Tom seconded Barrett's motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

**Minutes Taken By:** Devin Powers, Secretary

**NEXT MEETING:** Executive Session Tuesday, October 20, 2026 @ 5:00 p.m., followed by a 5:30 public meeting @ Emery Lee Auditorium.