

PARK BOARD

January 12, 2026

The January 12, 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, Kate Niederkohr, and Erin Smith. Dean Leonard and Bill Sturgeon were absent.

Others present included: Kyle McColly, Mayor; Natalie Mouser, Acting Parks Manager; John Walker; Danny Schwartz, Daily Chief Union; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

Mayor McColly swore in Ms. Browne as a newly appointed member of the Park Board and Mrs. Niederkohr as a reappointed member of the Park Board.

The election of a Chairperson was held as follows:

- A motion was made by Mrs. Smith to nominate Mrs. Niederkohr as Chairperson, seconded by Ms. Browne.
- A motion was made by Mr. Blackburn, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to close the nominations for Chairperson. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The motion carried.
- Upon Voice Vote, on the nomination of Mrs. Niederkohr as Chairperson, all members voted Yes. The motion carried.

The summary of bills totaling \$196,921.90 was presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Blackburn, seconded by Mrs. Smith, for the approval and payment of bills totaling \$196,921.90. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

The minutes of the December 8, 2025 Park Board meeting, having been mailed to each Park Board member, were approved as received.

Mrs. Mouser reported on the following:

- Parks Department employees worked planting twelve (12) trees over the last two (2) days.
- Parks Department employees worked to remove four (4) trees in the downtown area recently.
- Bill Sowers Tree Service has completed planting seven (7) trees in the downtown area.
- All planned tree removals have been completed.
- Parks Department employees will be working to haul dirt, seed, and straw fifteen (15) tree lawns that are tree planting sites.
- Parks Department employees viewed safety videos recently from the Bureau of Workers' Compensation.
- Parks Department employees have been working to take down the lights from the Winter Fantasy of Lights (WFOL) in Harrison Smith Park.
- Parks Department employees have been picking up sticks in the parks after recent high winds.
- Parks Department employees will be working sanding and painting approximately twenty (20) picnic tables during the winter months.

Mrs. Mouser presented a quote from Ag-Pro Companies, 1385 East Wyandot Avenue, Upper Sandusky, Ohio 43351 for the purchase of a John Deere X758 Signature Series Tractor without a mower deck plus a John Deere 60 inch Shaft Drive High Capacity Mower Deck at a total cost of \$16,337.26. It was noted that this equipment has been budgeted for 2026.

A motion was made by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Ms. Browne, to approve the purchase of a John Deere X758 Signature Series Tractor without a mower deck plus a John Deere 60 inch Shaft Drive High Capacity Mower Deck at a total cost of \$16,337.26 from Ag-Pro Companies, 1385 East Wyandot Avenue, Upper Sandusky, Ohio 43351 from Ag-Pro Companies, 1385 East Wyandot Avenue, Upper Sandusky, Ohio 43351. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

Mrs. Mouser also reported that the Parks Department will be purchasing a 2015 Dodge 2500 pickup truck from the Street and Sanitation Departments at a cost of \$10,000.00 and they are currently waiting on a bill of sale from Mr. Brad Taylor, Street and Sanitation Supervisor, to complete this transaction. 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 Departments.

Mrs. Mouser further reported that there are no foundations for the approaches at each end of the red covered bridge in Harrison Smith Park and the dirt beneath these approaches is washing away and causing holes. The bridge is currently closed and has been roped off with caution tape. A contractor to repair these approaches will be sought.

Information from Mrs. Jill Eyestone regarding swim lessons was reviewed by the Park Board members. Regular swim will be held from June 29 to July 10, 2026 starting at 8:00 a.m. through 11:00 a.m. Students who have finished Kindergarten and are going into 1st grade will have one week of Level 1 from July 6 – July 10, 2026 with two classes offered, 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Infant and Toddler lessons will not be offered again this year. Park Board members voiced no objections to the schedule for swim lessons as presented.

Mayor McColly indicated that discussions regarding pool staffing should begin at the February 9, 2026 Park Board meeting and he suggested that following that meeting the advertisements for pool personnel be posted with interviews and hiring to take place at the March and/or April Park Board meetings.

Mayor McColly inquired about the possibility of having Peterman Associates look at a new swimming pool project that could be scaled back from the most recent design and/or done in phases. Park Board members agreed to proceed with contacting Peterman Associates regarding this project.

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

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

Kate Niederkohr, Chairperson