

**Meeting of the Rensselaer Park Board
held on Monday, 4 November 2024**

The Rensselaer Park Board monthly Meeting was held on Monday, 4 November 2024 at Six o'clock pm (6 pm) at the Rensselaer City Hall Council Chambers located at 124 South Van Rensselaer Street, Rensselaer, Indiana; the same being duly advertised/notice of meeting previously.

President Michael L. Manis called the meeting to order with the following members being present: Glen Allie, Janice Deno, Sue Wing, and Michael L. Manis; Rick Williams (illness), member, was not present. Four RPB members being in attendance, a quorum was achieved for the meeting. Mayor Jeffrey S. Phillips, and Heather Hall, Superintendent of Rensselaer Parks were also in attendance.

The Rensselaer Park Board unanimously approved Minutes from its 7 October 2024 meeting.

The RPB heard a request from Pat Fox, Tim and Linda Shide of the Little Cousin Jasper Committee for the use of Filson, Potawatomi, Iroquois and Milroy Parks on 6, 7, 8 September 2025 for next year's festival, which request was unanimously approved. The City agreed to explore the topics of permanent light and alcohol zone permitting in the time ahead.

The RPB next revisited the Miniature Train Project. The updated architectural plans and rendering were presented by Sarah Zager for discussion. The changes that were made to the planning included a shortening of the length, elimination of parking and a maximization of grass/green space by moving the building towards the roadway. The members elected to table the discussion until Greg Whaley could provide further information about whether he had secured funding sources for construction and money to maintain the project once completed.

With respect to Filson Park, Superintendent Hall updated the Board but noted that a few items remained to be completed, including a cap at the fountain, archway signs and the installation of custom lights. A discussion occurred concerning the hours of operation for the restroom.

The Board received an update about the new pickleball courts; that Stace Pickering, Glen Allie and Superintendent Hall had collaborated to maximize current space and future growth potential in the layout of the new courts. Pavement has been installed but will require 30 days for the new surface to set.

Superintendent Hall reported that a number of Fall and Winter Programs are occurring and that a Program Director Position may need to be explored for 2025 to support the efforts. Supt. Hall also felt that two new roofs would be required (Gifford shelter, LaRue poolhouse); she would obtain estimates for a future meeting and discussion. Additionally, a great deal of painting and preparatory work has been accomplished by the Park Staff.

Superintendent Hall expressed her desire for the creation of an updated Master Plan for the Parks; she felt that the last plan had been achieved in 2015 and that it would be needed to support new/upcoming initiatives and funding.

Various Board members in attendance voiced their respective questions and concerns. Michael and Lincoln Manis discussed the potential for a Jasper/Newton County youth baseball league that could provide the opportunity for competition between a greater number of players than has recently existed.

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Monday, 2 December 2024 at 6 pm with the caveat that Supt. Hall may inform the Board that such a meeting would not be needed (the Board traditionally does not meet in December due to the holidays but a date was reserved due to the new changes to the Parks.)

The meeting was subsequently adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael L. Manis
President, Rensselaer Park Board