

Starke Co. Park Board August Meeting Minutes

Starke County Park Board

Date: August 12, 2025

Location: Annex 1 meeting room

Time: 6:00 pm

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Richard Ballard at 6:00 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes – July Meeting

- Board members reviewed the minutes of the July meeting.
 - Motion made to approve the July minutes. **Motion carried unanimously.**
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3. Old Business

a. Highway 23 Kayak Launch Parking Lot

- Concerns raised regarding the bid process; board was not informed before bids were issued.
 - Only one bid received (Hill Excavating). Other potential bidders declined due to unclear plans.
 - Questions raised regarding plan accuracy, materials (stone), and lack of full public advertisement.
 - Suggestion made to split project into two bids (construction vs. hauling).
 - Consensus reached to invite **Bob Alloi** to September meeting for plan clarification.
 - **Motion:** Reject current bid and re-bid the project. **Motion carried unanimously.**
 - Special meeting to be scheduled with Bob Malloy.
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b. Flow Technics Pump Service

- Indiana Pump quote reviewed; Tom Jordan recommended Flow Technics.
 - Flow Technics serviced pumps at no charge during initial visit.
 - Proposal: annual service at **\$300 per pump** (\$600 total).
 - Additional recommendation: install hour meters for monitoring.
 - **Motion:** Approve Flow Technics maintenance contract and recommended upgrades. **Motion carried unanimously.**
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c. Park Department Hotspot

- Ongoing issues with campground/beach internet service.
 - Request for portable hotspot device at \$40/month, \$1 equipment fee.
 - Board agreed to allow purchase/use of hotspot for staff.
 - Approval granted without need for formal motion.
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d. Bass Lake Beach and Campground Renovation Update

- Brown & Brown construction reported project at 95% completion; landscaping and concrete work outstanding.
 - Concerns expressed over ADA compliance, drainage issues, and sidewalk grading.
 - Commissioner Donnie recommended withholding final payment until issues corrected.
 - Consensus: Invite **Christa** (project lead) and contractors (Brown & Brown, Troyer) to September meeting for full report.
 - Board agreed final payment should not be released until corrective actions taken.
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4. Superintendent's Report (Amy)

- **Luau Event:** Successful community event raised approx. \$4,200. Plans to reinvest proceeds into future events.
 - **Children's Crafts:** Held in July; recommendation to expand to June & July next year.
 - **United Consulting:** Site review conducted for future electrical RFP. Awaiting cost estimate.
 - **NIPSCO Utility Concerns:** Wobbly pole reported; NIPSCO stated pole is safe. Commissioner Donnie will follow up.
 - **Rising Utility Costs:** June–July bills significantly higher than prior year; board discussed possibility of budget plan.
 - **Job Descriptions:** Updated descriptions for Camp Host, Harbor Master, Seasonal Staff, and Secretary accepted by Commissioners. Harbor Master reporting requirements amended to include board notification.
 - **Campground/Marina Reporting:** Board requested monthly occupancy reports beginning April annually.
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5. Financial Report

- July revenue: approx. \$14,000.
- Major July expenditures: roofing, gutters, siding, marine costs.
- Cash balance remains stable despite heavy spending.
- August expected to reflect stronger financial position.

- Discussion held on utility increases and need to consider additional appropriations.
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6. Community Events Update

- **Fourth of July Event:** Band from LaPorte performed; hot dog vendor present. Event deemed successful with strong community support.
 - Board discussed improved event promotion for future years.
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7. Commissioner's Report

- Commissioners addressing easement issues in Husway area for fire/emergency access.
 - Plan to survey and open additional easements.
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8. Other Business

- Discussion of ADA compliance for new sidewalks and handicap access.
 - Board consensus to require full compliance before project closeout.
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9. Adjournment

- Motion made and seconded to adjourn. Motion carried.
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