Seymour Parks & Recreation Department
Board Minutes
October 19, 2026 @ 4:00 PM

Members in attendance were Monica Riley, Gary Green, Kendra Zumhingst, and William Castetter. Members of the Parks Department present were Chad Keithley, Emily Goens, Kerry Bevers, and Allycen Wheeler.

Monica called the meeting to order. A motion to approve the September minutes was made by Kendra and seconded by Gary. Motion carried. A motion to approve the September claims was made by Kendra and seconded by William. Motion carried.

Kendra made a motion to approve both the 2211 and 2503–9 September balances. Gary seconded the motion. Motion carried for approval of both funds.

Updates:

- The five year master plan has been in the works to be presented and submitted to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The plan incorporates community input gathered through surveys and sessions, with a goal to finalize by November for board and council approval.
- Park attendance was reviewed, with over 511,000 visitors through the third quarter of 2026, short of the 650,000 goal, but still strong compared to previous years. Seasonal challenges such as tournament cancellations due to weather and competition from turf fields were noted.
- The Title VI program for the community center bus was discussed extensively, highlighting the necessity to comply with a new federal template. The program covers compliance with non-discrimination policies for the bus service and includes details about public participation, training, and accommodations. Staff is evaluating whether continuing to operate the bus is cost-effective compared to switching to a smaller accessible van, pending valuation constraints from INDOT. The Title VI program will be reviewed by the board at a later date for approval.

Park Incidents:

- A vehicle damaged the Blue Star Memorial at Crossroads Park. The responsible party was identified, and repairs estimated at $1,500 are underway, with legal proceedings ongoing.

Program/Leagues Update:

- Soups and Stories- October 23 from 6p-9p at The Seymour Community Center. Individual tickets are on sale at $5 per person. Ticket price includes trying each soup, a bowl of soup of your choice, drinks and entertainment including story-telling and jazz music.
- Winter Volleyball League- Registration closes on October 27. A team of 6 can play for $185, with each additional player being $15.
- Parks Elves in Action- Currently seeking sponsorships for Christmas gifts for the 10 families that are registered. We will be going with the families this year to purchase the gifts.
- Christmas at Crossroads- November 29 at Crossroads Park from 6p-8p. Annual lighting of the Christmas tree with Santa, the Elf and Reindeer. FOP will be present and provide refreshments.

- Christmas Parade of Lights and Fireworks- December 19 at 5:30p. The route will be the same as previous years, starting on 2nd Street around Brooklyn Pizza and ending at the B&O parking lot. The FOP will be present with hot chocolate and cookies for all to enjoy, and fireworks will begin around 6:30-7p, depending on parade finish time.

Reservation Requests:

- None

Miscellaneous Business:

- Kendra expressed a heartfelt thanks to Chad and team for the placement of a bench honoring Rhonda Miller, a long-time Oktoberfest vendor. It was delivered Friday morning of the Oktoberfest and was quickly placed to the left side of Rhonda's booth, "Pretzel Wagon".
- Kendra expressed gratitude and recognized the Parks staff for being helpful during the duration of the Oktoberfest.

Kendra made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Gary seconded. Motion carried.
The next Parks Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 9, at 4 p.m.