
**PIQUA PARK BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2025**

A. Call to Order

The Piqua Park Board met at 5:30 p.m. in the Municipal Government Complex Commission Chambers located at 201 W. Water Street, Piqua, Ohio.

B. Roll Call

The following board members were present: Cathy Oda, Bonnie Davis, Natalie Young, Zach Gordon, Alex Karabinis, Cindy Pearson, and Alan Subler. Staff members Amy Welker, Melissa Kinney, and Bob Graeser were also present.

C. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Davis to approve the Meeting Minutes from the May 7, 2025, Regular Park Board Meeting, and Ms. Pearson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

1) Approval of the Minutes from the May 7, 2025, Regular Park Board Meeting

D. New Business

1) Placement of Benches & Tables

Board members discussed their recommendations for the placement of new 6-foot benches and 8-foot picnic tables in Pitsenbarger Park, French Park, Shawnee Park, Das Park, Goodrich Giles Park, and Kiwanis Park. For the underutilized open green space at Kiwanis Park, Ms. Davis suggested the set-up of outdoor exercise equipment; Ms. Young and Mr. Karabinis added that chess tables would be a good addition there as well. The board also discussed the possibility of moving the location of Shawnee Park due to its dangerous location on busy East Main Street, which would allow for expansion of this park. In regards to Goodrich Giles Park, Mr. Gordon noted that the parking lot is always full and suggested expanding it; Ms. Young agreed, adding that there may be a boat ramp in the future there as well.

2) Park Observations / Recommendations

Next, the group discussed their observations and recommendations for various Piqua parks. Ms. Young asked if adding trees near the football field at Pitsenbarger Park was still possible; Mr. Graeser responded that the city has not decided on the type of tree, but trees will be planted there. Ms. Young reiterated her desire for a canopy of shade by trees for spectators at this football

field. Ms. Davis recommended that new tennis courts be constructed where the old swimming pool was located; Mr. Subler said a pool or splash pad would be a good plan for that area. Ms. Welker commented that the Parks crew will be demolishing the Community Garden area, and it will become a football practice area. Ms. Young also recommended that a Bike Repair Station be added at Goodrich Giles Park and said that new toilet seats are needed at Pitsenbarger Park. She then reviewed the 2024 lists of Park Observations and Recommendations with the group.

3) Annual Report

Ms. Young asked for the board members' input regarding the upcoming Annual Report due to the Commission in January 2026. She desires a group consensus and would like to begin working on it now. Ms. Pearson stated that she prefers the voting process that was utilized last year. Mr. Subler said it was important to explain the board's vision to the Commission. Mr. Gordon summarized that the board should present 3-5 small projects as immediate action items, along with 1-2 larger-scale Capital Improvement projects for the future in their annual report.

4) Chapter 94 Fees & Rules

Ms. Welker handed out a copy of a revised draft of Chapter 94 of the Piqua Code related to Parks and Recreation. She commented that the changes proposed regarding the golf course are recommended by the Golf Manager. She asked that everyone review the document and be prepared to give feedback at the next meeting in September.

E. Staff Report

Ms. Welker handed out a list of current Recreation Programs and talked about upcoming activities in the parks. She said that the Recreation Manager Tyler Barlage is doing a great job getting recreational activities planned for the community. She then shared the Piqua Parks 2025 Vandalism Report with the board. She discussed details of the vandalism incidents in the parks and the costs involved. She also talked about the recent incident with the restrooms vandalized at Lock 9 Park and the strategies the city staff are going to implement to help prevent further vandalism. She said that the Parks crew has been very busy this summer, trying to keep up with all the maintenance in the parks. She announced that a contractor started pouring concrete for the new pickleball courts at Pitsenbarger Park.

F. Board Member Comments

Ms. Young asked for an update on the Pollinator project. Ms. Welker said that Chris Boeke recently went with Terry Lavy to find a good location. Recommended areas include an area along the bike path towards the Sunset Avenue tunnel behind Kroger or a vacant area in French Park. Ms. Young stated her support of French Park, as it would be more visible there. Mr. Gordon suggested that the city do 2 sample small pollinator areas in order to compare costs. He said a full maintenance area will need burned off annually and the noxious weeds will need removed on a regular basis, whereas a no-maintenance area would be more affordable but less appealing to the public eye. Ms. Welker announced that the Friends of Piqua Parks is replacing the shelter near the Fountain Park Dining Hall soon. She said the RT Industries is partnering with the city this summer to provide workers in the parks for light maintenance and cleaning. Mr. Graeser said some dangerous trees have recently been removed in the Nicklin Avenue area

and in public right-of-ways.

G. Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Oda to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m., and Ms. Young seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

Minutes Approved on 3/25/26 (DATE)
Signed by Chairperson Natalie Young