City of
PIQUA

PIQUA PARK BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026

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: Bonnie Davis, Zach Gordon, Alex Karabinis, Cathy Oda, Cindy Pearson, Alan Subler, Natalie Young, Joshua Donovan, Nathan Hughes, Kirby King, and Angela Pearson. Staff members Amy Welker, Melissa Kinney, and Bob Graeser were also present.

Following Roll Call was a brief introduction of everyone to the four new board members.

C. Election of Officers

Nominations for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson were opened on the floor. A motion was made by Ms. Oda to nominate Ms. Young as Chairperson, and Ms. Davis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Cindy Pearson to nominate Ms. Oda as Vice Chairperson, and Ms. Young seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Oda to approve the Meeting Minutes from the July 9, 2025, Regular Park Board Meeting, the September 10, 2025, Regular Park Board Meeting, and the November 12, 2025, Regular Park Board Meeting. Ms. Young seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

1) Approval of the Minutes from the July 9, 2025, Regular Park Board Meeting

2) Approval of the Minutes from the September 10, 2025, Regular Park Board Meeting

3) Approval of the Minutes from the November 12, 2025, Regular Park Board Meeting

E. Old Business

1) Set annual goals & priorities

Ms. Young explained how the board came up with the roadmap for the Park Board meetings and discussed the primary goal of accumulating data to compile in an annual report for the Commission.

F. New Business

1) Park Observations for Spring Readiness

Ms. Young handed out a Comprehensive Park Observation Template to each board member to use as a tool when visiting their assigned parks before the next meeting. Ms. Young then asked each board member which parks they would be willing to observe. She will email the assigned list to everyone soon.

Ms. Welker talked about the Parks Maintenance Standards that have been established by the Parks Department; she has 5 employees for 16 parks and 13 miles of bike path who try to meet these standards effectively but cannot always get everything accomplished.

2) Community Partnerships & Outreach

Ms. Welker shared with the Park Board that the city is currently working on a Comprehensive Plan update regarding land use, growth in the city, and city planning. This will be an 18-month process with intensive community input, and she asked that the Park Board participate as a focus group. Her goal is that the plan will help address the Park System through community input.

G. Staff Report

1) Prior Year Budget vs. Actual

Ms. Welker shared the 2025 end of year Budget Status Report and explained how to read it. She briefly went over revenues and expenses of the Parks Department and showed a 10-year budget history for the Parks Department. She noted that in the last 3 years, the city has invested much more money in its park systems. She also pointed out that the Parks Department's major source of funding is 1/4 of 1% of the city's income tax.

2) Prior Year Programming, Events, Volunteers/Donors

Ms. Welker shared information regarding Lock 9 Programming for 2025. Total expenses were $171,000, but 70% of the cost was covered by donations. She noted that this was well above the city's Cost Recovery Policy guidelines. She added that attendance at the Lock 9 Concert Series in 2025 was wonderful and that the reveal for the 2026 Concert Series will be on March 30th.

3) Safety/Vandalism Trends (Winter)

Ms. Welker provided a 2025 and 2026 vandalism report to the group. She noted that graffiti was not included in the report. She talked about ways the Parks Department has tried to curtail vandalism in the parks, including having the police department patrol the parks more often, the addition of more security cameras, and pressing charges against assailants. Unfortunately, vandalism continues to be an ongoing issue in the parks, especially in the tunnel on Sunset Avenue and the restrooms at French Park and Lock 9.

4) Recreation Programs

Ms. Welker asked everyone to look over the 2026 Special Events List handed out. She mentioned several upcoming recreation events, such as the Disc Golf league, the Community Health Fair, and several partnerships with the YMCA. Ms. Kinney will send out Recreation Manager Tyler Barlage's contact information to everyone for ideas and recommendations.

5) Tree Items

Mr. Graeser announced that the city has earned the "Tree City USA" honor for the 31st year. He said there will be an Arbor Day event soon with PCIS to educate children on the need for trees. He also told the board that he has been working on trees missing in the Right of Way on Nicklin Avenue. The city plans to replace and add new trees and new soil there in the near future.

H. Board Member Comments

Ms. Young reiterated the importance of the Park Board, as it is their duty per the city charter to make recommendations to the City Manager throughout the year and to the Commission at the end of each year. She then asked each board member to say why they joined the park board.
Mr. Donovan expressed his desire to help in the parks.
Mr. Hughes said he has a passion for nature and pollinator programs.
Mr. King said that his design and engineering experience will be an asset to the group.
Ms. Angela Pearson would like to make more connections and learn from this board.
Ms. Davis is advocating for a Sports Complex and tennis courts.
Mr. Karabinis says that parks are fun for him and his family.
Mr. Subler believes that the city needs to offer more amenities and activities for the kids in Piqua.
Mr. Gordon's expertise in landscape design management can help the park system.
Ms. Cindy Pearson believes that parks are important to everyone's lifestyle.

I. Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Young to adjourn at 7:34 p.m., and Mr. Donovan seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

Minutes approved on 05/13/26 (DATE)

Signed by Chairperson Natalie A Young