



**PIQUA PARK BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 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, Cathy Oda, Cindy Pearson, Natalie Young, Joshua Donovan, Nathan Hughes, Kirby King, and Angela Pearson. Staff members Bob Graeser, Melissa Kinney, Chris Boeke, and Tyler Barlage were also present.

C. Approval of Minutes

1) Approval of the Minutes from the March 25, 2026, Regular Park Board Meeting

A motion was made by Cindy Pearson to approve the Meeting Minutes from the March 25, 2026, Regular Park Board Meeting. Mr. Donovan seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

A motion was then made by Ms. Young to amend the Agenda for the addition of 2 presentations by Friends of Piqua Parks and the Piqua Compassion Network, and Cindy Pearson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

President Ruth Koon of Friends of Piqua Parks announced that their organization would like to partner with the city and the Park Board on a new project for the community that would add 1 or 2 splash pads to the park system. Cindy Pearson said that this would be a great addition for the children of Piqua and would provide safe accessibility. Ms. Young commented that a splash pad was a top priority for the Park Board last year. Mr. Boeke said that maintenance costs for the upkeep and repairs would need to be considered, noting that the water usage is substantial when a splash pad is in use.

Rebecca Sousek, Executive Director of the Piqua Compassion Network, shared with the Park Board how the organization serves the youth of the Piqua community, including crisis relief, educational programs, and financial assistance with utility bills. Director Shelli Mitchell said that the organization served 1,500 children in 2025, including a very successful Back-to-School Bash last August and a Thanksgiving feast that brought together high school kids and senior citizens. Mimi Crawford talked about the organization and its high impact on the community, emphasizing its enthusiasm and passion for youth. Ms. Sousek then discussed the need for a Community Center for the youth of Piqua, stating the organization's desire to renew its lease of the Mote Park building.

D. New Business

1) Seasonal Park Observations

Ms. Young asked each board member to share their recent park observations with the group. Mr. Barlage, as the Certified Playground Safety Inspector, spoke about the annual inspections he conducts on the playground equipment in all Piqua parks to identify hazards and enforce playground safety. He also shared a recent inspection report completed at Das Park to give the board members an idea of what an inspection entails.

2) Volunteer/Donor Tracking & Recognition

Mr. Boeke announced that volunteer engagement in the parks has been very good so far this year. He mentioned several recent volunteer groups, including employees from Crane Pumps working 3 days at Mote Park, a group of students from Lehman Catholic High School cleaning up in Fountain Park and Roadside Park, and Piqua High School seniors volunteering in Fountain Park. Ms. Oda will send Thank You cards to these volunteers.

E. Staff Report

1) Mid-year financial snapshot

A Budget Status Report was handed out to the board. Ms. Young had a question about encumbered funds.

2) Capital project progress

Mr. Boeke spoke of several Capital Projects underway in the parks: 2 baseball diamonds getting redone this year at Lower Mote Park and Pitsenbarger Park, lighting at the new pickleball courts, the addition of windscreens at the new pickleball courts, paving and seal coating of the Bike Path, and a "facelift" to the Hollow Park entrance. He also informed the group that the O & I Bridge is closed due to a recent fire, and a consultant will be evaluating the bridge's deficits soon.

3) Programming & Event Update (Spring/Summer)

Mr. Barlage shared a packet of flyers with the group while briefly discussing upcoming special events in the community. Some of the events mentioned were the Lock 9 Summer Concert Series, Movie in the Park events, Police in the Parks events, and the PiquaFest 250 Celebration at Lock 9 Park.

4) Recreation Programs

Mr. Barlage also shared information about multiple recreation programs coming up in the parks, including the free outdoor fitness series at Lock 9 Park, yoga classes at Fountain Park, the Summer Walking Club, paddle-boarding sessions, and a Sound Bath experience at the Fort Piqua Plaza.

5) Tree Items

Mr. Graeser announced that the city recently received the Tree City USA Award for the 31st year in a row. He also talked about the successful Arbor Day Celebration at PCIS on May 7th, 2026. He said that 3 trees were planted in the school's garden park. He also informed the board that this fall, there will be a replanting at the Nicklin Avenue tree boulevard.

F. Board Member Comments

The board discussed its support of a lease with the Piqua Compassion Network for the Mote Park building for the Power Project.

A motion was made by Mr. King to support the lease of the Mote Park building for the Piqua Compassion Network, and Mr. Hughes seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

The board members then talked about the Friends of Piqua Parks splash pad project.

A motion was made by Ms. Oda to support the investigation of a splash pad project to gather more details and cost estimates, and Mr. King seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

G. Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Young to adjourn at 7:40 p.m., and Ms. Oda seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

Minutes approved on ¹⁵07/17/26 _____ (DATE)

Signed by Chairperson Natalie A Young