



**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
parks and recreation**

AGENDA

City of Bloomington Board of Park Commissioners
Regular Meeting: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Council Chambers
401 North Morton

CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A-1. Approval of Minutes of April 27, 2010
- A-2. Approval of Claims Submitted April 28, 2010-May 24, 2010
- A-3. Approval of Non-Reverting Budget Amendments
- A-4. Review of Business Report

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS/APPEARANCES

- B-1. Public Comment Period -
- B-2. Bravo Award - Adam Sater (Mark Sterner)
- B-3. Staff Introductions - Jordan Fromm (Operations Division Intern)
Philip Slack (Sports Division Intern)
Laura Fornarni (Recreation Division Intern)
- B-4. Staff Recognition -

C. OTHER BUSINESS

- C-1. Review/Approval of Partnership Agreement with Downtown Bloomington Inc. (Becky Barrick)
- C-2. Review/Approval of Partnership Agreement with Bloomington Hospital (Mick Renneisen)
- C-3. Review/Approval of Fee Waiver for Foundation Golf Outing (John Turnbull)
- C-4. Review/Approval of Partnership Agreement with Babe Ruth Baseball Assoc. (Dee Tuttle)
- C-5. Review/Approval of Partnership Agreement with Bloomington Junior League Baseball Association (Dee Tuttle)
- C-6. Review/Approval of Winslow North Concession Agreement (Dee Tuttle)
- C-7. Review/Approval of Winslow South Concession Agreement (Dee Tuttle)

D. REPORTS

- D-1. Operations Division - ERAC Annual Report
- D-2. Sports Division - No Report
- D-3. Recreation Division - No Report
- D-4. Administration Division - No Report

ADJOURNMENT



**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
parks and recreation**

A-1
06/10/10

Board of Park Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

Tuesday, April 27, 2010
4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Council Chambers
401 N. Morton St.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Carter at 4:05 p.m.

Board Present: John Carter, Les Coyne, Joe Hoffmann Jane St. John

Staff Present: Mick Renneisen, Lesilyn Neely, John Turnbull, Dee Tuttle, Becky Higgins, Jordan Fromm, Mark Sterner, Leslie Brinson, Kim Ecenbarger, Julie Ramey, Brittany Harness, Elizabeth Tompkins, Dave Williams, Bev Johnson

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A-1. Approval of Minutes of April 27, 2010 Meeting
- A-2. Approval of Claims Submitted April 28 – May 24, 2010
- A-3. Approval of Non-Reverting Budget Amendments
- A-4. Review of Business Report

Mr. Hoffmann made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Ms. St. John seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS/APPEARANCES

B-1. Public Comment Period

Mr. Renneisen reminded the Board and the public that Bryan and Mills Pools open this Saturday, May 29 and will be open to the public daily from 11 am – 7 pm. The America in Bloom judges will be in town on June 18 and 19. The June Board meeting will be held on Thursday, June 10 at 4:00 following the Board/Staff Budget Retreat from noon – 3:00. The July Board meeting will be held on July 13 at 4:00.

Mr. Hoffmann commented on a recent Letter to the Editor that referenced the poor condition of the City parks. He stated that this is a Gold Medal Award winning department and the staff always does their best to keep the parks in excellent condition. The letter does not represent his view of the parks.

Mr. Coyne commented that he was pleased to see the editorial response to the Letter to the Editor that supported the City parks department. He also congratulated the staff on the good media publicity recently on the one year anniversary of the Twin Lakes Recreation Center (TLRC) acquisition.

Mr. Renneisen reminded the public to contact the staff if they see something in one of the parks that needs assistance. Staff can be reached at 349-3700 or e-mail: parks@bloomington.in.parks.

B-2. Bravo Award – Adam Sater

Mr. Sterner addressed the Board and stated that the May Bravo Award is being presented to Adam Sater. Mr. Sater is a coach in the youth basketball program. Coach Sater coached both 1st and 2nd grade teams during the fall and winter seasons. He has volunteer coached in the Bloomington Youth Basketball program for the past four years. He has participated in athletics throughout his life and those experiences have prepared him for his role as a youth sports coach.

Mr. Sater addressed the Board and thanked them for this honor and stated that he really enjoys coaching the kids. He stated that he appreciates the changes made to the youth basketball program at the TLRC.

B-3. Staff Introductions – Jordan Fromm, Philip Slack, Laura Fornari

Mr. Fromm addressed the Board and stated that he is interning with the Operations Division this summer. Originally from Columbus, Ohio, he is a junior in SPEA studying Public Management. He will be working to complete three main projects for the Operations Division: 1) inventorying of the lights in all of the parks, 2) assessing and measuring surfaces in parks and trails, and 3) inventorying amenities and equipment in parks.

Mr. Slack addressed the Board and stated that he is interning with the sports division and is primarily assigned to Mr. Sterner at the TLRC; however, he will be working with all of the staff at the TLRC. He will be entering his senior year at Indiana University with a major in Sports Marketing and Management with minors in Business and Marketing. After graduation he hopes to establish a sports-focused afterschool program.

Ms. Fornari addressed the Board and stated that she is serving as the health/wellness intern and works closely with Ms. Buuck at the TLRC. She will graduate in June with a Bachelor's degree in Kinesiology from Indiana University with the Fitness Specialist major. Much of her education has focused on learning to do fitness assessment, interpretation, and prescription as well as obtaining CPR, AED, and First Aid certifications. She hopes to continue her education in the health and fitness field and hopes to work in the corporate fitness industry.

B-4. Staff Recognition – none this month

C. OTHER BUSINESS

C-1. Review/Approval of Partnership Agreement with Downtown Bloomington Inc.

Ms. Barrick addressed the Board seeking approval of the partnership agreement with Downtown Bloomington Inc. to provide the Independence Day parade and festivities. The event is scheduled for Saturday, July 3, 2010 from 9 am – 1 pm. This year's theme is "The Spirit of Bloomington." The parade route has changed somewhat this year and starts at 7th and Indiana and heads west on 7th Street, turning right (north) on Walnut, then left (west) on 8th Street, left (south) on College, left (east) on Kirkwood and ends at Kirkwood and Indiana. There are no major changes from last year's partnership agreement.

Mr. Hoffmann made a motion to approve the partnership agreement with Downtown Bloomington Inc. Ms. St. John seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

C-2. Review/Approval of Partnership Agreement with Bloomington Hospital

Mr. Renneisen addressed the Board seeking approval of the partnership agreement with Bloomington Hospital. He stated that collaboration between the Bloomington Hospital staff and Parks and Recreation staff has been in place for many years. Each organization has similar missions pertaining to the overall health and wellness of the community. He stated that the department's contracted advertising/marketing/salesperson (Bob McDowell) realized, soon after being hired by the department, that there are many opportunities for the Bloomington Hospital and Parks and Recreation to collaborate, and strategic discussions began. The two organizations merged their respective strategic

plans to accomplish common goals for 2010-2012. The two organizations will continue to meet quarterly to update progress and revise future goals. He stated that there are seven areas in which the two organizations are partnering: Sports Medicine, Administration, Marketing, Employee Benefits, Community, Community Health & Wellness Education and Community Health & Wellness Programming. The partnership includes sharing staff resources and sponsorship of some programs.

Myron Lewis of the Bloomington Hospital addressed the Board and stated that they are very excited about this partnership. The goal of the partnership is to formalize the arrangements that have existed for several years in providing programs to the Bloomington community. The partnership brings together the expertise and staffing of the Bloomington Hospital staff with the expertise, staffing, facilities, and users of the Parks Department. He stated that this plan was presented to the senior management at the Bloomington Hospital and the regional hospitals two weeks ago and they were all very happy about this opportunity.

Mr. Hoffmann stated that he feels it is great that this relationship is transitioning to a more formal partnership. He feels the two organizations will also find similar goals with other organizations in town such as Indiana University, Monroe County Schools, Monroe County Government, etc.

Mr. Renneisen stated that this arrangement seemed like a natural way to move forward and eventually partner with other organizations in town to provide similar benefits to their constituents.

Mr. Hoffmann made a motion to approve the partnership agreement with Bloomington Hospital, including the Strategic Plan. Ms. St. John seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

C-3. Review/Approval of Fee Waiver for the Foundation Golf Outing

Mr. Turnbull addressed the Board seeking approval of the fee waiver of the greens fees for the annual Don Brineman Memorial Golf Scramble. This event is an annual fundraiser for youth scholarships for the Department. The event will be held on Wednesday, June 9 with lunch at 11:30 and golf at 1:00. The event typically attracts about 100 golfers and raises approximately \$7,000 - \$10,000.

Mr. Hoffmann made a motion to approve the fee waiver for the Foundation Golf Outing. Ms. St. John seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

C-4. Review/Approval of Partnership Agreement with Babe Ruth Baseball Association

Ms. Tuttle addressed the Board seeking approval of the partnership agreement with Babe Ruth Baseball Association. This organization is comprised of 10 teams this year and serves over 200 players ages 13-18. They play on the senior side of Winslow Sports Complex.

Mr. Hoffmann made a motion to approve the partnership agreement with Babe Ruth Baseball Association. Ms. St. John seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

C-5. Review/Approval of Partnership Agreement with Bloomington Junior League Baseball Association

Ms. Tuttle addressed the Board seeking approval of the partnership agreement with Bloomington Junior League Baseball Association. This organization is comprised of 52 teams this year and serves over 700 players ages 5-12. These numbers are slightly higher than recent years. They play on the junior side of Winslow Sports Complex and Bryan Park ballfields.

Mr. Hoffmann made a motion to approve the partnership agreement with Babe Ruth Baseball Association. Ms. St. John seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

C-6. Review/Approval of Winslow North Concession Agreement

Ms. Tuttle addressed the Board seeking approval of the Winslow North Concession Agreement with the Bloomington Junior League Baseball Association. The organization uses profits generated from concession sales to offset the program costs and other related expenses.

Mr. Hoffmann made a motion to approve the Winslow North Concession agreement. Ms. St. John seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

C-7. Review/Approval of Winslow South Concession Agreement

Ms. Tuttle addressed the Board seeking approval of the Winslow South Concession Agreement with the Babe Ruth Baseball Association. The organization uses profits generated from concession sales to offset the program costs and other related expenses.

Mr. Hoffmann made a motion to approve the Winslow South Concession agreement. Ms. St. John seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

D. REPORTS

D-1. Operations Division – ERAC Annual Report

Angie Shelton, Environmental Resources Advisory Council (ERAC) Chairperson, addressed the Board and provided them with an update on the 2009 activities of the ERAC. The council established six topics to focus on in 2009:

Griffy Lake Master Plan

Members reviewed the completed Griffy Lake Master Plan (GLMP) and rated the priorities listed. Angie Shelton reported to the Parks Board in August 2009, listing ERAC's ranked priorities for GLMP. ERAC organized the 70 recommendations in the GLMP into categories and ranked these categories by order of importance. The top priorities, as determined by ERAC, are (1) erosion and sedimentation control, (2) pedestrian and bicycle safety, (3) deer population control, (4) water quality, (5) invasive species, and (6) acquisition of adjacent properties. ERAC further listed the most important recommendations within each of these categories in its August report to the Parks Board.

Griffy Lake LARE Design Study

BPR received \$31,500 for a shoreline erosion design study from the Lake and River Enhancement program. JF New was contracted to complete the design. The study provided design specifications for bio-engineered and hard construction shoreline erosion control along moderately to severely eroded areas around Griffy Lake.

Preliminary designs were presented to ERAC members for input before the plan was completed. Treatment consists of bioengineering at the waterline to catch soil and allow vegetation growth along with the additions of woody debris to catch soil and reduce access. Human and dog impact will be reduced in treatment areas with the addition of temporary fencing and signage. One meeting was held at Griffy Lake and members examined the proposed treatment areas on a canoe tour of the shoreline. Funding will be sought in 2010 to implement the plan.

Deer Overpopulation

ERAC members consider deer overpopulation in the City of Bloomington, particularly in the Griffy Lake area to be a significant ecological threat. Chair Angie Shelton, a researcher in the IU Biology Department and the IU Research and Teaching Preserve, is currently conducting research in the Griffy Lake area on the effects of deer browsing on plant communities and ecosystem effects. The early data from this research show that deer are significantly reducing plant species diversity, plant size and flowering. There may be other effects on community structure of other trophic levels as well. Visually, the Griffy Woods area has a very depauperate understory community compared to other forests in Monroe and Brown Counties. ERAC members were actively involved

with the deer overpopulation issue in 2009. ERAC drafted a letter, co-signed by the City of Bloomington Environmental Commission, to the Parks Board and the Bloomington City Council, asking them to form a deer task force to examine what can be done about deer overpopulation in the City. Angie Shelton presented this letter to the Parks Board at the August 2009 meeting along with the rankings Griffy Lake Management Plan objectives. A joint city-county deer task force is currently being formed. ERAC members are interested in serving on this task force.

Two ERAC members (Angie Shelton and Barbara Restle) wrote editorials for the Herald-Times on deer issues to educate the public about ecological effects of deer overpopulation. Members also suggested BPR staff focus on education of deer impacts in public programming.

Dog Park Design

The Ferguson Property was chosen for placement and Bynum Fanyo designed the plans for the park. The project was budgeted at \$350,000. BPR can fund half of the project, so it will be completed in phases. Members discussed runoff issues into Griffy Creek and options for pet waste disposal. Members also discussed that public outreach and education about pet waste disposal and erosion issues along Griffy Lake should be an important part of the new dog park and possibly should begin at the old unofficial "dog park". Construction on the new dog park is scheduled to begin in 2010.

Invasive Plant Control Efforts

BPR staff worked closely with the Southern Indiana Cooperative Weed Management Area's Monroe County group to educate the public and control invasive plants. The focus areas for BPR are Lower Cascades, Winslow Woods, and Griffy Lake Park.

Bush honeysuckle was removed and treated in Lower Cascades Park with help from EcoLogic and several volunteers. Work continued throughout the year to maintain this three acre area. Some plants were left standing after treatment in an effort to discourage deer browsing as suggested by member Angie Shelton. Researchers from IU are studying the recovery of this site and adding native species to help reduce future invasions.

Bryan Park creek area and Goat Farm property work is continuing. Future management of these areas will be explored by ERAC in the future. Controlled burns will also be considered and evaluated at Griffy Lake and Olcott Parks to control invasives and maintain oak forests. Without active management, these forests are likely to shift to more beech-maple domination which has lower value for wildlife and species diversity.

Griffy Lake aquatic vegetation management continued with treatment of 15-20 acres of Curlyleaf Pondweed in April 2009. A May 2009 survey by Aquatic Control, Inc. reported a native plant population is present and no Brazilian Elodea was found. Both Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed were found and spot treatment was recommended. Aquatic Control, Inc. also recommended monitoring ponds in the Griffy Lake watershed for invasive plants. Angie Shelton and her Field Ecology course surveyed aquatic vegetation in University Lake, which drains into Griffy Lake in 2008. No important aquatic invasive species were found.

BPR staff, particularly SPEA intern Joel Grant, is compiling an inventory of invasive plants in park properties on a new internet database (www.eddmaps.org).

B-Line Trail and McDoel Switchyard

Phase II construction of the B-Line Trail will include native plantings and a more narrow swath than originally planned. This will save many existing trees from removal. Purchase of the McDoel Switchyard was finalized and input will be gathered from members about the design, planning, and remediation of the property.

Jackson Creek Trail

Stimulus funding was sought and received for the construction of the trail from Sherwood Oaks Park through the Goat Farm property to the round-about at High St. Construction should be completed in 2010. The money budgeted for the project will be moved to another trail project that members will advise on.

Miller-Showers Park

Algae control in the upper pond of Miller-Showers Park was discussed regularly at meetings. Chemical treatments and aeration options were evaluated by members. Member Bill Jones conducted numerous tests in his lab with a chemical control option BPR was exploring. Aeration designs were also discussed. A treatment decision will be made and implemented in 2010.

ERAC members contacted Herald-Times Down to Earth editor, Dawn Hewitt, about doing a story on the water-cleaning functions of Miller-Showers Park to educate the public on the benefits of this feature. Member Bill Jones was interviewed for this article, which ran as a Down to Earth cover story in May 2009.

Bill Jones' Stream Ecology class in IU's SPEA studied water quality in Miller-Showers and Cascades Creek. They found particularly high fecal coliform levels in Lower Cascades creek which appear to be originating from somewhere in the area of the Bypass and N Walnut Streets, possibly from a leaking septic system or damaged sewer line.

Environmental Education Priorities

Leonard Springs Nature Day continues to involve member Scott Stephenson's high school students and several ERAC members as volunteers for this experiential environmental education program. This program reaches all sixth grade students in MCCSC. Fourth grade students now have a similar opportunity at Griffy Lake that saw one-third of MCCSC fourth graders in fall 2009. The program will continue to grow incrementally over the next three years and grant funding has been secured through 2012.

Public outreach and education includes a monthly Naturalist at Market table at the Bloomington Community Farmers' Market, Sustain Bloomington event at Peoples Park, and increased involvement in the Citizen Scientist program.

Member Cathy Meyer heads up the Bloomington in Bloom Environmental Committee that compiles information about the city's environmental efforts for a national competition.

2010 Priorities

Priorities for 2010 include education on deer impacts, invasive plants, dog owner responsibilities and continued input on invasive plant management, deer management, and trail construction.

The Board expressed their thanks to ERAC members for all of their expertise and hard work on this council in support of the Department.

D-2. Sports Division – No Report

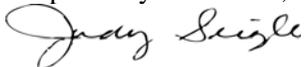
D-3. Recreation Division – No Report

D-4. Administration Division – No Report

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Judy Seigle, Secretary Board of Park Commissioners