



**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
parks and recreation**

A-1  
**01/26/10**

Board of Park Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

Tuesday, December 15, 2009  
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, Judy Seigle, Becky Barrick, Bill Ream, Dave Williams, Jason Calhoun, Todd Fleener, Jason Sims, Kim Ecenbarger, Elizabeth Tompkins, Lindsay Buuck, Paula McDevitt, Lee Huss, John Turnbull, Julie Ramey

**Parks Foundation:** Gayle Stuebe

**City Legal:** Vickie Renfrow, Margie Schrader

**Controller:** Mike Trexler

**A. CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A-1. Approval of Minutes of November 17, 2009 Meeting
- A-2. Approval of Claims Submitted November 18-December 14, 2009
- A-3. Approval of Non-Reverting Budget Amendments
- A-4. Review of Business Report

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

**B. PUBLIC HEARINGS/APPEARANCES**

**B-1. Public Comment Period**

Mr. Coyne stated that 2009 was a great year and the leadership of the department is excellent and can get things done quickly. He added that it is a delight to work with this staff and the community is lucky to have this department and the staff.

**B-2. Bravo Award – John Cantwell**

Mr. Fleener addressed the Board and stated that the December Bravo Award is being presented to John Cantwell. Mr. Cantwell is a key contributor to the success of the Hook-a-Kid-on-Golf (HAKOG) program. HAKOG is a program designed for children, who otherwise would not have the opportunity, to learn to play golf. After the loss of his son, a memorial scholarship fund was established by Mr. Cantwell and provides funds for 7-8 children annually to participate in this program. He also volunteers a significant amount of time during the program, assisting in all facets of the program. Following the clinic, he begins preparation for the Traditions of Golf, which is a HAKOG National Tournament. In addition to focusing on playing golf, this tournament also “quizzes” the



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**AGENDA**

City of Bloomington Board of Park Commissioners  
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Council Chambers  
401 North Morton

**CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL**

**A. CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A-1. Approval of Minutes of November 17, 2009 Meeting
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**B. PUBLIC HEARINGS/APPEARANCES**

- B-1. Public Comment Period
- B-2. Bravo Award - John Cantwell (Jason Calhoun/Todd Fleener)
- B-3. Staff Introduction -
- B-4. Parks Foundation Annual Report (Gayle Stuebe)

**C. OTHER BUSINESS**

- C-1. Review/Approval of Resolution 09-11 to Acquire the Switchyard Property (Mick Renneisen)
- C-2. Review/Approval of Thomson Park Name Change (Mick Renneisen)
- C-3. Review/Approval of Resolution 09-12 to Refund Park District Bonds of 2001 (Mick Renneisen)
- C-4. Review/Introduction of Appropriation Resolution 09-13 to Refund Park District Bonds of 2001 (Mick Renneisen)

**D. REPORTS**

- D-1. Operations Division - No Report
- D-2. Sports Division - No Report
- D-3. Recreation Division - After School EDventures (Lindsay Buuck)
- D-4. Administration Division - No Report

**ADJOURNMENT**

participants on the rules and history of golf with each participant being asked one rules and one history question. Mr. Cantwell spends about 80 hours per year assisting with the clinic and preparing/coaching the children for the questions. His dedication was awarded this year by bringing the national championship for HAKOG to Bloomington, Indiana for the first time.

### B-3. Staff Introduction

### B-4. Parks Foundation Annual Report

Ms. Stuebe addressed the Board and provided them with an update on the activities of the Parks Foundation in 2009. Highlights from 2009:

- A gift acceptance policy was adopted
- A 6-week giving campaign was announced in April
- In June a donor appreciation reception was hosted at the Fountain Square Ballroom
- The annual Don Brineman Golf Scramble was held in June
- In August the Parks Foundation and Jared Jeffries' Foundation hosted a reception at Oliver Winery which coincided with the opening of the TLRC
- In October two new scoreboards were purchased by the Foundation for Winslow Sports Complex
- In December it was announced that over \$26,000 in scholarship money was awarded to 117 families, providing assistance to 170 children
- In 2010 the Foundation plans to complete the long range Strategic Plan which will assist the Foundation during the next several years.

Mr. Carter thanked Ms. Stuebe for all of her efforts on behalf of the Parks Foundation in 2009.

## **C. OTHER BUSINESS**

### C-1. Review/Approval of Resolution 09-11 to Acquire the Switchyard Property

Mr. Renneisen addressed the Board seeking approval of Resolution 09-11 to acquire the CSX Switchyard properties. He stated that the department has been interested in acquiring this property since the original purchase of the CSX Corridor was completed in 2005. Acquisition of this property would allow the brownfield site to be re-used for park purposes and incorporated with existing plans to develop the CSX Corridor into the B-Line Trail. He indicated that the property owners are interested in selling. The required two appraisals have been obtained for each site and the average of the two appraisals for the site was greater than the recommended purchase price. Staff recommends an offer of \$400,000. He offered his thanks to former Mayor John Fernandez; Senators Bayh and Lugar; former Assistant City Attorney Susan Failey; Assistant City Attorney Margie Rice, and Corporation Counsel Kevin Robling. He also thanked Dave Williams for all of his background work on acquiring the property. Funding for the project comes from the Parks General Fund that was appropriated in 2008 and encumbered and carried over to 2009. The original amount that was carried over was \$1 million. Some of that money has been spent on consultants, studies and surveys. He stated that staff hopes to gain public input on the development of the park late in 2010 or early 2011. When funds become available, this input will help guide the development of the property. The B-Line trail will be developed through the designated corridor of this property most likely in 2010.

Ms. St. John made a motion to approve Resolution 09-11 to acquire the switchyard property. Mr. Coyne seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

### C-2. Review/Approval of Thomson Park Name Change

Mr. Renneisen addressed the Board seeking approval to rename Thomson Park. He stated that this request was initially made by Gib Apple who requested that the park be renamed RCA Park to reflect the name of this long-time

employer. He stated that Assistant City Attorney Margie Schrader verified that Mr. Apple contacted Thomson's Real Estate Attorney to release the deed restriction naming the park "Thomson." Ms. Schrader verified via an affidavit that was factual and Thomson, in fact, wanted the name to be changed to "RCA Community Park." Staff agrees that renaming the park is an appropriate way to honor RCA which had been a part of the Bloomington community for several decades.

Mr. Hoffmann stated that public comment was received from one person that stated he would prefer the park be named after neither Thomson nor RCA because of corporate policy objections. Mr. Hoffmann added that the land was donated to the department by Thomson and it is their decision to determine the name. He feels it is appropriate to rename the park RCA because of its history in the Bloomington community.

Ms. St. John stated that she had some reservations about this renaming and stated that it was imperative that permission be received from the original donors. She cautioned staff not to set a precedent that allows name changes without good cause.

Mr. Carter stated that he appreciates Mr. Apple's diligence in providing the research and polling former employees.

Mr. Coyne stated that the department does have a park naming policy that governs how park properties and facilities are named.

Ms. St. John made a motion to approve the name change for Thomson Park. Mr. Coyne seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

#### C-3. Review/Approval of Resolution 09-12 to Refund Park District Bonds of 2001

Mr. Renneisen addressed the Board seeking approval of the refunding of park district bonds of 2001. He stated that refunding these bonds at the current lower interest rates will save the department about \$130,000 over the life of the bonds. This was a general obligation bond that funded improvements to Miller Showers Park, Cascades Park, and Mills and Bryan Park pools.

Ms. Renfrow, Assistant City Attorney, addressed the Board and stated that this process is similar to refinancing in order to save on interest throughout the life of the loan. The current balance is about \$3.1 million. She reiterated that this will save the department about \$130,000 in interest for the remainder of the bond payments. She added that a special meeting will be held on January 13, 2010 to have a public hearing on the appropriation resolution. The resolution will be presented for approval at that time. Following Board approval, an ordinance will be presented to the City Council with the first reading on January 6, 2010 and final vote on January 20, 2010.

Mike Trexlar, City Controller, addressed the Board and stated that refunding this bond will save the Parks General Fund about \$20,000 per year. He added that this bond was not refunded in 2009 when the other bonds were refunded because the City was near the maximum bank qualified limit. By waiting until now the City can also refund a Utility bond.

Ms. St. John made a motion to approve Resolution 09-12 refunding Park District Bonds of 2001. Mr. Coyne seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

#### C-4. Review/Approval of Appropriation Resolution 09-13 to Refund Park District Bonds of 2001

Mr. Renneisen addressed the Board seeking approval of Appropriation Resolution 09-13 to refund Park District Bonds of 2001. This resolution is notice that that Appropriation Resolution will be considered for approval on January 13, 2010. Following Board approval, the resolution will be presented to City Council for approval.

Ms. St. John made a motion to approve Appropriation Resolution 09-13 to refund Park District Bonds of 2001. Mr. Coyne seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

## **D. REPORTS**

### **D-1. Operations Division –Urban Forestry Update**

Mr. Huss addressed the Board and provided them with an update on Urban Forestry activities. He stated that 2009 was an “incredible” year! Street tree removals were down this year with a total of 125. Eighteen trees were removed from parks. The woodwaste utilization program continues to provide steady revenue. The tree planting budget was doubled in 2009 over the 2008 budget. This resulted in 424 tree plantings with 96 in the parks and 328 street trees. Mr. Huss introduced Laurel Cornell, Tree Commission Chair.

Ms. Cornell addressed the Board and stated that the Tree Commission exists to advise the Urban Forester on issues in city parks and city streets. The commission is comprised of seven members: three landscape architects, a forester, an environmentalist, a biologist, and a graphic designer. The commission meets monthly and they address a variety of issues from tree removal to consulting with other city departments on collaborative projects. She provided the Board with the Street Tree Five-Year Strategic Plan. She asked the Board to review the plan and provided any feedback by the January 2010 Tree Commission meeting.

Mr. Huss stated he continues working with a SPEA professor, Bernie Fisher, and one of his graduate students. He is also actively involved in the Bloomington in Bloom project.

### **D-2. Sports Division – No Report**

### **D-3. Recreation Division – After School EDventures**

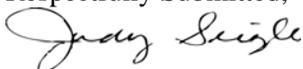
Ms. Buuck addressed the Board and provided them with an update on the EDventures program. She stated that this afterschool program has been in place for about a year and used to be called “The Bell and Beyond.” The program mission is to “improve and enrich student achievement – academically, behaviorally, and socially – by providing a safe, hands-on learning environment and to build connections between school, family, and community.” This program is a 4-year grant funded program that receives funding from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center. There are currently six K-6 elementary schools participating in the Bloomington community: Arlington, Fairview, Grandview, Highland Park, Summit, and Templeton. There are also six partners involved: MCCSC/School Age Care, COB Parks and Recreation, Wonderlab, Bloomington Playwright’s Project, Waldron Art’s Center, and the YMCA. The goals of the program are to increase student’s connection to their school, increase academic success, increase school attendance, increase positive behavior, expand student’s school community by making new friends, and have fun while learning. The Parks Department’s role is to teach nutrition and physical activity and comply with Indiana Health and Physical Education Standards. Lessons include American Heart Association Empower ME program; food pyramid; fruit and vegetable logs; nutrition labels; benefits of physical activity; balancing nutrition, healthy choices, and physical activity. Games included are fitness skillastics, BINGO, egg races, juice box craft, veggie people, and capture the food. Ms. Buuck stated that they do pre and post assessment with each school and staff has seen improvements on each question following participation in the program.

### **D-4. Administration Division – No Report**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Judy Seigle, Secretary Board of Park Commissioners