

**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
parks and recreation**

**AGENDA**

City of Bloomington Board of Park Commissioners  
Regular Meeting: Tuesday, November 17, 2009 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.  
Morton

Council Chambers  
401 North

**CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL**

**A. CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A-1. Approval of Minutes of October 27, 2009 Meeting
- A-2. Approval of Claims Submitted October 28, 2009– November 16, 2009
- 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 - Marcia Meyer (Marcia Veldman)
- B-3. Staff Introduction - Lindsay Ragis, SPEA Intern
- B-4. Staff Milestone - Dennis Helms (John Turnbull)
- B-5. Tree Appeal

**C. OTHER BUSINESS**

- C-1. Review/Approval of Proposed Ordinance to Allow Velocabs on the Parks Trail System (Mick Renneisen)
- C-2. Review/Approval of 2010 Price Schedule (Cheryll Elmore)

**D. REPORTS**

- D-1. Operations Division - No Report
- D-2. Sports Division - ASA National Tournament Award (John Turnbull)
- D-3. Recreation Division - Kid City Break Days @ TLRC (Tim Pritchett)
- D-4. Administration Division - No Report

**ADJOURNMENT**



**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
parks and recreation**

A-1  
**12/15/09**

Board of Park Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

Tuesday, November 17, 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, Lesilyn Neely, Becky Barrick, Julie Ramey, Tim Pritchett, Paula McDevitt, Cheryll Elmore, Bill Ream, Kim Ecenbarger, Sarah Beatty, Dave Williams, Elizabeth Tompkins, Steve Cotter, Marcia Veldman, Lee Huss, John Turnbull

**Interns:** Joel Grant, Alex Kenner

**City Legal:** Margie Schrader

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- A-1. Approval of Minutes of October 27, 2009 Meeting
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- 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**

Gib Apple addressed the Board and stated that he is requesting that Thomson Community park be renamed RCA Community Park. He stated that from 1990-1992 while the plant was still owned by RCA, more than 15,000 color TV sets were produced per day and the outgoing market value of those TV sets was in excess of \$3million per day. The payroll at that time was around \$250,000 per day. This is data just for that two-year period during which time Mr. Apple was Plant Manager. This demonstrates what a large impact RCA had on the Bloomington community. Many former employees of the RCA/Thomson Consumer Electronics plant feel RCA's contributions to the Bloomington community far exceed those made by its subsequent owner, Thomson Consumer Electronics.

**B-2. Bravo Award – Marcia Meyer**

Ms. Veldman addressed the Board and stated that the November Bravo Award is being presented to Marcia Meyers. Ms. Meyers grew up in Bloomington, attended a 2-room school and graduated from University High School. In 1992 she finished a 5-year project of saving  $\frac{3}{4}$  of her earnings so that she could live on a modest nest egg and have the freedom to volunteer with projects that interested her. She has volunteered for various projects

throughout the country. She returned to Bloomington two years ago where her interest in sustainable agriculture and small farms inspired her to volunteer with the Bloomington Community Farmers' Market. She is very dependable and is always ready for whatever work comes her way at the Market. In addition to working on-site at the Market, she provided the final edit of the Farm Vendor Handbook this year and assisted with the Homegrown Indiana Farm Tours.

Ms. Meyers stated that it is a great pleasure working with the staff and hopes to continue working with the Market next year.

#### B-3. Staff Introduction – Lindsay Ragis, SPEA Intern

Ms. Ragis addressed the Board and stated that she is interning with the Farmers' Market until the spring of 2010. She is a second year graduate student in SPEA at Indiana University. She is pursuing a Master of Public Affairs degree with a concentration in sustainable development and a strong interest in agricultural and food policy issues. Originally from Eagan, Minnesota, her family has a strong farming background in the state of Minnesota. She received her undergraduate degree from Bemidji State University majoring in Psychology and Applied Psychology: Human Services. She hopes to pursue research interests in the future.

#### B-4. Staff Milestone – Dennis Helms

Mr. Renneisen addressed the Board in Mr. Turnbull's absence. He stated that he was unsure how long Mr. Helms has been with the Department, but thinks he has been here about 20-25 years as the Golf Course Equipment Operator.

#### B-5. Tree Appeal

Mr. Renneisen addressed the Board and stated that the Tree Ordinance requires that any tree that is required to be removed be placarded 10 days prior to its removal. The B-Line trail trees were placarded on November 3 and the appeal process requires that any appeals be presented to the Board of Park Commissioners within 7 days of the notification. He stated that two written appeals have been received.

Mr. Carter invited those from the public who had submitted appeals to address the Board.

Michael Kemp addressed the Board and stated that he has talked with Mr. Huss about addressing the Board to appeal the tree removal. He stated that he is not a horticulturalist but feels, based on the articles that he has read in the newspaper, that perhaps the City is not making the right decision to remove the Cleveland Pear Trees on the B-Line Trail. He spoke with several of his neighbors and all felt that this was not a good decision based on the newspaper article. The article stated that this species is subject to limb damage and the tree is considered to be invasive. Both were given as reasons for removal. He feels the Cleveland Pear appears not to be subject to limb damage. He feels the tree is being widely sold in the Bloomington and whether or not it is invasive is futile because it is widely used throughout the community. He stated that it feels like an inappropriate use of public funds to remove these trees based on the information he has been presented.

Keith Clay, professor of Biology at Indiana University, addressed the Board and offered his support in the removal of the trees. He stated that one of the major issues that he faces is invasive plants. He stated that the tree is in fact invasive and they are spreading throughout the community. The species is spreading because it is a cultivar and cross pollinates. He added that the Parks and Recreation department is currently in the process of removing several invasive plants throughout the parks system. It seems contradictory to remove invasive species in some properties and planting them in other properties.

Dave Rollo, Council Member, addressed the Board and stated that Professor Clay made a good point in that the tree is becoming invasive and he supports the removal of these trees. He feels the B-Line is important not only for transportation, but for educational purposes as well. It is important to use native plants for educational purposes

and why it's important to use native species. He understands the public concerns regarding the cost of the removal, but feels the investment is worth it in the long run. He added that the Environmental Commission and the Sustainability Commission would like to offer a fundraiser to help offset the costs of replacing these trees. He feels this is an important opportunity for the City to provide an educational opportunity for people of Bloomington to walk the trail and see the native trees and why it's so important not to have invasive species.

Keith Vogelsang, an ecologist representing the City's Environmental Commission, addressed the Board. He stated that he is in support of the removing the invasive trees. In May 2008 the Environmental Commission recommended removing invasive trees from the City's Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) and identified the pear trees as invasive species. In March 2009 the Environmental Commission sent a letter requesting these trees, specifically, be removed. He added that the Commission offered to organize a fundraising effort to offset any costs associated with the removal of these trees. He feels that not removing the trees will become more costly in the future. At the time they were planted, it was not yet determined that these trees were invasive.

Sarah Clevenger, PhD in Plant Physiology, addressed the Board and stated that the excess of Co2 gives the invasive plants an advantage because of this excess in Co2. She also feels the seeds will be transported when more and more people begin using the trail as a form of transportation. She feels the quality of life comes with a price. She also encourages private homeowners to remove invasive species when possible.

Cindy Bradley addressed the Board stating that she is a big fan of the B-Line and feels it was money well spent, but feels the tree removal is excessive. She added that the term invasive is ambiguous and unless the trees are outlawed in the city and county, removal of them from one location is futile. She suggested that they be removed by staff as they die or become damaged.

David Slibaum (sp?) addressed the Board and stated that he submitted a formal written appeal to the Board asking that the trees not be removed. The trees were approved at the time the trail was designed and he asked who determines whether or not a particular species is invasive. He thinks the trees look beautiful and if they must be removed, they should be removed in phases.

Ellen Jakart, Director of Stewardship statewide for the 30,000 acres in which the state has a land interest, addressed the Board. Most of her job is spent dealing with invasive species. The state's budget for invasive control in 2008 was nearly \$500,000. She offered this definition of invasive species: "Invasive species are non native species that cause economic, environmental, or harm to human health." The pear trees are causing environmental harm. If the invasive species are not removed, wildlife habitat can not survive. She indicated that this tree has just recently been identified as being invasive.

Pat Williams addressed the Board and stated that she currently has several Bradford Pears on her property that are approximately 18 years old. For the first 14-15 years, the trees were beautiful. She now sprays her trees in an attempt to stop fruit development. She spends the winter months sweeping and shoveling pears that are late in falling. It is an entirely inappropriate tree to have along a trail. She feels it is a wise decision to remove the trees regardless of the cost.

Spencer Gayle, Executive Director of Ecologic LLC, addressed the Board. He stated that he spends a large amount of time managing invasive species throughout the state. He feels that the combination of the Bradford Pears and the Cleveland Pears located so nearby, is a bad combination. He added that the Indy Parks system is spending a huge portion of their \$100,000 budget every year trying to control this particular species. He offered a definition of biological pollution: "the disturbance of the ecological balance by the accidental or deliberate introduction of foreign organisms, animal or plant species into an environment." He said the important word in that sentence is accidental because the invasive species that were planted before they were known to be invasive were accidental. If they remain then it becomes a deliberate pollution of the B-Line Trail.

Mike Tossik, Environmental Commission member, addressed the Board. He stated that he supports the efforts of the commission to organize a fundraiser to offset the cost of removing the trees.

Don Francis, who owned A-1 Tree and Lawn Service for 25 years in Bloomington, addressed the Board. He stated that any tree is going to reproduce itself. He is questioning what trees are going to be used to replace the pear trees. He feels the only reason the trees should be removed is because they were not planted correctly.

Ed Mongoven (sp?) addressed the Board and stated that he is not a tree expert and can only comment on what he reads in the newspaper. He thinks it is important for the Board that they work with the Environmental Commission to organize a fundraiser to offset the cost of removing the trees. He also feels that the department should educate the public by printing an article in the newspaper that explains why the trees should be removed.

Mr. Hoffmann asked what the actual dollar figure is for removing the trees.

Mr. Williams addressed the Board and stated that 33 trees were planted and the cost for having them removed and replanted contractually is \$12,630. This includes the cost for purchasing and planting new trees. The new trees will consist of river birch, swamp white oak, bald cypress, fir oak, and fir oak. Staff feels the locations of the trees will be appropriately sized. The pear trees were planted in November 2008.

Mr. Hoffmann asked Mr. Renneisen if the offer made by the Environmental Commission to help raise funds is still a valid offer.

Mr. Renneisen stated that this is still an outstanding offer and there has been no formal discussion.

Mr. Hoffmann asked staff what the Board's scope is for making a decision on this matter.

Ms. Schrader stated that the ordinance reads that "...the Board shall convene in a public meeting to review their initial decision in light of the appeal and shall issue written findings. And the decision in order of the Board shall be final and conclusive."

Mr. Coyne asked the Environmental Commission members for some clarification regarding the process for determining what is an invasive species. He also asked when this list was last updated.

Mr. Tossick addressed the Board and stated that it was last updated in May 2008. It was after the trees were approved for planting, but prior to them actually being planted.

Mr. Williams stated that the pear is still included as an approved tree in the UDO. But the Planning Department is in the process of amending the UDO.

Mr. Hoffmann stated that removing the trees is symbolic and educational. He hopes this process can be used as an educational process. He said he would find it difficult to spend \$12,000 to remove the trees, but would like to work with the Environmental Commission to raise the funds. He feels this collaboration can add to the educational component of this process. Once the funds are raised the trees could be removed.

Ms. St. John asked if delaying the project would increase the costs.

Mr. Williams stated that delaying the project could increase the costs somewhat. Staff is concerned about staff time, but delaying the project may allow some of the work to be done in-house and could potentially lower the cost of the project.

Ms. St. John reiterated that new information is constantly arising and responding properly to new information is important. She is intrigued by the idea of working with the Environmental Commission to raise funds for the project and asked their representatives if they are serious about this offer.

Mr. Tossick stated that the offer is valid and suggests that representatives begin working together to determine how to proceed.

Mr. Williams stated that, if the Board were to grant the appeal, staff could meet with the Environmental Commission and others that wish to be involved, and return at a later date with a new proposal.

The Board stated that they would be pleased to see that happen.

Ms. St. John offered her thanks to everyone that came out to speak this evening.

Ms. St. John made a motion to grant the appeal so the involved trees will not be removed immediately using taxpayer money. The tree removal will be discussed amongst the interested groups and will be revisited at a future date. Mr. Coyne seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Clay addressed the Board and asked if they would be willing to include language in their appeal approval that states the trees were planted by mistake and staff will work to rectify the situation.

The Board stated they are not willing to state that. The Board is not interested in placing blame and feels the information regarding the invasive nature of the trees was not made available to staff prior to them being planted.

Mr. Williams addressed the Board and stated that some allegations have been made previous to this evening's meeting that staff planted trees knowing that they were invasive species. He stated that this is incorrect information. He added that other invasive species will appear in the future that are not invasive at this time.

Ms. St. John stated that she is ready to made a donation and it was determined that the Parks and Recreation Foundation can maintain the funds for this project.

## **C. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **C-1. Review/Approval of Proposed Ordinance to Allow Velocabs on the Parks Trail System**

Mr. Renneisen addressed the Board seeking approval of an ordinance allowing velocabs on the Parks trail system. He stated that the City Council is considering a velocab ordinance and would like feedback from the Board determining the allowance of these cabs on parks trails.

Ms. Schrader addressed the Board and stated that there are two issues that will affect Parks and Recreation. Section 4.26.160, prohibited manners of operation, sections C and D are the two sections being referenced. Section C ...requires any use on a multi-use trail designed for pedestrians and bicyclists, the velocab operator must yield to on-coming traffic. Section D ...prohibits the velocab operator from standing, parking or soliciting on any Parks property.

City Council member Mike Satterfield, who is sponsoring the ordinance, addressed the Board. He stated that congestion on the trail is a concern but thinks pedestrians, bicyclists and the velocabs can all coexist on the trail.

Mr. Renneisen stated that he supports this ordinance and has seen it work successfully in other cities.

Mr. Hoffmann stated his only real concern is the Farmers' Market area during Market hours, but feels it can be avoided by the velocab operator taking another route.

Mr. Coyne questioned the use of Parks property to make money and feels the ordinance should be reviewed after a year.

Ms. St. Jane made a motion to approve the language as it is written in the velocab ordinance. Mr. Coyne seconded

the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

#### C-2. Review/Approval of 2010 Price Schedule

Ms. Elmore addressed the Board seeking approval of the 2010 Price Schedule. The draft 2010 schedule was presented at the October Board meeting for the Board and public to review and offer any suggestions for changes during the past month.

Ms. St. Jane made a motion to approve the 2010 Price Schedule as presented. Mr. Coyne seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

### **D. REPORTS**

#### D-1. Operations Division –No Report

#### D-2. Sports Division – ASA National Tournament Award

Mr. Renneisen addressed the Board in Mr. Turnbull's absence and stated that they both recently attended the Amateur Softball Association council meeting the week of November 9-13 and were successful in their bid for the 2011 Girls 16 and Under Class B Fastpitch Northern National Championship. This will be the 20<sup>th</sup> national championship awarded since 1993. In 2010 a USA/ASA Girls 12 and Under Fastpitch Tournament will be held in Bloomington. This is considered to be in the top five of all tournaments. Staff anticipates about 90 teams will be attending this tournament with representatives from all over the country. This tournament has an estimated economic impact of \$1.5 million to the community.

#### D-3. Recreation Division – Kid City Break Days @ TLRC

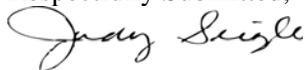
Mr. Pritchett addressed the Board and presented them with an update on the Kid City Break Days. He stated two Break Days were recently held at the TLRC on October 29 and 30. In prior years, Break Days were held at the Allison-Jukebox Community Center. At the TLRC the participants were able to participate in games, arts and crafts and other activities. There were 32 participants on October 29 and 28 participants on October 30. There are seven more Break Days remaining in 2009: December 21-23, and December 28-31. These will be held at TLRC as well.

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

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Judy Seigle (for Lesilyn Neely), Secretary Board of Park Commissioners