



**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON**  
**parks and recreation**

**AGENDA**

City of Bloomington Board of Park Commissioners  
Regular Meeting: Monday, May 11, 2015 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 March 10, 2015
- A-2. Approval of Claims Submitted March 9, 2015 – May 10, 2015
- 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 - Ivy Kehoe and Jason Cherry, Global Youth Service Day (Kim Ecenbarger)
- B-3. Parks Partner Award -
- B-4. Staff Introductions - Hannah Marriott – Farmers’ Market/Community Garden SPEA Intern

**C. OTHER BUSINESS**

- C-1. Review/Approval of Partnership Agreement with Jazzercise (Paula McDevitt)
- C-2. Review/Approval of Partnership Agreement with Hilltop Garden and Nature Center (Robin Hobson)
- C-3. Review/Approval of Partnership Agreement with DBI for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade (Bill Ream)
- C-4. Review/Approval of Partnership Agreement with Bloomington Junior League Baseball Association (Dee Tuttle)
- C-5. Review/Approval of Partnership Agreement with Monroe County Senior League Baseball Association (Dee Tuttle)
- C-6. Review/Approval of Winslow Sports Complex North Concessions Agreement (Dee Tuttle)
- C-7. Review/Approval of Winslow Sports Complex South Concessions Agreement (Dee Tuttle)
- C-8. Review/Approval of Declaration of White Oak Tree in Seminary Park as Surplus Property (Lee Huss)
- C-9. Review/Approval of Partnership Agreement with Ivy Tech Community College (Paula McDevitt)
- C-10. Review/Approval of Partnership with Lake Monroe Sailing Association (Paula McDevitt)
- C-11. Review/Approval of Partnership Agreement with Special Olympics Monroe County (Paula McDevitt)
- C-12. Review/Approval of Price Schedule Change at Cascades Golf Course (John Turnbull)
- C-13. Review/Approval of Facility Use Agreement with Monroe County United Ministries (Mark Miller)
- C-14. Review/Approval of Summer Star Foundation Grant for Bancker Nature Days Project (Elizabeth Tompkins)
- C-15. Review/Approval of Naming Request from Lucky’s to Name New Shelter at Willie Streeter Gardens (Robin Hobson)

**D. REPORTS**

- D-1. Operation Division - Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan (Dave Williams)
- D-2. Recreation Division - Farmers’ Market Advisory Council Annual Report (Bruce McAlister)
- D-3. Sports Division - No Report
- D-4. Administration Division - 2016-2020 Master Plan Update (Mick Renneisen)

**ADJOURNMENT**



Board of Park Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

Monday, May 11, 2015  
4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

City Hall Council Chambers  
401 N. Morton St.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Less Coyne at 4:02 p.m.

Mr. Coyne stated this meeting was rescheduled from April 2. It was moved due to a lack of a quorum on that date.

**Board Present:** Les Coyne, John Carter, Jane St. John

**Staff Present:** Mick Renneisen, Kim Clapp, John Turnbull, Becky Barrick-Higgins, Kim Ecenbarger, Dave Williams, Paula McDevitt, Robin Hobson, Lee Huss, Elizabeth Tompkins, Ellen Campbell, Julie Ramey, Mark Miller, Leslie Brinson, Dee Tuttle, Bill Reams

**A. CONSENT CALENDAR**

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- A-2. Approval of Claims Submitted March 10, 2015 – May 10, 2015
- A-3. Approval of Non-Reverting Budget Amendments
- A-4. Review of Business Report

Mr. John Carter made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Ms. Jane St. John seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Mick Renneisen addressed the Board to clarify an element of one of the reports. The Revenue/Expense Comparison Report reflects a new way the Controller's Office is moving expenses for Health and Life Insurance. Mr. Renneisen stated that there are some abnormally high numbers in the respective General Fund lines. This reflects the way those expenses have been swept into earlier months this year instead of spread out across the calendar year. Mr. Renneisen stated that it's an anomaly on the monthly report that will self-correct as we move forward.

Mr. Coyne thanked Mr. Renneisen for the clarification.

**B. PUBLIC HEARINGS/APPEARANCES**

**B-1. Public Comment Period – None**

**B-2. Bravo Award – Ivy Kehoe and Jason Cherry**

Mr. Coyne introduced Kim Ecenbarger, Special Service Coordinator, who presented the Bravo Award. Ms. Ecenbarger stated it was a pleasure to recognize Ms. Ivy Kehoe and Mr. Jason Cherry, two individuals who contributed to the success of this year's Global Youth Service Day. The event took place on Friday, April 17th. Ms. Kehoe and Mr. Cherry are members of the Monroe County Youth Council, a group of young leaders who create and administer projects and programs led by youth, for youth. Mr. Cherry and Ms. Kehoe are co-leaders of Team Environment. Ms. Ecenbarger stated in this role, they researched environmental issues affecting Bloomington and Monroe County and initiated a conversation with an organization addressing this issue locally. Ms. Ecenbarger first met with Mr. Cherry and Ms. Kehoe last December when they expressed an interest in planning a project that educated youth, had a community impact and provided a foundation for further community involvement. Once the Griffy project was identified, Ms. Kehoe and Mr. Cherry scheduled a site visit to better understand the task objectives, to learn how their work would impact the ecosystem at Griffy, and to establish a process assuring a safe and injury-free day. Due to the effective planning of Mr. Cherry and Ms. Kehoe, a workforce of 50 youth volunteers, representing multiple local schools, improved Griffy Lake by removing an invasive plants, multiflora rose, from the shoreline, garlic mustard from the preserve, and digging ditches along the Creek Trail to improve

drainage. Besides involvement in MCYC, Mr. Cherry and Ms. Kehoe are both high school athletes, members of the Hoosier Youth Philharmonic, actively involved with Panther Activity Council and play a civic role with several other nonprofit organizations. They are exemplary role models among their peers. Ms. Ecenbarger stated she was so impressed with Mr. Cherry and Ms. Kehoe throughout the entire planning process. Ms. Ecenbarger called Ms. Kehoe and Mr. Cherry to the podium and presented them with the April 2015 BRAVO Award.

Mr. Cherry stated the communication and e-mail correspondence process with Ms. Ecenbarger was very interesting. Mr. Cherry stated the actual planning of an event was new for both Mr. Cherry and Ms. Kehoe and hopefully it will be something they can use for future projects to benefit the community.

Ms. Kehoe stated it was wonderful to have a person take interest in the cause they were sponsoring. We were pleased to say we could do something productive for our community as high school students who are not always recognized. Ms. Kehoe stated working with Ms. Ecenbarger and the Parks and Recreations Department was incredibly eye opening and has made us both want to do more for our community in the future.

Mr. Coyne complimented both students and expressed how very well spoken they were. He thanked Mr. Cherry and Ms. Kehoe.

#### B-3. Parks Partner Award – None this month

#### B-4. Staff Introductions – Hannah Marriott

Les Coyne recognized Hannah Marriott. Ms. Marriott addressed the Board stating she is the new Farmers' Market and Community Garden Program intern. Ms. Marriott is currently a junior at Indiana University earning a degree in Environmental Management with a concentration on sustainability. Ms. Marriott is currently working two jobs with the Indiana Memorial Union and at the Bowling Alley.

Mr. Coyne welcomed and thanked Ms. Marriott.

### **C. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Coyne stated item C-14 has been moved up on the agenda today.

#### C-14. Review/Approval of Partnership Agreement with Summer Star Foundation

Mr. Coyne introduced Ms. Elizabeth Tompkins, Natural Resources Coordinator. Ms. Tompkins addressed the Board seeking approval of a partnership agreement between the Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department (BPRD) and Summer Star Foundation for Banneker Summer Nature Days. This is the fourth year for the program. The program runs four days per week and provides environmental education to participants of the Banneker Summer Food Program.

Mr. Coyne stated this is an important program and it's good to see it continue another year to support the children.

Mr. Tompkins stated that education continues throughout the summer months.

Mr. Carter made a motion to approve the partnership agreement with Summer Star Foundation, Ms. St. John seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Carter thanked Ms. Tompkins

#### C-2. Review/Approval of Partnership Agreement with the Trustees of Indiana University - Hilltop Gardens at Indiana University.

Mr. Coyne introduced Robin Hobson, Community Events Program Specialist. Ms Hobson presented a partnership agreement between BPRD and Hilltop Gardens at Indiana University. This is the fourth year for the partnership. It provides collaborative programming and a sharing of resources to better serve the community with educational opportunities on a variety of gardening and horticultural topics.

Mr. Carter made a motion to approve the partnership agreement with Hilltop Gardens at Indiana University, Ms. St. John seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Coyne thanked Ms. Hobson

C-3. Review/Approval of Partnership Agreement with Downtown Bloomington Inc. for Fourth of July Parade

Mr. Coyne introduced Mr. Bill Ream, Community Events Coordinator. Mr. Ream recommended approval of the partnership between BPRD and Downtown Bloomington, Inc. for the Fourth of July Parade. This is the ninth year for this partnership with the goal to combine resources from BPRD and DBI to provide a Fourth of July parade for the Bloomington community. Mr. Ream stated the parade will be Saturday, July 4, 2015. The route is the same as last year.

The Board inquired if there were any changes to the partnership.

Mr. Ream stated there were no changes.

Mr. Carter made a motion to approve the Partnership Agreement with Downtown Bloomington Inc. for Fourth of July Parade. St. John seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Coyne thanked Mr. Ream.

C-4. Review/Approval of Partnership Agreement with Bloomington Junior League Baseball Association

Mr. Coyne introduced Ms. Dee Tuttle, Sports Coordinator. Ms. Tuttle recommended approval of the partnership between BPRD and the Bloomington Junior League Baseball Association. This partnership provides youth baseball for approximately 600 players for children ages 5-12 on a seasonal basis. This program is conducted at Winslow Sports Complex and Bryan Park Fields beginning in April and concluding in October. The BJLBA offers regular and fall play as well as tournaments.

Mr. Carter inquired if there were any changes to the partnership. Mr. Carter stated he was not aware the program ran through October.

Ms. Tuttle stated there were no changes to the agreement and informed the Board the Fall Season is an eight week season played three days per week.

Mr. Coyne inquired if everything was going well with the Association.

Ms. Tuttle stated everything was going well and a representative from the Baseball Association will be speaking later today.

Mr. Carter made a motion to approve the Partnership Agreement with Bloomington Junior League Baseball Association. Ms. St. John seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

C-5. Review/Approval of Partnership with Monroe County Senior League Baseball Association

Ms. Tuttle recommended approval of the partnership between BPRD and Monroe County Senior League Baseball Association. Ms. Tuttle stated this partnership provides youth baseball for over 100 players for youth ages 13-19 with the games being conducted at Winslow Sports Complex. MCLBA will host tournaments. Ms. Tuttle stated this league previously known as the Babe Ruth Organization, has new leadership that made successful changes to better accommodate various age groups.

Mr. Carter made a motion to approve the partnership for Monroe County Senior League Baseball Association. Ms. St. John seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

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

Ms. Tuttle addressed the Board to seek approval of the agreement between BPRD and the Bloomington Junior League Baseball Association. BJLBA wishes to operate the Winslow North Concession building using profits generated from sales to offset program costs and other related expenditures. Ms. Tuttle stated BJLBA has opened a concession stand for Bloomington South softball home games on Wednesday evenings

Mr. Coyne inquired about the condition of the concession stand.

Ms. Tuttle stated the maintenance of the concession stand is kept up on a regular basis and is in good working condition.

Mr. Carter made a motion to approve the agreement for the Winslow Sports Complex North Concessions. Ms. St. John seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

The Board thanked Ms. Tuttle

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

Ms. Tuttle addressed the Board, seeking approval of the agreement between BPRD and Monroe County Senior League Baseball Association. MCSLBA wishes to operate the Winslow South Concession building to use profits generated from sales to offset program costs and other related expenditures.

Mr. Carter made a motion to approve the agreement for the Winslow Sports Complex South Concessions. Ms. St. John seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Coyne thanked Ms. Tuttle

Ms. Tuttle introduced Mr. Dave Huss representing the Junior League and Senior League Baseball Associations. Mr. Huss addressed the Board stating it has been a couple years since he has addressed the Board and things are moving along nicely. Mr. Huss stated over the years he has worked with many people and Ms. Tuttle has been very easy to work with.

Mr. Coyne inquired if Mr. Huss was happy with the way things were going and the support he was receiving.

Mr. Huss stated they were doing their best.

There was discussion regarding the senior league changes.

Mr. Huss stated they reached their goal of 10 teams of 13 players per team.

Mr. Coyne thanked Mr. Huss

C-8. Review/Approval to Declare a White Oak Tree at Seminary Parks as Surplus Property

Mr. Coyne introduced the next item. Ms. Julie Ramey, Community Relations Manager addressed the Board. Ms. Ramey stated Seminary Park is located in downtown Bloomington and is historic in that it was the original site of Indiana University as the Indiana State Seminary as well as being the original site for Bloomington High School. Ms. Ramey stated part of the park's landscape is a large white oak tree measuring 60 inches in diameter at 4 1/2 feet off the ground. The tree has been evaluated by a professional tree care company and has been determined to be hazardous and needs to be removed. Ms. Ramey stated there is value in the wood. Ms. Ramey requested the Board declare the tree as surplus property so the tree may be offered for sale online to the forestry products industry here in Indiana and around the Midwest. Ms. Ramey stated by selling the tree, its life would continue as a useful forest product.

Mr. Carter inquired if the department would retain any of the wood.

Ms. Ramey stated the department would ask for a tree cookie with the intention of displaying it at Griffy Lake Boathouse to use as a history lesson of Bloomington with the potential of keeping some additional wood for the wood waste program.

Mr. Coyne state this is a great thing to do with the tree.

Ms. Ramey stated the goal is to let the tree live on.

Ms. St. John inquired as to the value of the tree.

Ms. Ramey stated that the Licensed Timber Buyer Coordinator for the State of Indiana's opinion was the tree would be worth between \$100 and \$600. The value for BPRD is eliminating the cost of the removal of the tree. A professional licensed timber buyer can remove the tree in a safe and effective manner. The true value will not be known until the bidding process is completed.

Ms. St. John inquired if the buyer would be responsible for the removal of the tree and will purchase the wood.

Mr. Ramey stated that is the current plan. BPRD will accept sealed bids, with the tree going to the highest bidder. The buyer would be responsible for the safe removal of the tree following the Bloomington's tree removal ordinance. The ordinance requires certain safety requirements that would be coordinated in conjunction with the City's Risk Management Department and the Bloomington Police Department for street closings.

Mr. Coyne inquired if stump removal was part of the contract.

Mr. Ramey stated that stump removal will be part of the contract.

Mr. Carter made a motion to approve the Declaration of the White Oak Tree at Seminary Parks as Surplus Property. Ms. St. John seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

#### C-1. Review/Approval of Jazzercise Partnership Agreement

Mr. Coyne introduced Ms. Paula McDevitt, Recreation Services Division Director. Ms. Devitt addressed the Board requesting approval for the proposed agreement between BPRD and the local Jazzercise franchise. Ms. McDevitt stated this partnership has been in place since 1997. There are no changes to the partnership. The location has been moved from a church to the Alison-Jukebox Building during the school year and to Banneker Community Center during the summer months. The participants like the facilities.

Mr. Carter made a motion to approve the Jazzercise Partnership Agreement. Ms. St. John seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

#### C-10. Review/Approval of Partnership Agreement with IVY TECH/College for Kids

Ms. McDevitt addressed the Board seeking approval of the partnership agreement between BPRD and Ivy Tech for the 2015 College for Kids Program. This agreement includes a new Ivy Arts program serving children in grades K-5. The program gives participants the opportunity to participate in both College for Kids and Kid City camp with this partnership expanding to include the Ivy Arts program.

Mr. Carter made a motion to approve the IVY TECH/College for Kids partnership. Ms. St. John seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

#### C-11. Approval of Lake Monroe Sailing Association Partnership Agreement

Ms. McDevitt addressed the Board seeking approval for the partnership agreement between BPRD and the Lake Monroe Sailing Association. This partnership agreement has been in place since 1996 with the goal to provide an opportunity for the Bloomington community to participate in a diverse sailing program.

Mr. Carter made a motion to approve the Lake Monroe Sailing Association Partnership Agreement. Ms. St. John seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

#### C-11. Review/Approval of the Partnership Agreement with Special Olympics Indiana - Monroe County

Ms. McDevitt addressed the Board seeking approval of the partnership agreement between BPRD and Special Olympics Indiana - Indiana Monroe County (SOIMC). This agreement has been in place since 2006. Ms. Amy Shrake, Inclusive Recreation Coordinator. Has been the liaison. The purpose of this partnership is to support athletic opportunities for community members with developmental disabilities.

Mr. Carter made a motion to approve the partnership with Special Olympics Indiana - Monroe County. Ms. St. John seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried

Mr. Coyne stated Amy Shrake brings unique talents to these programs and is a true professional in the area of special needs.

C-12. Review/Approval of Price Schedule Change at Cascades Golf Course

Mr. Coyne introduced John Turnbull, Sports Division Director. Mr. Turnbull addressed the Board seeking approval to offer a smaller size bucket of range balls. The new bucket size would be approximately half the size of the original bucket. The proposed price is \$3. The original bucket price is \$5.

Mr. Carter made a motion to approve the Price Schedule Change for a half bucket of range balls. Ms. St. John seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

C-13. Review/Approval of Facility Use Agreement for Use of Mills Pool by Monroe County United Ministries

Mr. Coyne introduced Mark Miller, Aquatic and Fitness Coordinator. Mr. Miller requested approval for Monroe County United Ministries to use Mills Pool for the summer pre-school childcare program. This contractual agreement allows for pool use before operating hours for six weeks.

Mr. Coyne inquired about safety protocols.

Mr. Miller stated MCUM provides staff supervision with a ratio of one staff person to four participants. BPRD supplies a lifeguard and pool manager.

Mr. Carter made a motion to approve the use of Mills Pool by Monroe County United Ministries. Ms. St. John seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

C-15. Review/Approval of Request to Name Shelter "Lucky's Little Sprouts Pavilion"

Mr. Coyne introduced Ms. Robin Hobson, Community Events Program Specialist. Ms. Hobson requested approval to name the soon to be built gardener gathering area at Willie Streeter Community Garden the "Lucky's Little Sprouts Pavilion." The vision of this space is to create a place for gardeners to come together which will include a play area for children. Lucky's Market is a new company coming to Bloomington. They have made a \$6,500 contribution to the Bloomington Parks Foundation to assist with this project. Per Park Board policy, they have submitted a written request to name this facility "Lucky's Little Sprouts Pavilion." The naming agreement is valid for 10 years.

The Board inquired about the length of the agreement for the name of the pavilion, how this arrangement came about and the value of the pavilion.

Mr. Renneisen stated that naming arrangements are considered on a case by case basis. The lifespan of the asset is considered. Significant renovation or replacement requirements determine the length of the naming rights. In this case, ten years is the expected lifespan of this pavilion.

Ms. Hobson stated that Lucky's Market approached the Community Garden Program and will also be working with Banneker's Summer Food Service Program.

Mr. Renneisen requested that Ms. McDevitt provide the Board with more detailed information on this subject.

Ms. McDevitt stated that representatives from Lucky's Market met with BPRD staff in March. Staff informed them what BPRD offers in the area of health and wellness, nutrition and access to healthy food. Ms. McDevitt stated that during this meeting BPRD discovered the availability of start up grants offered by Lucky's Food Mart. Ms. McDevitt provided Lucky's the history and participation numbers at the Banneker Summer Food Service Program. Lucky's will be awarding the Food Service Program \$6,500 to accommodate the children on the waiting list. There are currently twelve children per week on

the waiting list. Lucky's will also provide healthy snacks for the Summer Food Program every day. Ms. McDevitt stated that during this meeting the gardening program and pavilion were discussed. Ms. McDevitt informed the Board that the Lucky's Market Grand Opening will be May 20<sup>th</sup>. Lucky's will be presenting BPRD the two grants totaling \$13,000. Ms. McDevitt invited the Board to attend the Grand Opening.

Mr. Carter made a motion to approve the request to name the new shelter the "Lucky's Little Sprouts Pavilion" at Willie Streeter Garden. Ms. St. John seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

#### **D. REPORTS**

##### **D-2. Recreation Division – Farmer's Market Advisory Council Annual Report**

Mr. Coyne introduced Mr. Bruce McAlister, FMAC Council President. Mr. McAlister stated that the Market has exceeded the Board's 2014 revenue goal, generating 98% of the budget. There was a slight decrease in Market attendance and decrease in the average number of farm vendors. Mr. McAlister indicated that the FMAC was looking at the decline in context of previous years. In 2010 attendance was up by 17% and was proceeded by many years of strong growth. Mr. McAlister stated the Market secured funding of \$20,000 to supplement the SNAP Program for customers to redeem at the Market in 2014 with a 17% increase between 2013 and 2014 in redemptions. In 2014, the Market will gather information from farm vendors to see if produce being sold at the Market is grown using GMO seeds. Mr. McAlister stated this is an area that is rapidly changing and has the potential to create some concern among customers. Other items the Market will review in 2015; how does or how will the dramatic changes in the downtown area impact the Market? Has the Market reached capacity or is it getting close to capacity in terms of number of customers and vendors? What is the ability of growers to extend the growing season? Should the Market season be extended? Mr. McAlister stated it is his opinion, everything at the Market can be purchased elsewhere and that the Market appeals to customers because of the community and social aspect. It's what makes the Market unique and brings people in. With the large turnover in population, how will the Market maintain that atmosphere and remain the place people want to come to on Saturday mornings.

Mr. Coyne thanked Mr. McAlister and stated that the Market is a central piece to the culture of this community and it is why it has the community's support.

##### **D-1. Operation Division Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan**

Mr. Coyne introduced Mr. Dave Williams, Operations and Development Director. Mr. Williams presented a summary of the policy BPRD is proposing for management of the street tree ash population in relation to the recent threat created by the presence of the Emerald Ash Borer. Mr. Williams stated that BPRD oversees approximately 14,000 street trees. The last inventory was performed in 2007. Ash trees are a small percentage (6-7%) of the inventory. The infestation of the Emerald Ash Borer occurs at a rapid rate. The insect was first detected in the Bloomington community in 2012. Through extensive research by Lee Huss, Urban Forester, BPRD is proposing to remove some ash trees and chemically treat others. The insecticide treatment is applied every three years. Other communities that have experienced the EAB epidemic have used a variety of management practices ranging from total removal (Fort Wayne removed 14,000 ash trees) to treatment of all trees or a combination of removal and treatment. Mr. Williams stated BPRD has a very good staff and ample resources in the Urban Forestry area. However, there are multiple battlefronts. It is not reasonable to devote all of the Urban Forestry resources to fight the Emerald Ash Borer with other competing Urban Forestry priorities. Therefore those trees that are identified for chemical treatment will be treated by a contractor. Purdue University has contacted BPRD and requested to do a case study of 92 trees throughout the community using an insecticide. This will save BPRD the cost of treatment of 92 trees. BPRD plans to begin treatment in June with the ultimate goal being to preserve approximately 38% of the Ash tree inventory for trees meeting certain criteria. Trees that don't meet the criteria (relative health, form, sight line and power line issues) will be removed. Mr. Williams informed the Board that residents will see two different placards posted on Ash trees. On placard on trees with a purple dot will signify it as a tree for future removal. The posting will alert citizens of the tree's condition and what action can be taken. The second placard informs the community of the appeal process when a tree has been identified for removal. BPRD will also allow property owners the option of paying for a contractor to treat a street tree and the protocol for that process. Mr. Williams informed the Board of the upcoming public outreach program on Thursday, May 21 at the Walnut Street Extension Office in cooperation with Purdue University, DNR Urban Forestry and Monroe County Extension.

Mr. Renneisen acknowledged Dave Williams, Lee Huss and Julie Ramey for the long hours of research and outreach they performed in addressing the Emerald Ash Borer challenge. Mr. Renneisen thanked citizens for their involvement particularly Mr. and Mrs. Jim Holthaus, Barry Ruban and Joanna Wilhelm. These citizens acted as a focus group in helping refine and make clearer the communication about the EAB challenge. Mr. Renneisen thanked City Council members Dave Rollo and Andy Ruff who participated multiple times in these discussion to assist in the process of communicating

BPRD's management plan. Mr. Renneisen stated this is not an easy issue to deal with in a community with a Tree City USA designation. No one wants to cut trees where it is not necessary. Mr. Williams mentioned Fort Wayne cut most of their Ash tree inventory. Mr. Renneisen stated BPRD has not chosen that approach. The initial assessment called for somewhere in the 80% cut range and 20% treat range. With Purdue University's assistance, up to 38% of Bloomington's Ash trees will be treated. That could not have happened without Mr. Huss having connections with Purdue University and their research team. Mr. Renneisen stated BPRD is thoroughly and carefully approaching this challenge. Treating every tree was not an option. Many of the trees are damaged by the insect or other have other flaws that make them not worthy of the treatment cost. Mr. Renneisen informed the Board that the treatment is administered via injection in the tree at about breast height. This limits the chemical being exposed to anything but the tree. There are multiple injection cylinders that are placed in the tree. The cylinders remain in the trees and do not damage the tree. Another process for applying the chemical is to douse the ground around the tree base. Staff has ruled out this methodology.

Mr. Williams stated the treatments will begin soon. BPRD will seek quotes from qualified local contractors, priced per caliper inch. BPRD spent \$8,000 last year on treatments. The quotes, and availability of fiscal resources, will be evaluated to determine how many trees will ultimately be treated.

Mr. Renneisen informed the Board that the department pledge to the community is to replace any Ash street tree cut within a year of its removal. Mr. Renneisen stated it would be impractical to promise citizens anything sooner. Trees can only be planted a couple of months out of a year to increase survival rates. In addition, the Urban Forestry division is challenged with many other tasks.

Mr. Carter inquired if individuals with large parcel of property should survey their property for Ash trees to find out what kind of shape they are in and what should they do with them?

Mr. Williams stated that they should inventory the number of ash trees and consider removal or treatment options. If a privately owned Ash tree is not treated, the tree will eventually die. Mr. Williams recommended not planting any Ash trees.

Ms. St. John inquired what trees will be used to replace the ash trees that are removed.

Mr. Williams stated that the department seeks out the "right tree for the right place." Ideally, native trees first but also non-native if they would survive better in a certain growing area. The structural form of the tree is also considered before planting a tree. BPRD has nursery stock on the north side of town to propagate trees for future planting. The one year planting goal is aggressive but is part of the management plan BPRD wants to achieve.

Mr. Coyne commended Mr. Williams, Mr. Huss and their team on their leadership on getting ahead of this issue and for getting the community to realize the seriousness of the situation. Mr. Coyne inquired on who should an individual contact to inventory and assess their trees?

Mr. Williams stated that the BPRD website has information including a list of certified arborists.

Mr. Coyne thanked Mr. Williams.

### D-3. Sports Division –none

### D-4. Administration Division – 2016-2020 Master Plan Update

Mr. Coyne introduced Mr. Mick Renneisen, Administrator of the Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Renneisen addressed the Board stating every five years BPRD takes on a significant Master Planning exercise. A consultant team is utilized to assist staff. The Plan is used to set the goals for BPRD for a five-year period. Extensive public input is sought during this process. Citizen input is considered for where resources should be allocated for the future. Mr. Renneisen informed the Board that there is a gap of a couple of years since the last five-year plan due to a lack of funding to hire a consultant. A Master Plan typically costs between \$75,000 and a \$100,000 to complete. Mr. Renneisen expects the development of this Master Plan to be easier as BPRD staff has completed some baseline research that should save consultant time and dollars. BPRD will also be able to capitalize on local expertise to minimize the cost to complete the Master Plan.

Mr. Renneisen stated the three reasons for updating the Master Plan are to maintain Accreditation; maintain eligibility for grants; and that it is the culture of the organization to undertake this process every five years. Mr. Renneisen stated BPRD's Accreditation update is also on a five-year cycle. The department was first accredited in 2001. Accreditation is a voluntary self-assessment process. The completed self-assessment is sent to the Council on Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies by the end of 2015. There will be a CAPRA site visit in 2016. The CAPRA site team verifies that items stated in the self-assessment report actually happen. The CAPRA site team reviews department responses to the 156 different standards associated with the accreditation process.

Mr. Renneisen stated a Master Plan update is required to remain eligible for federal funds such as Land and Water Conservation Funds or grants passing through the DNR. Mr. Renneisen stated a Master Plan is part of the culture of the organization and staff values the exercise of looking internally at all aspects of the department. Staff also values engaging citizens and users in an intensely focused process. Results from previous public engagement processes have resulted in the construction of the Trail network in the community over the last 10 to 15 years. This is just one example of how important this process is to the department and therefore to the citizens.

Mr. Renneisen informed the Board that BPRD was fortunate to contract with a local resource, the Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands, Indiana University, while searching for a way to complete the Master Plan at a lower cost. The Eppley Institute has excellent Master Plan experience. They are a link between the Parks and Public Land profession and the University. They also do extensive work for the National Park Service. Indiana University's School of Public Health and the Recreation Park and Tourism Studies Division is also providing assistance with the development of the Master Plan. Faculty and staff have engaged in research that has been beneficial to the department and they are very excited to focus on this Master Plan cycle and its emphasis on public health. With the combination of these entities, staff resources and financial contributions from the University, this \$100,000 project is being completed with \$30,000 in cash contributions and significant in-kind support.

Currently, benchmark analysis survey information has been sent to five communities with similar populations, demographics and some elements that would be advantageous for our community to benchmark against. Those communities include Asheville, North Carolina, Bend, Oregon, Boulder, Colorado, Iowa City, Iowa and South Bend, Indiana. Four of the five communities are Gold Medal Award winning cities. Benchmark data will be used to compare service delivery in our area against these five outstanding communities. Topical areas benchmarked include; community overviews, agency resources, parks and facilities, facility types, programs offered and fees.

In addition, BPRD has engaged the community by hosting approximately fifty stakeholder interviews. A ten person Steering Committee met April 8 and will provide guidance from a broad community perspective. A Technical Review Committee, consisting of internal city staff, will review details of the Plan as it progresses. A Master Plan website, hosted by the Eppley Institute, will be available so citizens can see current updates and leave comments. Mr. Renneisen stated that several additional public engagement sessions will be held for open public comment on topical areas of the Plan. In addition, a Citizen Survey, consisting of approximately 30 questions, will be sent to approximately 5000 residents and some non-city residents to gather additional public input. A survey postcard invitation, containing instruction on how to take the survey online, will be mailed out the week of May 18. If an individual does not have access to a computer there will be a kiosk located in the City Hall atrium, where the survey can be taken. The survey takes approximately 15 minutes to complete. Mr. Renneisen stated BPRD expects 700 to 1000 surveys to be returned. If a citizen does not receive an invitation to complete a survey they may request a survey by contacting BPRD. Results of the survey will be forwarded for review at a meeting of the Steering Committee and Technical Review Committee scheduled for June 30th. The findings from the Benchmark studies, surveys, public input sessions and other research will be compiled into the Master Plan over the course of the next 6 months. A draft Plan will be reviewed on November 6<sup>th</sup> by the Steering and Technical Review Committees with a final presentation to the Parks Board on November 10th.

Mr. Carter stated if citizens receive an invitation to complete the survey, please send it back in.

Mr. Coyne stated the Master Plan has driven how we do business with respect to developing projects and enhancing the services offered by the department. Please return the surveys as they drive the planning process. We would also like to thank the School of Public Health and the Eppley Institute for their major contributions to this effort.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kim Clapp".

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Kim Clapp, Secretary Board of Park Commissioners