A-1 July 17, 2025
City of Bloomington Board of Park Commissioners
Regular Meeting: Thursday, May 15, 2025 5pm-6:30pm
Council Chambers, 401 N Morton St, Bloomington, IN
Zoom

CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL
The meeting was called to order by Kathleen Mills at 5:03pm
Present: Kathleen Mills, Ellen Rodkey, Jim Whitlatch and Israel Herrera

A.CONSENT CALENDAR

A1	Approval of Minutes of April 22, 2025 Regular Meeting
A2	Approval of Claims Submitted April 21, 2025 through May 14, 2025
A3	Approval of Non-Reverting Budget Amendments
A4	Review of Business Reports
A5	Review/Approval of Credit Card Refunds
A6	Approval of Surplus
A7	Approval of Partnership with Summer Star Foundation for Banneker Nature Club
A8	Approval of Partnership for Bug Fest 2025
A9	Approval of Agreement with Professional Golfcar Corp. - 4th of July Parade
A10	Approval of Partnership with Monroe County Fairgrounds for Touch-a-Truck
A11	Approval of Partnership with Special Olympics
A12	Approval of Agreement with Marshall Security for 4th of July Parade
Ellen Rodkey made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Jim Whitlatch seconded the motion. Vote taken: motions unanimously carried 4-0.	

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS/APPEARANCES

B1	Caleb Poer presented the May 2025 Bravo Award to Jill Abram**,** recognized for her outstanding dedication and service. Since March 2025, Jill had volunteered at an impressive twenty-nine events, contributing her time and energy to a wide range of activities—from Weed Wrangles and tree plantings to community events and everything in between. Jill had been a joy to work with. Her enthusiastic, helpful, and cheerful attitude stood out at every shift, making a positive impact on both the events and the team. Staff greatly appreciated the commitment and support she brought to the department, and this award was a reflection of the gratitude felt by all who had the pleasure of working alongside her.
B2	Staff Intro – Mary Welz had recently accepted the position of Natural Resource Manager. Mary holds a BS in Biology from Indiana University and has completed graduate work in Plant Pathology at the University of Georgia in collaboration with the USFS. An Advanced Master Naturalist, she has extensive training in botany resource management, and environmental education. A Bloomington resident for over 25 years, Mary has actively supported the Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department (BPRD) through volunteer work, leadership on the Tree Commission, and community stewardship. She serves on the board of the Indiana Native Plant Society and has been involved with MC-IRIS. Mary brings passion, technical expertise, and strong community ties to her new role, where she looks forward to advancing BPRD's conservation goals.

C.OTHER BUSINESS

C1	*Leslie Brinson, Recreation Manager presented the Partnership with Downtown Bloomington Inc.* If approved, 2025 would mark the seventeenth year of the partnership between Bloomington Parks and Recreation (BPRD) and Downtown Bloomington Inc. (DBI). The goal of this longstanding collaboration is to combine resources to host the annual Fourth of July Parade for the Bloomington community, as well as a pre-parade performance by the Bloomington Community Band on the courthouse lawn. Staff recommends approval of the continued partnership with DBI. The parade is scheduled to take place on Friday, July 4, 2025. Event revenue would be split evenly, with a 50/50 distribution between BPRD and DBI. **Park Board Comments:** Board Member Kathleen Mills inquired whether the parade had been canceled in 2024. Recreation Services Director Leslie Brinson confirmed that it had been canceled, marking the first cancellation in the event's history. Brinson added that staff had since worked closely with the Bloomington Police Department to develop a weather contingency plan. In the event of inclement weather, the parade

	may be delayed by 2 to 4 hours, depending on conditions. However, the event would not be rescheduled for another date. *Ellen Rodkey made a motion to approve the partnership with Downtown Bloomington, Ind. Jim Whitlatch seconded the motion. Vote taken: motions unanimously carried 4-0.*
C2	*Leslie Brinson, Recreation Division Manager presented the Agreement with Southside Rental* To enhance the quality and enjoyment of community events, Bloomington Parks and Recreation (BPRD) proposed entering into a contract with Southside Rental for the rental of tents, stages, tables, and chairs for both the 2025 Fourth of July Parade and the Holiday Market. Southside Rental would be responsible for the delivery, setup, teardown, and removal of all rented equipment. BPRD has a longstanding and positive relationship with Southside Rental and has consistently been satisfied with the quality of their services and equipment. Staff recommended approval of a contract with Southside Rental in an amount not to exceed $5,000. Funding for this contract would be provided through the Community Events General Fund. **Park Board Comments:** Board Member Ellen Rodkey inquired whether expenses for the Fourth of July Parade were also shared with DBI, given that revenue is split. Leslie Brinson clarified that all direct event expenses are deducted prior to the revenue being divided equally between BPRD and DBI. *Ellen Rodkey made a motion to approve the contact with Southside Rental. Jim Whitlatch seconded the motion. Vote taken: motions unanimously carried 4-0.*
C3	*Hsiung Marler, Recreation Division General Manager presented the Partnership with Lake Monroe Sailing Association* In an effort to continue offering the community access to sailing instruction programs, staff proposed the renewal of the longstanding partnership with the Lake Monroe Sailing Association (LMSA). This partnership, originally established in 1996, supports summer and fall sailing programs. Under the proposed agreement, Bloomington Parks and Recreation (BPRD) would be responsible for marketing the programs and processing registrations. BPRD would retain $41 from each registration fee to cover administrative costs. All instruction and program delivery would be managed by LMSA at their facility on Lake Monroe. Staff recommended approval of the partnership renewal. The total contract amount, based on 2024 participation numbers, was not to exceed $70,000. Staff anticipated similar enrollment levels for 2025. Revenue and expenses associated with the program would be managed through the Youth Program Non-Reverting Fund *Ellen Rodkey made a motion to approve the partnership with Lake Monroe Sailing Association. Jim Whitlatch seconded the motion. Vote taken: motions unanimously carried 4-0.*
C4	*Joanna Sparks, Urban Greenspace Manager presented the Partnership with US Fish and Wildlife Services* Staff proposed hosting two free pollinator habitat workshops at Rogers Family Park in June 2025. The workshops would be held at the established prairie site, originally installed in 2017 with funding from a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) grant. Each 2-hour workshop would consist of four rotating sessions designed to educate participants on restoring pollinator habitat. Topics would include site preparation, species selection, and plant and pollinator identification. A restoration guide provided by USFWS would be distributed to all participants. The first workshop would be held for BPRD staff on June 13, 2025, followed by a public session on June 14, 2025. Rain dates are scheduled for June 27 and 28, 2025. Staff recommended approval of the partnership with USFWS to support these educational events. *Ellen Rodkey made a motion to approve the partnership with US Fish and Wildlife Services. Jim Whitlatch seconded the motion. Vote taken: motions unanimously carried 4-0.*
C5	*Daren Eads presented the Agreement Frontier Fire Protection*. To ensure the continued safety and proper maintenance of park facilities, staff requested approval of a service agreement with Frontier Fire Protection. The contractor would provide backflow repairs and replacements, as well as fire sprinkler system services as needed. The agreement would not exceed $9,000 and would be funded through a combination of General and Non-Reverting Funds. Staff noted that this agreement would provide an additional option for securing timely and professional service. Staff recommended approval of the service agreement with Frontier Fire Protection. *Ellen Rodkey made a motion to approve the contract with Frontier Fire Protection. Jim Whitlatch seconded the motion. Vote taken: motions unanimously carried 4-0*
C6	*Rebecca Swift, Operations and Development Director presented the Agreement with Harrell-Fish Incorporated (HFI)* To maintain facility operations and address a critical maintenance issue, staff requested approval of a contract for the installation of a Liberty sewage pump at the Rose Hill Office. The contractor would furnish all labor, tools, and components necessary to install the pump on the sanitary line and connect it to the lateral at the street. Due to a sewage backup at the site, the project was deemed an emergency and work had already commenced. The total cost of the project would not exceed $19,091.00,

	with funding provided through the Operations General Fund. Staff recommended approval of the contract to ensure continued functionality and safety of the facility. *Ellen Rodkey made a motion to approve the contract with Harrell-Fish, Inc. Jim Whitlatch seconded the motion. Vote taken: motions unanimously carried 4-0*
C7	<u>*Satoshi Kido, Sports Division Director presented the Agreement with Price Electric*</u> To improve energy efficiency, provide longer-lasting and high-quality illumination, and enhance player safety and visibility, staff proposed the installation of LED lights with push-button switch controls at the Bryan Park Tennis Courts. Staff recommended approval of a contract with Price Electric for the installation, in an amount not to exceed $8,830. Funding for the project would be provided from account ESD 2209-04-040000-53960. **Park Board Comments:** Board Member Kathleen Mills inquired whether the push-button switch would allow the lights to remain on for a set period of time. Staff member Satoshi Kido responded that the lights would be programmed to stay on for one hour, and players would have the option to press the button again to extend the lighting time as needed. *Ellen Rodkey made a motion to approve the contract with Price Electric. Jim Whitlatch seconded the motion. Vote taken: motions unanimously carried 4-0*
C8	<u>*Satoshi Kido, Sports Division Director presented the Agreement with PepsiCo*</u> To continue offering visitors the convenience of purchasing beverages at various sports facilities, staff recommended approval of a three-year contract with PepsiCo in an amount not to exceed $48,900. Funding for the contract would come from the Frank Southern Center, Cascades Golf Course, and Twin Lakes Non-Reverting Funds. **Board Comments:** Board Member Israel Herrera inquired whether all beverage products would be Pepsi-branded. Satoshi Kido confirmed that the contract would exclusively cover Pepsi products and apply only to the Sports Division facilities. *Ellen Rodkey made a motion to approve the contract with PepsiCo. Jim Whitlatch seconded the motion. Vote taken: motions unanimously carried 4-0*
C9	<u>*Mary Welz, Natural Resources Manager presented the Agreement with White Buffalo Incorporation*</u>. To assist with managing the deer population, staff proposed implementing a deer hunt at Griffy Lake Nature Preserve (GLNP) on November 15-16 and November 22-23, 2025, preceded by proficiency screenings. Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department (BPRD) required a professional contractor to coordinate the hunt, recruit and train hunters, facilitate removal of harvested deer, and submit a post-hunt report with results and recommendations. White Buffalo, which has provided deer management services at GLNP for the past eight years, was recommended to continue supporting the City in this effort. Staff recommended approval of a contract with White Buffalo in an amount not to exceed $25,474. Funding would come from the Natural Resources General Fund. **Board Comments:** Board Member Kathleen Mills noted that for safety reasons, White Buffalo always managed the hunter screening process. Since the hunt began in 2017, there have been no safety issues, and the program has been successful. She added that although some initially believed the deer population was small, the number of deer removed told a different story. Rebecca Swift confirmed that 62 deer were removed during the first year. Board Member Ellen Rodkey expressed appreciation that the park would be reopened for the holiday weekend, allowing the community to continue enjoying the outdoors. *Ellen Rodkey made a motion to approve the contract with White Buffalo Inc. Jim Whitlatch seconded the motion. Vote taken: motions unanimously carried 4-0*
C10	<u>*Satoshi Kido, Sport Division Director presented the partnership with Bloomington North High School*</u> Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department (BPRD) proposed continuing the High School Golf Partnership, which allows Bloomington North and Edgewood High Schools to use Cascades Golf Course during their respective boys' and girls' golf seasons at discounted rates. The 2025 partnership includes revisions to pricing and updated language regarding tee time allocations. Parks would provide approximately five tee times, or alternate course options, free of charge for the first five days of team tryouts. The proposed 2025 rates are $75 per player for the girls' season and $100 per player for the boys' season. Staff recommended approval of the partnership renewal. **Board Comments:** Board Member Kathleen Mills asked why there was a difference in fees between the girls' and boys' seasons. Satoshi Kido explained that the girls' season is shorter, which accounts for the lower fee. Board Member Ellen Rodkey inquired whether Bloomington South High School had a golf team or used a different facility. Kido responded that Bloomington South teams use the Country Club due to its closer proximity.

	Ellen Rodkey made a motion to approve the revisions to the High School Golf Partnership. Jim Whitlatch seconded the motion. Vote taken: motion unanimously carried 4-0
C11	*Rebecca Swift presented Policy Updates – Park Hours Policy 13080 - Cemeteries* Staff presented a recommendation to update the Park Hours Policy 13080 to establish specific operating hours for the City's two cemetery properties—Rose Hill and White Oak. The proposed revision would change current cemetery hours from 5:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. The intent is to formalize consistent, respectful, and manageable public access hours that reflect the unique nature of these sites. **Board Comments:** Board Member Jim Whitlatch expressed support for the policy revision but raised concerns about the proposed 10:00 p.m. closing time, particularly during fall and winter months when it becomes dark as early as 5:43 p.m. He suggested that keeping the cemeteries open well after dark could invite problems and proposed an alternative: setting closing hours at one hour after official sunset, which would better align with daylight hours. He noted this would be a clear and enforceable time and reduce the need for late-night enforcement. He also recommended installing a gate at cemetery entrances to aid in compliance. Rebecca Swift responded that staff had considered sunset-based hours but aimed to establish a consistent, concrete policy for now. She noted that while some park events do occur after dark and people occasionally pass through the cemetery at night, the main concern is loitering. Currently, there are no gates, and Rose Hill has three official entrances. Staff are exploring options for signage and fencing, though costs and historic preservation concerns limit some choices. Board Member Kathleen Mills asked whether there have been loitering issues at Rose Hill. Swift confirmed that there have been, citing areas with cover and blind spots. She noted that Rose Hill functions more as a public thoroughfare, whereas White Oak is more secluded. Director Tim Street commented that cemetery properties offer a unique opportunity to pilot policy adjustments. He noted that the current park hours are on the permissive side compared to other systems in the state. He encouraged the Board to consider amendments if desired and reiterated that implementing broader changes to park hours citywide would require significant infrastructure investment. **Motion:** Jim Whitlatch made a motion to amend the proposed cemetery hours from 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. – one hour after official sunset. He noted that exceptions for special events are already addressed in the policy. Kathleen Mills seconded the motion. **Vote:** Following additional discussion, the Board unanimously approved the amended hours. **Motion carried, 4-0.**

D.REPORTS

None

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kathleen Mills opened the floor to public comment. None were taken

Department Update – Tim Street, Director

Tim Street provided an update on department activities and upcoming initiatives:

- **Master Plan:** The consultants for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan will return on **June 7** to launch the next phase of public engagement. This phase includes a broad questionnaire featuring three core questions and an open comment section. The survey will be available at **exploreplayconnect.com**.
  Staff will conduct outreach at the Farmers' Market, Civic Brand 110%, and the Grand Pallone to promote participation. Community input will be gathered throughout the summer.
  In August, the department will conduct a targeted, statistically valid survey distributed to a random sample of households. Results from this survey will help guide the next steps of the Master Plan development in the fall.

- **2026 Budget Planning:** Budget planning for 2026 is ongoing. The department is monitoring potential impacts from **Senate Bill 1**, which may affect the city's operations. These uncertainties are being taken into account during budget preparation.

- **Programs and Events:** Community programming is in full swing with the start of the summer season. The sports and aquatics teams are preparing for the opening of pools and splash pads.
  Upcoming events include Touch a Truck in June and a new event, the Summer Rainbow Roll, which will be held at Frank Southern Ice Arena.

- **Capital Projects and Park Access**: An upcoming engineering project will temporarily close the Winslow, High, Rogers roundabout for approximately 45 days, which will impact parking access at Rogers Family Park.

  To aid visitors, a new tactical map will be installed at Switchyard Park.

- **Board Schedule:** The June meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners has been cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for July 17.

ADJOURNMENT:
The meeting was adjourned at 5:47pm