

Meeting Minutes

Meeting: Board of Park Commissioners

Date: June 1, 2026

Agenda

- I. Roll Call—Kathleen Mills called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. Kathleen Mills, Ellen Rodkey, Israel Herrera attended in person. Jim Whitlatch attended via Zoom.
- II. [Agenda](#)
 - A. Consent Calendar—Ellen Rodkey moved to approve the Consent Calendar. Israel Herrera seconded. Roll Call vote for approval was unanimous.
 - B. Public Hearings and Appearances
 1. [Bravo Award-Rula Hanania with Smile Promotions](#)
 - a) Crystal Ritter, Community Events Coordinator, recognized Rula Hanania from Smile Promotions for a 6+ year commitment to the Performing Arts Series. Every year, Smile Promotions donates free, handheld fans with dates and performers for the full concert season. These attractive, high-quality fans have become a staple of the summer concert series. Rula was not able to attend the meeting, but sent a message: I am truly grateful to Crystal, Julie and Emily for thinking of (Smile Promotions) for the Bravo Award. It means so much to be recognized and I am pleased to promote the Performing Arts Series.
 2. [Recognition of Be More Volunteer Award for Israel Herrera](#)
 - a) Director Tim Street congratulated Board member Israel Herrera for the Be More Involved Award presented by the Bloomington Volunteer Network for his years of service. \$1,000 award was donated by Herrera to the Bloomington Parks Foundation to support scholarships. Herrera thanked Street and the audience.
 3. [Staff Introduction - Zach Earl, Sports Winslow Laborer](#)
 - a) Zach Earl said he is excited to be here, that he is looking forward to the challenge of re-creating what's been going on at Winslow. He brings more than 20 years of hands-on experience with extensive knowledge in turf management,

landscaping, and property maintenance. Currently holds Category 3b commercial pesticide applicator classification for Turf Pest Management. Looking forward to the opportunity to serve the Bloomington community. Kathleen Mills welcomed Zach.

4. [Staff Introduction - Kyra Shank, Community Relations Intern](#)

- a) Kyra Shank introduced herself as the Community Events and Community Relations intern for the summer. She is pursuing a Masters degree in Public Health at Indiana University. She is hoping to gain experience with hands-on event coordination. She is very excited to be here.

C. Other Business

1. [Resolution 26-02](#): Adoption of the 2026-2030 Parks and Recreation Master Plan

[Final 2026-2030 Master Plan and Deliverables](#)

Tim Street | [Staff Report](#)

- a) Tim Street, Parks and Recreation Department Director, said we are at the end of a really large effort spanning 14 months. A lot of staff hours, public engagement and important work took place, including workshops and focus groups to develop the Master Plan. Resolution 26-02 is the adoption of the final Master Plan. Street said adopting the Master Plan will allow the Parks and Recreation Department to target the goals identified in the Master Plan through the Strategic Action Plan. Street said having this Master Plan is a prerequisite for accreditation, and qualifies the Department for state grants from the Department of Natural Resources and other agencies. Street said he is grateful to be at the end of the Master Plan process, and for everyone's input and that the Department is ready to start implementation. Ellen Rodkey moved to approve Resolution 26-02; Israel Herrera seconded. Roll Call vote for approval was unanimous. Kathleen Mills thanked Tim Street and staff for all their work on the Master Plan.

2. [Agreement with MSI](#) for Brown's Woods encampment cleanup

Amy Leyenbeck | [Staff Report](#)

- a) Amy Leyenbeck, Operations Coordinator presented a contract with MSI to provide cleanup and disposal services at Browns Woods. The project is funded by the Community Foundation of Bloomington. The amount is for \$38,300.

Leyenbeck said the contract included cleanup and proper disposal of 16 piles of discarded debris each estimated to be about 8 tons. Browns Woods is owned by the Community Foundation of Monroe County and is managed by Parks and Recreation for use as a public asset. Following cleanup, Parks and Recreation staff will initiate ecological restoration on site and construct a recreational trail. Jim Whitlatch asked if \$38,300 would cover the entire cleanup of the property. Leyenbeck responded yes, and added that Parks and Recreation last fall did a preliminary cleanup and were able to reduce the cost. Whitlatch asked how much Parks and Recreation spent on the preliminary cleanup. Leyenbeck responded that the Community Foundation reimbursed Parks and Recreation for direct costs of equipment rental and that the Department's cost was in staff time. Whitlatch recused himself from the Roll Call vote because of his law firm's involvement with the Community Foundation. Kathleen Mills asked if the Department has concerns it will become an encampment again. Leyenbeck responded that no, the preparation for the recreational trail construction has opened up the area and the recreational path will allow people to use the area. Leyenbeck said the original encampment was able to grow because the area was not easily accessible. Ellen Rodkey moved to approve the contract with MSI for the Browns Woods cleanup. Israel Herrera seconded. Roll Call vote for approval was Mills, aye; Rodkey, aye; Herrera, aye; and Whitlatch abstained.

3. [Agreement with Deem, Inc.](#) for Frank Southern Ice Arena repairs
Chris Hamric | [Staff Report](#)
 - a) Chris Hamric, Facility Manager for the ice arena, said the contract with Deem was intended to complete repairs that will allow the ice arena to open safely in the fall. The work is required in addition to the annual service agreement. The agreement is not to exceed \$24,000. Ellen Rodkey moved to approve the Service Agreement with Deem. Israel Herrera seconded. Roll Call vote for approval was unanimous.
4. [Agreement with CTM Services](#) for 2026-2027 Zamboni Rental
Chris Hamric | [Staff Report](#)

- a) Chris Hamric, Facility Manager for the ice arena, said the Department has rented with this company for the past several years. They deliver the Olympia to the ice arena and take it away at the end of the season. The amount of the contract is not to exceed \$32,000. Kathleen Mills asked Hamric if he got to drive the Olympia in, and Hamric said yes, he has driven it. Ellen Rodkey asked if there is a separate certification to drive the Olympia, and Hamric said there is not. Ellen Rodkey moved to approve the agreement with CTM Services. Israel Herrera seconded. Roll Call vote for approval was unanimous.
- 5. [Agreement with Ratio Architects](#) for Bryan Park pool study
Tim Street | [Staff Report](#) | [Ratio Proposal](#) (third-party content)
 - a) Tim Street, Parks and Recreation Department Director, said the agreement is for \$59,300 which is slated to come from Bryan Park Pool non-reverting account. Street explained that the Master Plan has targeted strategic questions and actions for Sports facilities, and the age of our Sports facilities, specifically our two pools. We are having an issue at Mills Pool now, due to its age, and an issue at Frank Southern, due to its age. Street said this contract with RATIO will take the next step from the facility conditions to options for renovation that include realistic costs. Street emphasized this contract is not a decision about the long-term future of pools, but that the renovation of a pool has a higher impact at Bryan Park Pool. He said the Department is also looking at a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant that could add an additional \$250,000 to \$1 million toward a qualifying outdoor recreation project. Both pools have similar issues but Bryan Park Pool has three to four times the amount of use as Mills Pool, and more parking than Mills Pool which has none. Street said the Department wants to get a better picture to do better planning. Street said we are looking at some type of public meeting or town hall when school is back in session so the Board can ask questions and get public and staff input, which will help determine potential investment in one of the renovation options. Ellen Rodkey asked when the RATIO report would be complete; Street said the Department has to have an application to the LWCF by August. The RATIO report might not be 100%

done by then but they would have some dollar amounts; Street said Bryan pump room, bathhouse have issues, no family or neutral restrooms, concession building is separate. RATIO will be able to give us intelligent cost estimates and tell us what is feasible. RATIO is doing a similar pool renovation in Terre Haute. Ellen Rodkey asked if RATIO was asked to make recommendations about Mills Pool as well; Street responded not at this time but that some costs could be translated. Rodkey said she would not be opposed to having RATIO explore options for Mills Pool as well. Street said the Department could ask RATIO to look at options for Mills Pool. Israel Herrera asked if RATIO will be assessing and suggesting; Street said he has requested a menu of options so we can understand what we want to select to do. Herrera asked about when the report would be complete, Street said he anticipates getting a preliminary report later this year that will feed into the aforementioned town hall. The Department is looking also at Winslow Sports Complex and the ice arena and Banneker and gathering other capital needs, and getting the information to the Board to determine where and how much to invest. Herrera clarified the travel expenses that RATIO would charge for trips to Bloomington. Rodkey asked about the LWCF grant, and whether it is just one of many options to think about to fund any sports facility or pool renovation. Street responded there are a few different options; LWCF has funded parks projects in the past but is not a reliable or consistent fund, and it is the only high-dollar grant he is aware of. Other sources might be a capital bond with council approval; Street said he is exploring options with bonding, Parks non-reverting accounts, and assets the Department holds. Street said the Department is facing a tough operational picture in the next few years and it is important for us to lay out our options and be clear eyed about what they are going to cost, what the operational costs and cost recovery are before making decisions about where or how to target investment dollars for investment returns. Herrera asked about a \$3,000 amount in the contract for additional visits or reimbursibles and Street explained that it is a contingency. Herrera asked

about the \$59,300 amount of the contract; Street responded that the \$59,300 is the amount the Department plans on spending. If the Department were to go beyond that amount, permission would be needed from the Park Board to add it. Street said he anticipates adding Mills Pool to the discussions with RATIO. Ellen Rodkey moved to approve the contract with RATIO Architects. Israel Herrera seconded. Roll Call vote for approval was unanimous.

6. [Policy Update #5030](#) for Advisory Councils

Heidi Shoemaker | [Staff Report](#)

- a) Heidi Shoemaker, Natural Resources Coordinator and staff liaison for the Environmental Resources Advisory Council (ERAC) reported that ERAC has run into an issue where an advisory council member stepped down, and the policy written in 2020 requires that the replacement ERAC member represent the Utilities Service Board (USB). However, ERAC has not been able to fill the position. ERAC discussed whether or not to continue to keep the policy as written and not fill the seat, or make a change to make the seat easier to fill. ERAC asks for approval to change the policy to only require the new member to have expertise in water resource management and not specifically be from the USB. While reviewing the policy, ERAC made additional changes that provide a monthly meeting requirement, and to add the Commission on Sustainability and Resilience to the list of partnering organizations. Ellen Rodkey moved to approve the ERAC policy update. Israel Herrera seconded. Roll Call vote for approval was unanimous.

7. Peoples Park Alcohol Use for Taste of Bloomington

Crystal Ritter | [Staff Report](#)

- a) Crystal Ritter, Community Events Coordinator, recommended use of Peoples Park on Aug. 1 for beer and wine sales for the Taste of Bloomington from 3-10 p.m. Ritter said the Taste of Bloomington was held last year on Kirkwood Avenue after a five-year hiatus. Dunn Street and Grant Street need to be kept open for emergency access, and Ritter said moving alcohol vendors to Peoples Park makes the area more safe because people will not have to cross the open streets. Ellen Rodkey asked if the beverages would be sold and consumed in Peoples Park or if people could walk around with their drinks; Ritter

responded that the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission temporary festival permit allows visitors to walk around with alcohol within the event perimeter. Ellen Rodkey moved to approve the Peoples Park Alcohol Use Permit for the Taste of Bloomington. Israel Herrera seconded. Roll Call vote for approval was unanimous.

8. [MOU with MCCSC](#) for summer food service at Banneker Kevin Terrell | [Staff Report](#)
 - a) Kevin Terrell, Program and Facility Coordinator at the Banneker Community Center, recommended approval of the memorandum of understanding with MCCSC to provide all the breakfasts and lunches for the Banneker Summer Camp Program. Terrell said MCCSC offered to partner with Banneker, and took over the responsibility of making and transporting the meals fresh to Banneker each day, and also plan the menus to meet the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) parameters and provide all documentation to SFSP. Terrell reported that working with MCCSC on the SFSP has reduced the administrative burden, with advantages of higher quality and freshness of the food being served, less intrusive meal deliveries, eliminating risk of overspending food budget or acts of nature that might cause the food in storage to go bad. Terrell said there is less waste because food is better and it is packaged for less waste and he has seen a large increase in parent and student satisfaction. Terrell reported that new management in the MCCSC nutrition program has resulted in a good relationship and a really big positive for Banneker Camp. Ellen Rodkey moved to approve the MOU with MCCSC. Israel Herrera seconded. Roll Call vote for approval was unanimous.
9. [Partnership with Downtown Bloomington, Inc.](#) for 4th of July Bill Ream | [Staff Report](#)
 - a) Leslie Brinson, Recreation Services Division Director presented a partnership with Downtown Bloomington Inc. (DBI) for the Fourth of July Parade on Saturday, July 4 at 10 a.m. The Department splits revenue from Parade entries 50/50 after certain expenses have been paid. Brinson said applications for the Parade are available now. The Parade and the Farmers' Market are occurring at the same time and the same place this year but Brinson said it

will be a great morning for the downtown community. Ellen Rodkey moved to approve the Partnership Agreement with Downtown Bloomington Inc. Israel Herrera seconded. Roll Call vote for approval was unanimous. Kathleen Mills said she was glad the Department was able to work in both the Farmers' Market and the parade. Brinson said Solution Tree has donated its parking lot for use so we could shift the parade staging area.

10. [Partnership with Mad 4 My Dog](#) for Drool in the Pool

Bill Ream | [Staff Report](#)

- a) Leslie Brinson, Recreation Services Division Director reported this is the 10th year for a formal partnership with Mad 4 My Dog. Drool in the Pool continues to have great success where dogs can visit the pool Aug. 5 and 6 from 4-8 p.m. at Mills Pool. Brinson said this is the second year for the V.I.P. program. Ellen Rodkey suggested charging more for the V.I.P. hour. Ellen Rodkey moved to approve the Partnership Agreement with Mad 4 My Dog. Israel Herrera seconded. Tim Street added, because the discussion was about the event at Mills Pool, that updates on Mills Pool are also in Section C of the agenda. Street said a leak detection company came to Mills the last week in May. Intent is to find and fix the leak, but Street said the situation is developing and details of this event could change based on what is happening at Mills. Roll Call vote for approval was unanimous.

11. Farmers' Market Advisory Council Appointments for [Lori Bolin](#) and [Robin Kitowski](#)

Clarence Boone | [Staff Report](#)

- a) Clarence Boone, Program/Facility Coordinator, recommended appointment of two individuals to the Farmers' Market Advisory Council (FMAC). Robin Kitowski is a long-time community member and former Market staff person who wants to share her skills for the betterment of the Market by serving as a customer representative. Lori Bowlin, Food and Beverage Artisan representative, has been a food and beverage artisan since 2024. As a member of the FMAC Bowlin would commit to sharing decades of leadership and business ownership experiences. Reappointments of FMAC representatives were also recommended within the guidelines of the

FMAC bylaws. Israel Herrera asked about FMAC representation. Boone responded there are five customer representatives, four farm vendor representatives, and two food and beverage artisan representatives. Herrera clarified that there are fewer food and beverage artisan representatives because there are fewer of these vendors than farm vendors at the Market. Herrera asked about the guidelines for reappointing advisory council members. Boone responded that members are approved to serve no more than three consecutive terms. Herrera asked about the length of each term; Boone responded that food and beverage seats are one year, farm vendors serve two years and Market customers serve three years. Herrera asked if members who left the FMAC gave reasons why they left. Boone responded that one member had served the maximum number of terms, and the second member has completed a term. All are invited to re-apply to serve again on the FMAC after they sit out a term. Ellen Rodkey thanked the members of the FMAC and said she appreciated their work. Ellen Rodkey moved to approve the appointments and re-appointments to the Farmers' Market Advisory Council. Israel Herrera seconded. Roll Call vote for approval was unanimous.

12. [Agreement with MidStates](#) for playground equipment

Hsiung Marler | [Staff Report](#)

- a) Hsiung Marler, Recreation Facilities General Manager, presented a contract with MidStates Recreation for removal of the existing accessible carousel at the Switchyard Park playground, and installation of a replacement feature. The current feature, first installed in 2019, has broken down four times at a cost of \$6,200, not including staff time. The contract is not to exceed \$24,849 and is to be paid from Switchyard Park's non-reverting fund. Kathleen Mills inquired about a warranty on the playground equipment. Marler responded that we took full advantage of the warranty, but some repairs needed were beyond the warranty and not everything was covered. The new feature is a simpler design so we hopefully won't have these problems. New piece is accessible although it requires a wheelchair user to transfer from the wheelchair. Ellen Rodkey moved to approve the contract with

MidStates for playground equipment. Israel Herrera seconded. Roll Call vote for approval was unanimous.

13. [B-Line Trail Closure Request](#) for 2nd St Improvement Project
Amy Leyenbeck | [Staff Report](#)

- a) Amy Leyenbeck, Operations Coordinator, recommended approval of a request for a full closure of the B-Line Trail for the 2nd Street improvement project across various dates: for one day June 8, five days July 20-24 and five days in September between the 14th and 18th. Sign detours and pedestrian paths will be included. The trail will be re-opened between closures. Per Parks policy, the B-Line Trail is a Class I trail that requires approval for closure of more than one day from the Board. The closure is related to the Engineering Department's West Second Street Modernization and Safety Improvement Project scheduled to kick off in June. The closure dates may be extended. Closures will be communicated via social media and onsite signage. Ellen Rodkey moved to approve the B-Line Trail closures. Israel Herrera seconded. Roll Call vote for approval was unanimous.

14. [Agreement with Jack Laurie Group](#) for TLRC floors
Daren Eads | [Staff Report](#)

- a) Daren Eads, Facility Coordinator with the Twin Lakes Recreation Center presented a service agreement for remodel of main level restrooms in mid-July. The TLRC worked with Jack Laurie in 2024 to re-coat the basketball floors and they are a great company to work with and the City has used them in multiple locations. Total cost is \$11,865 and will come from the Twin Lakes Recreation Center's 5000 Capital budget line. Ellen Rodkey moved to approve the service agreement with Jack Laurie Floors. Israel Herrera seconded. Roll Call vote for approval was unanimous.

D. Reports

1. [Recreation Services Events Annual Highlights Presentation](#) |
Aaron Biggs | [Staff Report](#)

- a) Leslie Brinson, Recreation Services Division Director presented an annual report to highlight community events and programs that have been scheduled or already taken place.

- (1) Winter started with Winter Palooza event. We partnered with FreezeFest.
- (2) Continue to offer Bloomington Trivia Series on a semi-monthly basis.
- (3) Arctic Adventure with scavenger hunts at the park
- (4) New this year we offered two Sip & Skate programs with Chris Hamric at the Frank Southern Ice Arena for adults-only skate at the ice arena. First event had over 300 guests. It was packed. Decided to do it again a couple of weeks later. We did have alcohol sales along with a DJ.
- (5) Pet Expo continues to be crazy popular and had 42 vendors and over 784 people came to check out the vendors and bring their animals.
- (6) Children's Expo had over 600 guests
- (7) 50+ Expo continues to grow with a record number of 105 vendors and over 670 guests.
- (8) New event this year was Free Range Arcade, over 500 people came out to try different video games, board games and virtual games. Looking forward to extending this event year after year and growing that opportunity.
- (9) Community Gardens off to a great start, Willie Streeter and Butler are really beautiful right now. There are 279 plots. Both Willie Streeter and Butler have new chain link fence. Continue to host garden programs.
- (10) Spring and Summer Community Zoo by You program continues monthly
- (11) Mad Paws had some weather-related issues this year so didn't have great attendance but any dog activity we do continues to be popular.
- (12) New event Dancewalk, had people gather at the Farmers' Market Plaza and walk down the B-Line with music and dancing. 30 people came out and walked with us.
- (13) Flights of Fancy second year for kites and bubble activity, had over 300 people come out for it. Another great day with great wind and great kites.
- (14) Another new program History in Bloom did tours in Rose Hill Cemetery that were not related to

Halloween. Continue to partner with the Monroe County History Center, more than 78 people came out to tour the cemetery.

- (15) Summer Launch Party 575 people
- (16) Escape Room is this weekend, partnership with Get Out Bloomington continues to be super popular.
- (17) Junk in the Trunk sold out quickly in April with 100 booths and 1,700 shoppers. Looking forward to doing it again in August. Inside booths sold out in 20 minutes.
- (18) Farmers' Market off to record attendance, over 5,000 in attendance on Saturday (May 30) with 59 vendors.
- (19) Third year of Youth Day at the Market, have added days. First day filled and sold out. Doing one at Food Truck Friday and at Tuesday Market this year.
- (20) The Performing Arts Series kicks off this weekend with a concert in Bryan Park, continue to have movies, Civic Theater taking place at the Waldron, Hill and Buskirk Park, Strawberry Shortcake Festival next week and adding Jazz on the Tracks.
- (21) Tuesday Tunes: there will be music at every Tuesday Market at Hopewell Commons.
- (22) Rainbow Rink, Fourth of July Parade, Drool in the Pool and a Bloomington Branches event in Bryan Park for Bryan Park's 75th anniversary.
- (23) Glow Week in mid-September
- (24) October is one of the busiest months: Trick or Treat Trail, Festival of Ghost Stories, Dearly Departed Cemetery Tours, Skate and Scare, Bloomington Pumpkin Launch
- (25) Holiday season Sensory Santa, Yappy Howl-idays, Holiday Market and end the year with Skate with Santa
- (26) Looking forward to 2026. Could not be done without the great community events and rec staff, they get all the awards and props for coming up with programs and running them in all weather.

(27) Kathleen Mills thanked Brinson for the report and complimented the phenomenal attendance numbers. Ellen Rodkey suggested Parks staff do an example of the Dancewalk when they approach the podium.

2. [Natural Resources 2025 Annual Report](#)

Mary Welz | [Presentation](#) | [Staff Report](#)

- a) Mary Welz, Natural Resources Manager, presented an overview of the Natural Resources annual report.
 - (a) Summary of accomplishments for natural resource management, environmental education and the Griffy Lake boathouse operations.
 - (b) Worked with three contractors in 2025 for various ecological restoration and consulting services: Aquatic Control, Eco Logic, and KCI Technologies.
 - (c) Vegetation management team focused on two large-scale efforts in 2025: started in 2024 on clearing a dense mix of woody invasives within state dedicated nature preserve at Griffy Lake. By March 2026 they cleared 40 acres. Also continued efforts to remove Asian bush honeysuckle around waterfalls at Lower Cascades Park. By March 2026 about six acres had been cleared.
 - (d) Also focused on control of poison hemlock and tree of heaven
 - (e) Trails Management responsible for maintaining 27+ miles of trails. Highlights from 2025 were removal of the hazardous stairs at the Griffy Lake spillway, and work to restore that area. Collaborated on trail reroutes at Griffy Lake with Hoosier Hikers Council.
 - (f) Wildlife & Habitat Management - monitor and support wildlife. Completed report of Griffy Lake Nature Preserve Insect Inventory in 2024. Also re-certified Bloomington and Monroe County as official Bird Town.

Undertook annual deer management efforts at Griffy Lake and continued deer browse vegetation monitoring.

- (g) Celebrate IU O'Neill Leadership Program for graduate students in the natural resources area. Fellows have been involved in Parks asset inventory and GIS data collection. Abby Garcia outgoing fellow created self-guided outings in OuterSpatial mobile app. Tristyn Berube incoming fellow.
- (h) Natural Resources Education staff conducted amazing programs and outreach opportunities including Leonard Springs Nature Day and Afterschool Nature Club and BugFest with 1,500 attendees. Five staff trained in monarch butterfly tagging through Monarch Watch program.
- (i) Griffy Lake boathouse replaced leaking skylight at storage, follow up cleaning. Benchmarks for the boathouse include improvements to 10-punch rental passes.
- (j) Welz said her first year as natural resources manager has been a good one and future plans include a master plan for Wapehani Mountain Bike Park and putting Leonard Springs Nature Park into state dedicated protections.
- (k) Kathleen Mills thanked Welz and asked about something in her neighborhood: When removing invasive species, are there occasions where you burn. Welz responded yes, and prescribed fire is planned for future. Ellen Rodkey commented she is excited to see there are plans for a master plan at Wapehani.

3. Seminary Port-a-let update

Amy Leyenbeck | [Staff Report](#)

- a) Amy Leyenbeck, Operations Coordinator, reported the reality of managing parks. When the Park Board in January 2026 approved a contract to service and clean the Port-a-let at Seminary Park, the Board asked for updates.

- (1) January through March the unit was serviced Monday through Friday on a trial basis, to see if it could go through two days without being serviced.
- (2) Contractor provides Leyenbeck with before and after photos of the Port-a-let every day, and Leyenbeck invited Park Board members to view the photos.
- (3) It became clear that the Port-a-let was being regularly trashed and vandalized every day. It does not seem feasible to go more than a day without cleaning it, because it becomes unusable when someone makes a big mess in there.
- (4) Despite the challenges we hear the Port-a-let is providing an important service for park users, and area businesses and residents. Parks and Recreation has received a budget commitment from the Economic and Sustainable Development Department (ESD) for the 2027 budget to fund all the costs for cleaning and servicing this Port-a-let on a daily basis.
- (5) Jim Whitlatch asked to see the pictures; Leyenbeck responded that the photos are linked in the Google Drive with the Park Board packet materials. Whitlatch then asked about exploring options for security cameras in Seminary Park. Tim Street responded that Parks and Recreation has had conversations with the Bloomington Police Department about additional security cameras in Hopewell Commons and Seminary Park. Whitlatch said he strongly recommends that we have a camera there and that we have a sign that says the outside is video monitored and any vandalism will be subject to criminal or civil action. If we are spending money on a daily basis then at some point there should be some criminal or civil issues. This is not acceptable. Whitlatch said he thinks we have a responsibility to handle it responsibly. Cleaning on a daily basis is something we need to do but we also need to see what steps we can take to eliminate or to try to better control this. Street responded that the Department may be coming to

the Park Board in the near future with some security camera options.

- (6) Brian Giffen, City Homelessness Response Coordinator, addressed the Park Board. Giffen reiterated that he has heard from property owners around the area that they are not experiencing as many issues. Giffen said the Port-a-let is serving a valuable resource to our community, not just to folks in Seminary but also the people around there. Giffen said he has been in talks with BPD about cameras there as well. Whitlatch said the minimum next step we need to take is to have cameras there and he is very much in favor of that. Street responded that there is a security camera in Seminary Park right now that is dated and that typical security cameras could help us out in that area. Kathleen Mills asked Street about other Port-a-lets in other locations and whether they have as much trash and vandalism issues. Leyenbeck responded that there is trash and vandalism in other Port-a-lets but not nearly at the same level. Leyenbeck said Parks and Recreation staff visit other Port-a-lets on a daily basis and check to make sure they are clean and ready for use. Street added the Port-a-let we have the most issues with is the one on the back side of Bryan Park Pool.
- (7) Whitlatch said he recollected a Port-a-let placed along the B-Line Trail during COVID, and that the Port-a-let experienced the same type of vandalism as the one currently in Seminary Park. Street responded that the Port-a-let Whitlatch referred to was placed by the Emergency Winter Shelter and that it was placed along the B-Line and that it did create issues.
- (8) Israel Herrera asked if there was just one Port-a-let at Seminary Park, and Leyenbeck confirmed that there is just one. Herrera asked about the funding agreement with ESD. Leyenbeck responded that ESD will continue to fund the rental and cleaning fees for the Seminary Park Port-a-let. Herrera asked about the location of the Port-a-let and why the

Port-a-let is in that corner, that in case of a vehicle accident it might be risky for a person inside. He said the Port-a-let could be put in a different place and referenced a corner restaurant that was hit by a car. Herrera asked if the Port-a-let could be placed in a different corner of the park. Leyenbeck responded the location was chosen for access, for the truck that has to get in to pump and clean and service the Port-a-let and that the current location is the only place the truck could access. Street responded that logistically the current location is the only location for the Port-a-let, but said Parks and Recreation would have another look.

- (9) Kathleen Mills asked if there are trash cans at Seminary and whether they are overflowing and if there is a need for more, or are people just choosing to throw their garbage in the Port-a-let. Leyenbeck said people are choosing to throw their garbage into the Port-a-let. Leyenbeck said Parks and Recreation staff meets at Seminary Park at 8 a.m. every day, and picks up trash for an hour or more and cleans the entire park. It is a daily issue and more trash cans won't solve anything.
- (10) Israel Herrera asked whether the damage to the Port-a-let was primarily because of trash, or vandalism. Leyenbeck responded that trash has been left inside but there have also been a few fires started in the unit. Leyenbeck said she has concerns about safety related to the fires, and that having cameras in the park would be a good improvement.
- (11) Israel Herrera asked if the Port-a-let is open while the park is open. Street responded that the park closes at 11 p.m. but that the Port-a-let is not locked. Whitlatch said he has a never-ending query of why Seminary Park is open until 11 o'clock, and that is something he would like to continue to address. Street responded that Parks and Recreation has not had the bandwidth to address the hours of operation for Seminary Park but that

maybe we need to get back to that. Whitlatch responded he would like to.

III. Public Comment

A. No one online for public comment, no one in person for public comment.

B. Parks and Recreation Director Announcements

1. Parks and Recreation Department Director Tim Street thanked everyone for being flexible with the change in day and date for the meeting and that the agendas for the May and June meetings were combined.
2. Street said this month is the first with the new digitally accessible Board packet process, and invited feedback from Board members about how they are accessing items.
3. Super busy time of year. This time of year we really get stretched thin. Kudos to all staff who are trying to keep up. Working on the Frank Southern Ice Arena, met with the EPA today and will be meeting and talking tomorrow about next steps with Mills Pool.
4. Sycamore Shelter got hit by a large bur oak tree. We were able to open the main part of the shelter and are working on cleaning it up this week but it will be some time before we are able to reconstruct the south end of the shelter.
5. Street mentioned several upcoming events.
6. Next Board meeting is July 23 at 5 p.m. but the room has not yet been identified.
7. Herrera asked about the Escape Room program. Brinson agreed it is this weekend at RCA Community Park and that spots are available almost every day.

IV. Adjournment

A. Kathleen Mills thanked the staff and adjourned the meeting at 6:42 p.m.