

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
Parks and Recreation

**Board of Park Commissioners
Meeting Minutes**

**Board Retreat 2022, Wednesday, April 6, 2022
4pm – 6pm**

**City Hall
Allison Conference Room**

Call to Order

A. Division Topics

A-1. Administration

Kim Clapp, Office Manager presented updates on the following topics:

Bloomington Parks Foundation Scholarships

Time Track

Administration Customer Service

A-2. Community Relations

Julie Ramey, Community Relations Manager presented update on the following topics:

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Sponsorship Acquisition

Social Media Management

Board Comments: *Jim Whitlatch inquired: how do we know how participants learn about Parks Program. Julie Ramey responded: the question was asked on surveys during program evaluations. Kathleen Mills inquired if registrations can be mailed in. Julie Ramey responded: registration can be made online, in person, by mail, faxed in or dropped off. Kathleen Mills inquired how often the pool hotline was updated. Paula McDevitt responded: that was being evaluated. The information would be posted on social media. Ellen Rodkey inquired if there was a tax benefit for sponsorship. Julie responded there was not as it was for advertising, and not considered a donation. There would be a tax benefit if they donated to the Bloomington Parks Foundation or the Tree Fund. Israel Herrera requested an example of how a recent sponsorship was used. Julie responded: Winter Lights December Nights, which was a light display in Switchyard Park. The goal was to raise \$10,000, which made a nice display and gave something to build off of. The larger the event the larger the sponsorship request was, so a quality program or event can be provided. Israel Herrera inquired on streaming programs on Facebook live. Julie responded: Wi-Fi connection can be an issue. This year, a portion of the Children's Expo would stream on Facebook live. Some of the Nature Environmental education programs will be streamed on Facebook live, as well as some concerts. It was an area staff was diving*

into.

A-3.Operations Division

Tim Street, Operations and Development Division Director presented update on the following items

2022 Major Projects schedule & priorities

Staffing

Keeping Parks Clean & Safe

Board Comments: *Jim Whitlatch stated: the numbers on total Parks vandalism cost seem lowed.*

Tim responded: only very specific items were included in the number. *Jim Whitlatch inquired if any of the vandalism was covered by insurance.* Tim responded: no. *Jim Whitlatch recommend expanding on what was included in the number.* Paula responded: staff time could be included. *Kathleen Mills inquired if needles were being disposed of on the ground due to the sharps containers being full.* Tim Street responded: no, the containers were rarely full. In 2021 the number of unused needles increased, and the number of used needles decreased. Tim Street stated: the contractual security cost had increased, but the impact had been very positive in the areas that were patrolled. *Jim Whitlatch inquired on Wi-Fi in all parks.* Tim Street responded: it probably would never be in the entirety of all parks, but focused on congregation areas. The City IT Department was currently covering the cost of the Wi-Fi. *Jim Whitlatch recommended looking at the security issues in Parks though a committee, and putting some resources towards this.* *Israel Herrera inquired on types of graffiti that had been discovered.* Tim Street responded, there hasn't been any one trend that we could identify. Paula stated: Parks worked with the City's Affirmative Action on these type of incidents and they track that information. *Israel Herrera inquired: the location of the largest amount of sharp containers.* Tim Street responded: Switchyard Park. Becky Higgins responded: there was one at the police substation, two at the restrooms by the spray pad and one behind the stage. *Kathleen Mills inquired: if the police substation was manned.* Paula McDevitt stated: there was some police staffing there. Tim Street responded: the DROs had severely been depleted, but that was getting better.

A-4. Recreation Division

Becky Higgins, Recreation Division Director presented update on the following items:

Noise Permits

Staffing/Facility Update

Farmers' Market 2022

Board Comments: *Jim Whitlatch inquired: on the criteria for noise permits.* Becky Higgins responded: the hours of operations and sound decibels. It also serves as a reminder to users to be aware of their surroundings and be considerate of the neighborhood. Users must yield to the police. Very few noise permits are allowed past 11:00 p.m., and those would not be Parks permits. *Israel inquired: on the reason why staff had left.* Becky Higgins responded: some staff wanted to continue to work remotely, and other staff wanted to change careers. Hiring seasonal staff has been an issue. *Kathleen Mills inquired: if the condition of the smokestack was impacting the market.* Becky responded: it had, but staff had been able to work around it. *Israel Herrera inquired: on the vendors at the market.* Becky Higgins responded: there are new vendors as well as returning vendors.

A-5. Sports Division

Paula McDevitt, Director presented an update on the following items

Bloomington Soccer Clubs

Lower Cascades Ballfields

Sports Lighting

Board Comments: *Jim Whitlatch inquired: on the amount of cars parked at Twin Lakes Sports Park.* Paula McDevitt responded: that was a partnership with Catalent allowing their employees to park at the parking lot at TLSP. *Kathleen Mills inquired on the possibility of being more inclusive when offering swim lessons.* Becky Higgins responded: through the Yapa Grant, Banneker campers would be offered a program called “all kids swim”. This program would be in partnership with IU and offer, up to 60 kids swim lessons at the IU outdoor pool, by IU instructors. This would also give the children the opportunity to see the campus. The program would include swimsuits, swim caps, towel, backpacks and goggles.

B. Financial Review

Paula McDevitt present an update on the following:

1. Cash Balance
2. General Fund/Non-Reverting
3. Cost Recovery Review
4. Debt Service Payments

Board Comments: *Jim Whitlatch inquired: on the Non-Reverting Fund.* Paula McDevitt responded: a lot of the fees from programs the go through the Non-Reverting Fund and do not go back through the General Fund. The Council approves the General Fund. The Park Board approves and monitors the Non-Reverting cash balance. *Israel Herrera inquired:*

C. Hopewell Project (Hospital site reuse)

Tim Street presented update on the Hopewell Project

D. 2022 GO Bonds

Paula McDevitt, Director presented update on 2022 GO Bonds.

E. 2023 Budget Discussion


Paula McDevitt, Director presented update on 2023 Budget Process

Jim Whitlatch inquired: if there was a Parks wish list. Paula McDevitt responded: maintaining and updating existing facilities and Bryan Park Playground. Tim Street responded: to work on the top items listed on the Capital Improvement Plan.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

_____

Kim Clapp,
Secretary Board of Park Commissioners