

Board of Park Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

Regular Meeting: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Council Chambers 401 North Morton

**CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order by Kathleen Mills at 4:00pm

Present: Kathleen Mills, Ellen Rodkey, Israel Herrera and James Whitlatch

**A. CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A-1. Approval of Minutes of February 28, 2023
- A-2. Approval of Claims Submitted February 28, 2023 - March 27, 2023
- A-3. Approval of Non-Reverting Budget Amendments
- A-4. Review of Business Report
- A-5. Review/Approval Credit Card Refunds
- A-6. Declaration of Surplus
- A-7. Approval of partnership agreement with Bloomington Junior League Baseball Association for Winslow north and south concessions operations
- A-8. Approval of partnership agreement with Monroe County Senior League Baseball Association
- A-9. Approval of partnership agreement with Bloomington Football Club
- A-10. Approval of partnership agreement with Civic Theater
- A-11. Approval of service agreement with Aquatic Control Inc. for Griffy Lake aquatic vegetation management
- A-12. Approval of service agreement with EZ-Dock Mid-America for installation of new railings on Griffy Lake accessible boat launch
- A-13. Approval of contract with Sunset Hill Fence Co LLC for fence repairs along the B-Line Trail
- A-14. Approval of service agreement with Trees PLE, INC. for treatment of time sensitive pests and diseases in publicly owned trees
- A-15. Approval of design contract addendum with Mader Design, LLC for Rogers Family Park project
- A-16. Approval of service agreement with Sexton Wilbert Corporation for interment services at White Oak Cemetery
- A-17. Approval of service agreement with Bledsoe, Riggert, Cooper and James, Inc. for topographic surveys at Park Ridge East Par
- A-18. Approval of services agreement with Green Hat Media for photography and video services
- A-19. Approval of service agreement with Winslow Ranch Marketing for photography and video services
- A-20. Approval of service agreement with The Production House for photography, filming and video production services
- A-21. Approval of contract with Value Fencing Company for repairs to Bryan Park tennis court fencing

**Board Comments:** Kathleen Mills recommended: to allow for public comment, Agenda item A-9, partnership agreement with Bloomington Football Club be moved from Section A. Consent Calendar to Section C. Other Business.

*Ellen Rodkey* made a motion to move A-9 from Consent Calendar to C. Other Business. *Jim Whitlatch* seconded the motion. Vote taken: unanimously carried 4-0.

*Ellen Rodkey* made a motion to approve Consent Calendar A-1 through A-21, minus A-9. *Jim Whitlatch* seconded the motions. Vote take: unanimously carried 4-0

## **B. PUBLIC HEARINGS/APPEARANCES**

### **B-1. Bravo Award**

Emily Buuck, Community Relations Coordinator presented Doug and Kathy Curry with the March Bravo Award for the volunteer hours they provided weekly, primarily at Winslow Sports Park. They supported the Habitat Connectivity Project at Winslow Sports Park which had been one of the largest volunteer driven projects in the Adopt-a-Greenspace program. Their input and suggestions had been key in guiding the project and outreach. Staff was appreciative of the support Doug and Kathy had given to the department.

The Board thanked Doug and Kathy for their time and efforts.

### **B-2. Parks Partner Award - none**

### **B-3. Staff Introductions**

Josh Hinton recently accepted the position of Switchyard Park Foreperson. Josh was born in northern Indiana and moved to Bloomington in the early eighties. Josh obtained an associate's degree in Business Administrations from the local Ivy Tech. Josh looked forward to learning and growing in his position to help make BPRD park some of the best in the country. In his free time, Josh enjoyed reading and spending time with family, preferably at a camp site.

The Board welcomed Josh.

## **C. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **C-1. Review/Approval of Partnership Agreement with Bloomington Pickle Ball Club for Community Pickle Ball Lessons**

Mark Sterner, General Manager Sports BPRD wished to provide the Bloomington community an opportunity to participate in a pickleball instruction program. The Agreement outlined a program partnership, which would provide an affordable and effective program, designed to introduce beginner participants to the pickleball sport as well as to provide for skill advancement. Staff recommended approval of the partnership.

**Board Comments** *Jim Whitlatch inquired:* if Bloomington Pickle Ball Club was a legal entity, or just a group of people that came together. *Dan Sessions, Chairman of the Board of Bloomington Pickle Ball Club responded:* they were a 501-c7 status. A legal entity as a club based membership sports club.

*Ellen Rodkey* made a motion to approve partnership agreement with Bloomington Pickle Ball Club. *Jim Whitlatch* seconded the motions. Vote take: unanimously carried 4-0

### **C-2. Review/Approval of Contract with Scenic Construction Services, Inc. for Griffy Dam Trail Crossing Project**

Tim Street, Operations and Development Division Director BPRD wished to construct a trail crossing at Griffy Lake Dam. The project would include, but not limited to site preparation, excavation, earthwork, fill, approximately 850 fee of trail construction, demolition, installation of fencing, and construction of approximately 200-foot long staircase at the site of Griffy Lake Dan on N Dunn St. Staff recommended approval of the contract with Scenic Construction Services, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$344,700. Funding source would be the Prow RD/Acuff TIF Account.

*Ellen Rodkey* made a motion to approve contract with Scenic Construction Services, Inc. *Jim Whitlatch* seconded the motions. Vote take: unanimously carried 4-0

### **C-3. Review/Approval of Contract with Marshall Security for Security Services at the Farmers' Market**

Clarence Boone, Farmers' Market Coordinator BPRD wished to provide security support to staff at the Farmers' Market. Marshall Security would assist staff in enforcing the rules of the Farmers' Market. One security personnel would be at the Farmers' Market during the time frame of April 1<sup>st</sup> through November 25<sup>th</sup>. Staff recommended approval of the contract with Marshall Security in an amount not to exceed \$4,300. Funding source would be Farmers' Market Non-Reverting fund.

**Board Comments** *Kathleen Mills inquired:* if this was different than other arrangements with Marshall Security, since a sponsorship was involved. *Clarence responded:* it reduced overall cost, and went from two security personnel to one.

*Ellen Rodkey* made a motion to approve contract with Marshall Security. *Jim Whitlatch* seconded the motions. Vote take: unanimously carried 4-0

#### **C-4. Review/Approval Updates to Policy #13040 – Park and Facility Special Use Policy**

Hsiung Marler, Switchyard Park General Manager Park Policy 13040 covered park special use, security and safety issues, and classifications of events and fee schedules. Park Policy 13040 was originally developed in 1976, and had been updated as needed. The recommended updates were minimal and either to correct minor discrepancies with the Park Special Use Permit (last revision January 2023) or based upon revisions to the alcohol and firearms section as given to Parks by Legal. Staff recommend approval of the updates to Policy 13040.

**Board Comments** Ellen Rodkey requested clarification: what was new in the policy. Hsiung Marler responded: section 8 under Use, Security, Safety.

Ellen Rodkey made a motion to approve the policy updates to Policy #13040 – Park and Facility Special Use Policy. Jim Whitlatch seconded the motions. Vote take: unanimously carried 4-0

#### **C-5. Review/Approval Contract with Bluestone Tree LLC for Ash Tree Removal**

Haskell Smith, Urban Forester staff wished to have 9 dead Ash trees removed near the animal shelter, satiation and Winston properties. Property damage had occurred due to limb failures of the dead trees caused by EAB infection. Staff recommended approval of the contract with Bluestone Tree LLC, in an amount not to exceed \$8,371.29. Cost would be equally split between BPRD and Public Works. BPRD funding source would be from Urban Forestry General Fund.

Ellen Rodkey made a motion to approve contract with Bluestone Tree LLC. Jim Whitlatch seconded the motions. Vote take: unanimously carried 4-0

#### **C-6. Review/Approval of Contract with Trees PLE, INC for Ash Tree Treatments**

Haskell Smith, Urban Forester to continue to preserve Ash trees throughout the city, staff wished have 108 trees treated preventively for Emerald Ash Borer. The green and white ash trees were located around various city locations, and were on a treatment cycle of every three years. Staff recommended approval of the contract with Trees PLE, INC, in an amount not to exceed \$17,402. Funding source would be from Urban Forestry General Fund.

Ellen Rodkey made a motion to approve contract with Trees PLE, INC. Jim Whitlatch seconded the motions. Vote take: unanimously carried 4-0

#### **C-7. Review/Approval of Contract with White Buffalo for 2023 Deer Hunt at Griffy Lake Nature Hunt**

Steve Cotter, Natural Resources Manager to allow the understory forest vegetation to recover from deer browsing, staff wished to continue to manage the deer herd at Griffy Lake Nature Preserve. White Buffalo would provide, but not limited to, assistance in the recruitment and proficiency screening of hunters/applicants, supervise scheduled hunting activities, and select general hunting locations within GLNP, facilitate the removal of harvested deer, and generate a report detailing the results of the hunt. Staff recommended approval of the contract with White Buffalo in an amount not to exceed, \$23,731. Funding source would be Landscaping Non-Reverting Fund.

Ellen Rodkey made a motion to approve contract with White Buffalo. Jim Whitlatch seconded the motions. Vote take: unanimously carried 4-0

#### **A-9. Approval of Partnership Agreement with Bloomington Football Club**

Scott Pedersen, Sports Coordinator staff wished to continue the partnership with Bloomington Football Club to provide an affordable and effective youth soccer program, designed to introduce beginner participants to the sport as well as to provide for skill advancement for the Bloomington community. BFC provided soccer to over 60 youth participants at Winslow Sports Complex. Staff recommended approval of the partnership with Bloomington Football Club.

**Board Comments** Kathleen Mills commented: the Board would be voting on a standard agreement with the Bloomington Football Club to use the space. The Board would be happy to hear comments regarding soccer in Bloomington, but would only be voting on the Agreement presented.

The Board received public comments regarding the condition and availability of soccer fields in Bloomington.

**Board Comments** Jim Whitlatch inquired: if the partnership presented to the Board for the Bloomington Football Club was agreeable to the club, the discussion was the availability and condition of fields not the agreement. Scott Pedersen responded: correct. Joe Fuschetto, Representative of Bloomington Football Club responded: yes. Jim Whitlatch responded: this was a topic that had been studied and needed to continue to be studied. The Board had

listened and would take into consideration what had been said, and would continue to work with the Parks administration.

*Ellen Rodkey* made a motion to approve partnership with Bloomington Football Club. *Jim Whitlatch* seconded the motions. Vote take: unanimously carried 4-0

The Board thanked everyone for their comments.

#### **D. REPORTS**

##### **D-1. Operations Division - Environmental Resources Advisory Council Annual Report**

Rebecca Swift, Natural Resource Coordinator, introduced Denise Gardener, Chair Environmental Resources Advisory Council.

*Denise Gardener presented 2022 Highlights*

Bicentennial Bond Tree Planting Project update: in February of 2022, BPRD contracted Davey Resource Group to oversee the planting and maintenance of new street trees. Spring tree planting began in April 2022 and fall tree planting began in October 2022. Urban Forester attended meetings and gave updates on tree installations and discussed Callery pear removals.

Goat Farm Redevelopment Project update: In August 2022, construction contract was awarded to Scenic Construction Services and work began. The first phase included repairing the barn and silo, adding parking and seating, creating a new loop paved trail, construction of two boardwalks, and expanding the native prairie to the south. ERAC members reviewed design plans and native seed mixes. Members were asked to review interpretive sign content prior to production.

Griffy Lake Nature Preserve Deer Management update: BPRD hired White Buffalo to plan and facilitate a hunt over two weekends in November during deer season. 29 participants were required to pass proficiency testing and be properly licensed to participate in the hunt. Deer Reduction Zone status was requested from the IDNR and approved. The only hunting allowed at Griffy was during the supervised deer hunt. A private security firm was hired to patrol access points to Griffy Lake Nature Preserve. Research and plant inventories conducted by Eco Logic, LLC continued to show that deer management was required to allow native plants to recover. The 2022 hunt removed 46 deer over the two weekends.

Griffy Lake Loop Trail/Griffy Lake Accessible Fishing Pier update: the first phase of the plan included an accessible pedestrian walkway along N. Headly Road, five fishing access points along the western shoreline, and a .5 mile of dirt trail on the south side of the lake. Construction of phase 1 began in 2021 and continued until June 2022.

Trail improvements update: while the Griffy Lake Loop Trail and the proposed Clear Creek Trail extension received the most attention, other trail updates were discussed such as taking over the Poly Grimshaw trail, The Mill property donation, and ongoing invasive plant management along other City trails.

Outreach update: BPRD was able to increase group sizes and the number of program offerings in 2022. Large community events held, which provided free opportunities to learn more about local outdoor recreational opportunities and environment. The Monroe County-Identify and Reduce Invasive Species partnership was renewed. Additional boot brush stations were added around parks with natural surface trails to reduce the spread of invasive species and to educate park users. BPRD staff improved GIS data and descriptions for all parks presented on OuterSpatial's mobile application.

##### **D-2. Recreation Division – none**

##### **D-3. Sports Division – none**

##### **D-4. Administration Division - 2022 Annual Report – draft**

Julie Ramey, Community Relations Manager presented a draft of the Departments 2022 Annual Reports, which included participation numbers for 2022 programs, as well as unaudited financial data for each program area. The draft was provided for review prior to the production of the final reports. Changes and updates were to be sent to Julie via email.

#### **E. PUBLIC COMMENT - none**

Paula McDevitt, Administrator commented: the next Park Board meeting would be held on April 25, 2023. The Farmers' Market and Griffy Boathouse would open Saturday April 1, 2023.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 4:47pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kim Clapp", written in dark ink.

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Kim Clapp,  
Secretary Board of Park Commissioners