



A-1 May 21, 2024

Minutes

City of Bloomington Board of Park Commissioners

Regular Meeting: Tuesday, May 21, 2024 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Council Chambers, 401 N Morton St, Bloomington, IN

Zoom

CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Kathleen Mills at 4:04 pm

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

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

A-1	Approval of Minutes of April 23, 2024
A-2	Approval of Claims Submitted April 23, 2024 through May 20, 2024
A-3	Approval of Non-Reverting Budget Amendments
A-4	Review of Business Reports
A-5	Review/Approval of Credit Card Refunds
A-6	Approval of Surplus
A-7	Approval of Contract with Sunset Hill Fence Company for Fence Repairs
A-8	Approval of Contract with Commercial Service for preventive maintenance at Banneker Center and Allison-Jukebox Building
A-9	Approval of Partnership Agreement with Monroe County Fairgrounds for events
A-10	Approval of Partnership Agreement with Monroe County History Center for Rose Hill Cemetery events
A-11	Approval of Contract with Professional Golf Carts for Fourth of July Parade rental
A-12	Approval of Agreement with Indiana University for All Kids Swim
A-13	Approval of Partnership Agreement with Summer Starr Foundation for Griffy Lake Nature Days
<i>Ellen Rodkey made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Jim Whitlatch seconded the motion. Vote taken: motion unanimously carried 4-0.</i>	

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS/APPEARANCES

B-1	<p>Bravo Award – Emily Buuck, Community Relations Coordinator presented Amy and John Zubay with the May Bravo Award. Amy and John had been caring for a large, city-owned sycamore tree for the past several years. Their efforts to care for the tree would be beneficial to the city and its residents for decades to come. Staff greatly appreciated their commitment to helping preserve urban forests.</p> <p>Haskell Smith, Urban Forestry appreciated them maintaining the 65" diameter, American Sycamore. One of the largest owned city tree, a staple of the community.</p> <p><u>Board Comments:</u> <i>Jim Whitlatch inquired:</i> if Parks planted any sycamore trees. <i>Haskell Smith responded:</i> in limited supply. Not often, due to size which could cause issues.</p>
B-2	Parks Partner Award - None

C. OTHER BUSINESS

C-1	<p>Approval of Resolution 24-004 (Golf Cart lease purchasing authority). Satoshi Kido, Sports Division Director presented Resolution 24-004. The master lease agreement and financing had been approved at the March Park Board meeting. Staff recommended approval of Resolution 24-004, to update authority to enter into the master lease agreement with First Financial Equipment Finance LLC.</p> <p><u>Board Comments:</u> <i>Kathleen Mills inquired:</i> what changes had been made to language in original agreement. <i>Tim Street, Director responded:</i> The finance company had requested all four Park Board Members signatures be on the resolution.</p> <p><i>Ellen Rodkey made a motion to adopt the updated Resolution 24-004 with First Financial Equipment Finance LLC. Jim Whitlatch seconded the motion. Vote taken: motion unanimously carried 4-0.</i></p>
C-2	<p>Approval of Partnership with Downtown Bloomington, Inc. for Fourth of July Parade. Bill Ream, Community Events Coordinator presented the contract. Staff wished to partner with Downtown Bloomington in order to provide the community with a Fourth of July Parade. There would be a 50/50 split of revenue from parade entry fees after expenses were met. Parks would provide logistics, Downtown Bloomington would provide judges, review stand and announcers. Staff recommended approval of the contract with Downtown Bloomington.</p>

	<p><u>Board Comments:</u> <i>Kathleen Mills inquired:</i> on the number of entries received. <i>Bill Ream responded:</i> estimated between fifty and sixty entries.</p> <p><i>Ellen Rodkey made</i> a motion to approve the partnership with Downtown Bloomington, Inc. <i>Jim Whittlatch seconded</i> the motion. Vote taken: motion unanimously carried 4-0.</p>
C-3	<p>Approval of Contract with Southside Rental for Fourth of July Parade. Bill Ream, Community Events Coordinator presented the contract. Staff wished to provide the community with a Fourth of July Parade, and a Holiday Market. To help make the events enjoyable and successful, the rental of tents, stages, tables and chairs would be needed. Staff recommended approval of the contract with Southside Rental in amount not to exceed \$5,600. Funding would be from Community Events General Fund.</p> <p><i>Ellen Rodkey made</i> a motion to approve the contract with Southside Rental. <i>Jim Whittlatch seconded</i> the motion. Vote taken: motion unanimously carried 4-0.</p>
C-4	<p>Approval of Appointments to the Farmer's Market Advisory Committee. Clarence Boone presented appointment requests. Staff recommended reappointing Karen Saint Rain – Farm Vendor, Kip Schlegel – Farm Vendor, Rebeca Vadas – Farm Vendor, Tracy Bruce – Food and Beverage Artisan, Andy Manansala – Food and Beverage Artisan, and Michael Gleeson – Customer Representative to the Farmers' Market Advisory Council. Staff recommended appointing Edward Roberson and Patricia Sigman to the Farmers' Market Advisory Council.</p> <p>Board Comments: <i>Israel Herrera inquired:</i> how many Food and Beverage Artisan representatives were on the committee. <i>Leslie Brinson responded:</i> Of the eleven members, four farmers, two food and beverage and five customer representatives.</p> <p><i>Ellen Rodkey made</i> a motion to approve the reappointment of the six members, and appointments of the two new members. <i>Jim Whittlatch seconded</i> the motion. Vote taken: motion unanimously carried 4-0.</p>
C-5	<p>Approval of Partnership Agreement with IU Health for facilitated public health programs. Shelby Drake, Health and Wellness Coordinator. In order to promote social, physical, emotional, mental, and environmental health, staff recommended approval of the new renewed partnership with Indiana University Health Bloomington. The partnership would focus on adolescent and adult community health programming initiatives. No funds would be exchanged. Due to staffing the partnership had not been in effect since 2021.</p> <p>Board Comments: <i>Kathleen Mills inquired:</i> if there would be a different focus. <i>Shelby Drake responded:</i> The Strategic Action goals would be done separately, so the partnership looked different. Both IU and Parks would work on the same types of programs. IU would provide the clinical instruction, Parks would provide facilities and people.</p> <p><i>Ellen Rodkey made</i> a motion to approve the partnership with IU Health. <i>Jim Whittlatch seconded</i> the motion. Vote taken: motion unanimously carried 4-0.</p>
C-6	<p>Presentation of 2023 Deer Browse Report and Approval of Contract with White Buffalo, Inc. for 2024 Griffy Lake Deer Hunt. Steve Cotter, Natural Resource Manager presented the contract. 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. Thirty-three deer were removed in 2023, since program began a total of 254 deer had been removed from the preserve. Staff recommended approval of the contract with White Buffalo in an amount not to exceed, \$24,548. Funding source would be Landscaping Non-Reverting Fund.</p> <p><u>Board Comments:</u> <i>Kathleen Mills commented:</i> the deer population remained heavy. <i>Steve Cotter responded:</i> yes. To get the plant population healthy, the deer number needed to be down to between five and ten per square mile. Griffy Lake Nature Preserve measured two square mile. There were more deer than the eco system could support. <i>Ellen Rodkey inquired:</i> if the deer population had been counted at Griffy. <i>Steve Cotter responded</i> no. It had been discussed extensively before staff embarked on deer management. It would have been an expensive endeavor and not very accurate. It was unknown if there were a set number of deer feeding at Griffy, or if was a higher number that came and went. The main focus would be on the health of the plants, so plant height and reproductive ability were monitored. <i>Ellen Rodkey inquired:</i> if the Deer Task Force was still active, and if Parks worked with other city departments on the issue. <i>Steve Cotter responded:</i> No. The committee had been formed, made recommendations and then termed. Parks only manages deer within Griffy. <i>Jim Whittlatch inquired:</i> if fees had increased. <i>Steve Cotter responded:</i> the fees had decreased, previously the program had ran for three weekends, and now it would run only two. <i>Israel Herrera inquired:</i> how many hunters participated, if they were screened, and were local. <i>Steve Cotter responded:</i> between twenty and twenty-five hunters. All hunters went through a proficiency screening through White Buffalo. Many hunters returned the following year. Most hunters lived in the area, and an Indiana hunting licenses was required for all hunters. <i>Jim Whittlatch recommended:</i> having the liability insurance reviewed to determine if the amount of coverage should be</p>

	<p>increased. <i>Ellen Rodkey inquired:</i> on the time of the hunt. <i>Steve Cotter responded:</i> there were better results if the hunt was held at the beginning of the deer hunt season.</p> <p>Kevin Tugesvick, Senior Ecologist Eco Logic LLC, presented the 2023 Deer Browse Report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There had been promising recoveries in metric between 2019 and 2021 • No changes to woody sampling height since 2021 • No changes to woody sapling root collar diameter since 2021 • Woody plant growth had also been affected by dry soils from summer flash droughts independent of deer browse • Jack in the Pulpit height had been level since 2021 • Solomon's Seal height, slightly fell since 2021 • All metrics had stagnated since 2021 • Increase in efficacy of the cull may be necessary for resumption of improvements • Browse had moderated since culls began, but remains locally heavy • Browse was heaviest in Griffy Creek valley upstream from reservoir, in areas where invasive plants provided winter browse • Deer both benefited and spread invasive species • Both issues needed to be addressed to prevent further degradation of the park <p><i>Ellen Rodkey made a motion to approve the contract with White Buffalo. Jim Whitlatch seconded the motion. Vote taken: motion unanimously carried 4-0.</i></p>
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D. REPORTS

D-1	<p>Building Trades Park Master Plan Presentation. Tim Street, Director presented the report for the future development of Buildings Trades Park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 1949, the former stone quarry had been transformed to a community park. • Mader Design began working on the master plan in 2023. • Two different public input meetings had been held. • Feedback had been collected from more than 200 individuals. • The master plan would not be a construction document, but would be used to make cohesive decisions about construction of the park. • Due to park's history accessibility would be a challenge • Aging infrastructure would need to be addressed. • American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds had been allocated to accessibility issues. • Other concepts considered were pickleball courts, native planting, skate spot, and public art.
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E. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kathleen Mills opened the floor to public comments.

The Board received comments regarding concerns of the sports courts in the Building Trades Park. The concerns included: need to have the courts surfaces repaired and improved, and to have as many multi use spaces as possible.

Tim Street, Director commented: new tag line had been created – Explore, Play, Connect. The Board of Park Commissioners would hold a work session on June 4th and the next regular scheduled meeting would be held on June 25th.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Kim Clapp,

Secretary Board of Park Commissioners