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01-26-16

Board of Park Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

Tuesday, January 26, 2016
4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Council Chambers
401 N. Morton

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Les Coyne at 4:01 p.m.

Board Present: Les Coyne, John Carter, Jane St. John and Joe Hoffman

Staff Present: Paula McDevitt, Dave Williams, John Turnbull, Kim Clapp, Becky Higgins, Julie Ramey, Leslie Brinson, Steve Cotter, Marcia Veldman, Robin Hobson, Joanna Sparks, Ellen Campbell, Terrance Thomas, Nikki Wooten, Hsiung Marler, Elizabeth Tompkins, Jon Behrman, Lee Huss and Tim Holt.

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A-1. Approval of Minutes of December 15, 2015 Meeting
- A-2. Approval of Claims Submitted December 15, 2015 thru January 25, 2016
- A-3. Approval of Non-Reverting Budget Amendments
- A-4. Review of Business Report

Mr. John Carter made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Ms. Jane St. John seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS/APPEARANCES

B-1. Public Comment Period - Mr. Ron Edge approached the podium. Mr. Edge resides at 1813 West Rosewood Drive in Northwood Estates. Mr. Edge stated he is representing the Homeowners Association of Northwood Estates. Mr. Edge presented their concerns to the Board, in regards to the placement of a cell tower in Cascades Park. Mr. Edge informed the Board the neighborhood just recently received notification of these plans. The neighborhood hopes a final decision will not be made until the Homeowners Association has time to organize, petition and present their point of view. The neighborhood's concerns are the decrease in property values and health issues, which include the threat of cancer. The neighborhood would like to see the tower moved to the northeast corner of the golf course.

The Board informed Mr. Edge all standard requirements have been met for this project. The Board has not finalized the approval of this plan. This issue will be an agenda item at a Board meeting in the near future.

Ms. Paula McDevitt stated the BPRD has recently sent e-mail communications to the Neighborhood Associations in this area. These communications explained the project as well as offered to have a BPRD representative attend future Neighborhood Association Meetings. If invited to the meetings, the representative would be available to answer questions and continue the discussion of this topic.

B-2. Bravo Award – Dave Everton

Nikki Wooten, Special Service Coordinator, presented Mr. Dave Everton with the January BRAVO Award for his exceptional service during the Skate with Santa event at the Frank Southern Ice Arena. Mr. Everton has been a resident of Bloomington since 1984. In February, Mr. Everton will celebrate his 28th work anniversary at Indiana University. In

his spare time he is a cave explorer and mapper. He is also a talented local musician as a lead guitar and vocals for a classic rock band. Mr. Everton has been involved in past Parks and Recreation programs. Mr. Everton's passion for making people happy, combined with his patience and enthusiasm, made for a vibrant and successful Skate with Santa event. We are pleased to present Mr. Everton with our January 2016 BRAVO Award.

Mr. Everton approached the podium, accepted the award and thanked the Board.

B-3. Parks Partner Award – None this month

B-4. Staff Introductions

Mr. Tim Holt, Operations Intern, is from Bremerton, Washington. Mr. Holt a senior at Indiana University is majoring in Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Human Ecology with a Minor in History. Mr. Holt's interest are hiking, camping, playing the drum set and disc golfing. Mr. Holt's goals during his internship are to acquire a better understanding of parks management and development, gain a better insight to the best practices for controlling invasive species, and to help plan park events. Mr. Holt stated he is grateful for the opportunity to work with the Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department.

Terrance Thomas has accepted the Program Specialist position at the Banneker Community Center. Mr. Thomas was raised in Detroit, Michigan and came to Bloomington in 2007 on a football scholarship. While attending Indiana University Mr. Thomas studied criminal justice and enjoyed volunteering with many youth organizations. After graduation in May of 2011, Mr. Thomas began working at the Banneker Community Center where he developed a passion for helping people in the community. Mr. Thomas stated he is thankful to be part of the Bloomington Parks and Recreation team.

Nikki Wooten in her new role as Special Services Coordinator, will be responsible for volunteer services and program sponsorships. She will be assisting the community relations team in marketing and event planning. Ms. Wooten is from Memphis, Tennessee. During her time at Indiana University, Ms. Wooten became involved with BPRD through the SPEA Fellowship. Ms. Wooten stated it is a great privilege to have this opportunity. She looks forward to working with everyone within the department on all the great programs Parks has to offer.

The Board congratulated the Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department for hosting a successful Indiana Parks and Recreation Conference. The Board recognized Becky Higgins, 2016 President of the IPRA.

C. OTHER BUSINESS

C-1. Review/Approval of Resolution 16-01 for Acting Director Appointment

Ms. Paula McDevitt, Acting Director, presented the amendment to confirm her appointment as Acting Director of the Bloomington Parks and Recreation. Length of time will include the first six months of 2016. During this time Mr. Mick Renneisen, former Bloomington Parks and Recreation Director, will hold the position of Interim Deputy Mayor.

Mr. John Carter made a motion to approve the Resolution 16-01 for Acting Director Appointment. Ms. Jane St. John seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

C-2. Review/Approval of Resolution 16-02 to Appropriate the Parks Non-Reverting Fund

Ms. McDevitt, Acting Director, stated this is an annual action of the Board, taken at the beginning of each year. The resolution before the Board, reflects 2016 expenses from the Non-Reverting Fund for each program. The department is seeking the Board's approval to appropriate the Parks Non-Reverting Fund.

Mr. John Carter made a motion to approve Resolution 16-02 Appropriate Parks Non-Reverting Fund. Ms. Jane St. John seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

C-3. Review/Approval of Partnership Agreement with Indiana University Health-Bloomington

Ms. McDevitt, Acting Director, stated this is the sixth year for the collaboration between Indiana University Health Bloomington staff and Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department. This partnership has been successful through

five strategic action plans, in the areas of administration, marketing, sports medicine, employee wellness, community health education and community health programming. The respective teams will continue to meet quarterly to update progress and revise future goals. Ms. McDevitt introduced Ms. Wylene Watts, Executive Director, Ortho/Neuro/Rehab.

Ms. Watts stated it is a privilege for Indiana University Health Bloomington to partnership with The City of Bloomington and the Parks and Recreation Department. This partnership allows us to collaborate from an educational perspective, focusing on health and wellness. For so long hospitals focused on illness, now we want to turn our community around and focus on health and wellness. Our administrative team is extremely proud of the continued partnership we enjoy with the Parks Department.

Ms. McDevitt and Ms. Watts reviewed a few of the events resulting from this partnership,

- IU Health Day of Service,
- 50 Expo,
- 90 Degree Pool Days
- Bloomington Walking Club

Mr. John Carter made a motion to approve the Partnership Agreement with Indiana University Health Bloomington. Ms. Jane St. John seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

C-4 Review/Approval of Partnership Agreement with the Trustees of Indiana University (Hilltop Gardens at Indiana University)

Ms. Robin Hobson, Community Events Program Specialist, the purpose of this agreement is to provide collaborative programming and sharing of resources to better serve the community with education opportunities presented around a variety of gardening topics. BPRD offers a varied roster of popular classes to the area adults at Hilltop Gardens at Indiana University. Topics include landscaping, raising chickens, soil building and cover crops and orchard skills.

Hilltop's role in helping to cross-promote these highly-valued events increases the reach of our programming. Staff appreciates and enjoys working with Hilltop personnel and feels fortunate to be able to bring the gardening and orchard classes to area citizens.

Mr. John Carter made a motion to approve the Partnership Agreement with Indiana University (Hilltop Gardens). Ms. Jane St. John seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

C-5 Review/Approval of Consultant Contract Agreement Interior Renovations to Allison-Jukebox Center Rehabilitation of Building Trades Park Restroom.

Mr. Dave Williams, Director of Operations, the TIF funds allocated in 2015, included the rehabilitation of Alison Jukebox electrical upgrades, restroom renovations, floor covering replacement and exterior site accessibility improvement. TIF funds were also approved for the renovation of the Building Trades Park restrooms, which are scheduled to be updated to unisex facilities. The Parks Department is recommending the Board approve the consultant contract agreement with Tabor/Bruce Architecture & Design of Bloomington for the interior renovation to the Allison-Jukebox and the rehabilitation of Building Trades Park restrooms. Mr. Williams introduced Doug Bruce with Tabor/Bruce Architecture & Design.

Mr. Bruce approached the podium and stated they were glad to be part of this project. The Allison Jukebox is a great facility but does need some infrastructure work while the Building Trades Park is in need of updates. Hopefully these repairs will allow both facilities to be of great use to the community for many years to come.

Mr. John Carter made a motion to approve the Consultant Contract Agreement Interior Renovations Allison-Jukebox Center Rehabilitation of Building Trades Park Restrooms. Ms. Jane St. John seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

C-6 Review/Approval of Partnership Agreement with Bloomington Community Orchard

Lee Huss, Urban Forester, this partnership agreement has been in place for five years and we are seeking the Board's approval to continue the agreement with Bloomington Community Orchard. Mr. Huss introduced Josh David, Board Member of the Bloomington Community Orchard.

Mr. Josh David approached the podium. Mr. David thanked the Board for starting this partnership five years ago. What began as the initial seed money and an acre of Park property has developed into a sustainable, edible park for the community. The community has also been given the opportunity to learn and develop skills to provide community food security. The one acre of Park land, now has over a hundred fruit trees, berry bushes and asparagus. Everything you would want to put on your plates and share with your friends and family. This partnership has also given us the opportunity to provide monthly classes, quarterly events and build community around the parks. In the last five years we have been given the opportunity to create additional partnerships. Resulting in over five hundred new fruit trees being planted throughout the community.

Mr. Stephen Hale, Board Member of the Bloomington Community Orchard, approached the podium and stated the while last five years have been great success. The Community Orchard is looking forward to creating their next five year strategic action plan. The Community Orchard has been discussing how they can build on their successes, how to increase their impact and how to engage the community. The work in the orchard and the satellite orchards will continue. We want to continue to grow and improve the educational aspect, one future plan is to provide an outdoor classroom.

Mr. Dave Williams, Director of Operations, approached the podium and thanked Mr. Huss for representing the Parks Department in this program. Mr. Williams thanked Mr. David, Mr. Hale and the other members of the Bloomington Community Orchard for their willingness to work with the Parks Department. They have stayed true to their mission and been extremely respectful of the constraints and restrictions imposed upon them. The Parks Department is heavily engaged in their campaign to create an outdoor classroom. The classroom is to be located on the site within the fenced area that has been allotted to the orchard. The Orchard is great for the community, as it demonstrate a highly visible sustainable project. The Parks Department looks forward to a continued partnership with the Bloomington Community Orchard.

Mr. John Carter made a motion to approve the Partnership Agreement with Bloomington Community Orchard. Ms. Jane St. John seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

C7. Review/Approval of Proposed Changes to the Policy Regarding Contractual Employees.

Kim Clapp, Office Manager, the process for Contractual Employees has changed over the past few years. The policy has been thoroughly reviewed and updated to mirror these changes. The guidelines reflected in this policy align with 2016 CAPRA accreditation standard 4.8. The staff seeks the Board's approval of these changes.

Mr. John Carter made a motion to approve the Proposed Changes to the Policy Regarding Contractual Employees. Ms. Jane St. John seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

C8. Election of Officers

Mr. Carter nominated Mr. Coyne as President of the Parks Board. Mr. Hoffman second the nomination. The nomination was unanimously carried.

Mr. Carter nominated Ms. St. John as Vice President of the Parks Board. Mr. Hoffman second the nomination. The nomination was unanimously carried.

Mr. Carter nominated Mr. Hoffman as representative to the Plan Commission. Ms. St. John second the nomination. The nomination was unanimously carried.

Mr. Carter nominated Ms. St. John as alternate representative to the Plan Commission. Mr. Hoffman second the nomination. The nomination was unanimously carried.

Mr. Carter nominated Ms. Clapp as the secretary to the Parks Board. Mr. Hoffman second the nomination. The nomination was unanimously carried.

REPORTS

D-1. Operations Division – Invasive Plant Control

Jon Behrman, Natural Resources Laborer, reviewed the Parks Invasive Species Management

1. Invasive species in our parks are plants, fungus or animal species that are not native to a specific location and which has a tendency to spread to a degree believed to cause damage to the environment, human economy or human health.
2. Invasive species were actively controlled in fifteen of our parks during 2015.
3. There are twenty-seven different invasive plants BPRD is currently managing
4. The management goal is to preserve and protect the vibrant ecosystems within parks. The decisions to control a species are based on a number of criteria such as our ability to restore the area to a healthy ecosystem, whether the species can be controlled effectively without endangering the ecosystem we are trying to protect, and if the species has shown itself to be invasive in similar ecosystems.
5. Early Detection/Rapid Response Monitoring for new invasive species that are spreading into this area and controlling them before they become established is vitally important. Both from a cost perspective and to prevent damage to our natural areas.
6. With the large areas that we manage volunteer efforts are vitally important to reaching our goals.
7. A number of techniques are used to manage invasive plants in natural areas. Always with an eye for the safest, most effective method that will cause as little disturbance to the surrounding ecosystem as possible.
8. Going forward we are creating an IPM policy to direct management of pests in an effective and safe manner. We are in the process of creating vegetation management plans for natural areas. In cooperation with Joanna Sparks, City Landscaper, we look forward to expanding the use of native planting in parks to promote biodiversity and reduce the use of pesticides, fertilizer and water.

The Board inquired if there are goals for invasive species management for the next five years?

Mr. Behrman stated the goals are to create a management framework for the natural areas that discuss not only the end goals but include what plants we are going to be effective in managing with the resources we have. Directing volunteers to those efforts. Creating an Integrated Pest Management and setting thresholds.

D-2. Recreation Division – Farmers’ Market GMO Labeling Policy

Marcia Veldman, Program Coordinator, reviewed Policy for GMO labeling at Farmers’ Market. Due to consistent inquiries from Market customers, Market Staff and the support of the Farmers’ Market Advisory Council, it was decided to research customer interest and concerns regarding Genetically Modified Organisms. To provide educational opportunities for the community to learn more about GMOs and explore options for appropriate policy regarding their sale at the Market. Marcia reviewed the timeline outlining the process for FMAC, farmer and customer involvement in the policy development.

After reviewing the survey results, the decision was made to require labeling of all GMO produce. At this time, five vendors are selling three GMO crops at the Farmers’ Market, summer squash, zucchini and sweet corn. Staff determined, the required labeling makes it transparent as to what is being sold and gives individuals the opportunity to make their own decision as to what is best for themselves and their family.

The Board inquired how the vendors responded to the labeling requirements of the GMO produce.

Ms. Veldman stated this is an issue that has strong opinions, both for and against, the selling and labeling of GMO produce.

D-3. Sports Division – None

D-4. Administration Division – None

Ms. McDevitt reminded the Board the February Park Board Meeting has been moved and will be held on Tuesday, February 16th.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:10p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Kim Clapp, Secretary Board of Park Commissioners