



Board of Park Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

Tuesday, January 23, 2018
4:00 p.m. – 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: Mr. Les Coyne, Mr. Joe Hoffmann, Ms. Kathleen Mills and Ms. Darcie Fawcett

Staff Present: Ms. Paula McDevitt, Mr. Dave Williams, Mr. John Turnbull, Ms. Becky Higgins, Ms. Julie Ramey, Ms. Kim Clapp, Mr. Mark Marotz, Ms. Sarah Owen, Ms. Leslie Brinson, Ms. Hannah Buddin, Ms. Elizabeth Tompkins, Ms. Marcia Veldman, Mr. Steve Cotter, Ms. Alison Miller, Mr. Hsiung Marler, Ms. Missy Grabowski, Ms. Crystal Ritter, and Ms. Joanna Sparks

A. PUBLIC HEARINGS/APPEARANCES

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A-1. Approval of Minutes of December 12, 2017 Meeting
- A-2. Approval of Claims Submitted December 8, 2017 through January 19, 2017
- A-3. Approval of Non-Reverting Budget Amendments
- A-4. Review of Business Report
- A-5. Approval of Surplus

Ms. Kathleen Mills made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Ms. Darcie Fawcett seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS/APPEARANCES

B-1. Public Comment Period

Notice of Public Hearing on Resolution to Acquire Property Pursuant to Indiana Code § 36-10-4-25 by the City of Bloomington Board of Park Commissioners. Mr. Les Coyne opened the public hearing on Resolution 17-06 to acquire property located at 100-12 W. Club House Drive, Bloomington, Indiana 47401. The Board of Park Commissioners adopted Resolution 17-06 on December 12, 2017 and a copy of Resolution 17-02 was made available at the Parks and Recreation Department located at 401 N Morton St, Suite 250, Bloomington, IN 47404. The properties will be used for additional greenspace in Lower Cascades Park and serves a public purpose and furthers the public welfare by enhancing recreational opportunities in the Bloomington area. The Board will now receive or hear remonstrance from any person interested in or affected by the proceedings. None approached the podium. Mr. Coyne invited comments from Ms. Paula McDevitt, Administrator.

Ms. Paula McDevitt commented, the two properties owned by Dagom Gaden Tensung Ling Monastery have been appraised at a value of \$400,000, and will be purchased from bond number GL977-18-1816d (977-2017q). Legal counsel has guided the Department through this process. The Board passed Resolution 17-06 on December 12, 2017. A public notice was posted, inviting the community to this hearing, providing an opportunity to voice their comments or opinions. Ms. McDevitt opened the floor to anyone wishing to make a comment. There were no comments.

Mr. Les Coyne closed the hearing.

Mr. Trondon Wright Randolph approached the podium. Mr. Randolph a Bloomington resident, stated he is an avid disc golf player and plays at Crestmont Park. Mr. Randall thanked the Board for the improvements that have been made at Crestmont Park. Mr. Randolph believes the sport of disc golf, is a unique game and creates community involvement for all ages. Disc golf is a good way to get exercise and a sport that kids can learn to play. This sport ties into the elements of what makes communities unique, and what allows parks to be adopted by those activates. Crestmont Park is a great example of how parks can be transformed by adding a disc golf course. Mr. Randolph stressed the importance of consider adding a disc golf course to the design of the Switchyard Park.

The Board thanked Mr. Randolph for his time.

B-2. Spotlight Award – Price Electric

Ms. Sarah Owen, Community Relations Coordinator, the Department would like is to recognize Price Electric for the quality and reliable work provided to the Department’s facilities. Price Electric has been a preferred vendor of the Sports Division for over 25 years, not only for their quality of work, but also for their quick response time and providing services at crucial moments. Ms. Owen invited Mr. Jim Britton, Owner to the podium.

Mr. Jim Britton approached the podium. Mr. Britton stated Price Electric appreciates the relationship that has been established with the Parks Department. This relationship is a two-way street and we thank you.

Mr. John Turnbull approached the podium. You never know when a vendor relationship may develop into a long term business relationship. I met Jim years ago and was so impressed with his work ethics. I knew this was the type of commitment we wanted in our vendors.

The Board thanked Mr. Britton

B-3. Parks Partner Award – None

B-4. Staff Introduction

Ms. Melissa Grabowski came to us from IU Recreations Sports, and has recently accepted the position of Customer Service Representative. For the past 22 years, Ms. Grabowski has lived in Bloomington. During that time, her three children participated in many of the programs offered by the Department. Ms. Grabowski looks forward to being part of the community.

Mr. Justin Mazany will be joining Community Events as an Intern. Mr. Mazany will be graduating from Indiana University in May with a Bachelors’ Degree in Recreation Management. Mr. Mazany grew up in a community that did not offer regularly organized events. When Mr. Mazany moved to Bloomington and experienced what the Department offered, he discovered he had a deep passion for providing the community with access to organized creative events. Ms. Mazany is eager and exited to give back to Bloomington, and learn the ins and outs of local government.

Ms. Marie Wirsing will be joining the Sports Division as an Intern. Ms. Wirsing is scheduled to graduate in May 2018 from Indianan University with a Bachelors’ of Science in Public Affairs. Ms. Wirsing has taught English in China, studied a semester in Poland, and worked at summer camps in Telluride Colorado. Ms. Wirsing is interested in local or state government, and hopes this internship will expose her to career options in those areas.

C. OTHER BUSINESS

C-1. Resolution 18-01 Appropriating Parks Non-Reverting Expenditures for the 2018 Fiscal Year.

Ms. Paula McDevitt, Administrator, the Department recommends the approval of Resolution 18-01, funds will be made available for appreciation in the Parks Non-Reverting Operating funds as result of fees, charges, donations and grants monies collected. This if for Fiscal Year January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018 in the amount of \$2,192,384 and will be used for program budgets.

Ms. Kathleen Mills motioned to approve Resolution 18-01 Appropriating Parks Non-Reverting Expenditures for the 2018 Fiscal Year. Ms. Fawcett seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried. 4 ayes, 0 noes, 0 absent

C 2. Review/Approval of Indiana University Health Bloomington Hospital Stream Mitigation Restrictive Covenant for Ferguson Dog Park

Mr. Steve Cotter, Natural Resources Manager, the purpose of the Declaration is to restrict the current and future use of the Mitigation Property in perpetuity in order to protect aquatic resources functions and values, scenic, resources, environmental, and other conservation values, and conservation functions and ecological services: to establish the Mitigation Property and an open, common, and undeveloped conservation area; and to preserve the natural condition of the Mitigation Property in perpetuity.

Ms. Kathleen Mills motioned to approve the Indianan University Health Bloomington Hospital Stream Mitigation Restrictive Covenant for Ferguson Dog Park. Ms. Darcie Fawcett seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried

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

Ms. Alison Miller, Health and Wellness Coordinator in order to provide the community with programs which promote social, physical, emotional, mental, and environmental health in the community, the Department wishes to partner with Indiana University Health Bloomington. The purpose of this Agreement is to outline a program partnership, which will provide community health education, programs, training, marketing, and opportunities to benefit the health and wellness of the community by combining available resources from each party. This has been a successfully partnership for many years. Ms. Miller invited Wendy Hernandez, Vice President of Professional Services with IU Health to the podium.

Ms. Hernandez approached the podium. The Goal of IU Health is to promote wellness in the community. We know that begins at an early age, teaching healthy eating habits and staying active throughout. How to get people to live a healthy life style. We value our time and partnership with the Parks Department. Being that community resource that is very affordable, for anybody to participate in and often times free. We thank you for allowing us to be part of this partnership, and being part of this great community.

Ms. Kathleen Mills motioned to approve the Partnership Agreement with Indianan University Health Bloomington. Ms. Darcie Fawcett seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried

C-4 Artist Contract – Bicentennial Arbor Day Poster

Ms. Julie Ramey, Community Relations Manager the Department would like to celebrate the City of Bloomington's Bicentennial, its 34th consecutive year of being named a Tree City USA, and Arbor Day with a unique, commemorative poster. The Department requires the services of an Artist in order to creatively develop, in reproducible two-dimensional medium, and 18"x24" artwork suitable for reproduction as a print on paper. Proposals are due January 31, 2018, selection made by February 16, 2018 and completed artwork submitted by March 1, 2018. Due to this time frame, a template of this contract is being provided to the Board. The artist will be selected at a later date, and the contract will be presented to the Board at the February 2018 meeting. The selected artist will receive a \$500 stipend, to be paid from the City of Bloomington's Bicentennial budget.

Ms. Kathleen Mills motioned to approve the Artist Template Contract for the Bicentennial Arbor Day Poster. Ms. Darcie Fawcett seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried

C-5 Review/Approval of Softball Supply Order

Mr. Hsiung Marler, Sports Facility Manager staff recommends the approval of the annual purchase of softballs through USA Softball of Indiana (formerly Indiana ASA) based upon the quoted quantities and prices. Total of this year's purchase will be \$8,750. Purchasing softball through the USA Softball of Indiana purchasing agreement with Worth/Rawlings will provide a substantial savings of purchasing through retailers.

Ms. Kathleen Mills motioned to approve the Annual Softball Purchase. Ms. Darcie Fawcett seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried

C-6 Review/Approval of Contract with KingSnake Sound Company

Ms. Crystal Ritter, Community Events Coordinator the Department wishes provide engineering services and sound equipment at 2018 community events. The Department requires the services of a consultant to provided engineering services, set-up and tear-down of sound equipment, and sound equipment rental. Staff recommends this contract with KingSnake Sound Company. Payment not to exceed \$1,625.

The Board inquired if the vendor provides the equipment or if Park's equipment is used.

Ms. Ritter responded do to the size of these events, the vendor provides the equipment. Parks equipment is used at small events.

Ms. Kathleen Mills motioned to approve the Contract with KingSnake Sound Company. Ms. Darcie Fawcett seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried

C-7 Review/Approval of the 2018 A Fair of the Arts Exhibitor Agreement & Exhibitor Information

Ms. Crystal Ritter, Community Events Coordinator the Department wishes to invited local artists to apply to participate in a juried arts and fine crafts fair, where local and regional artists display, demonstrate and sell their art. The Department recommends the Board approve the template for the 2018 A Fair of the Arts Exhibitor Agreement & Exhibitor Information. There are no significant changes to this year's contract.

Ms. Kathleen Mills motioned to approve the 2018 A Fair of the Arts Exhibitor Agreement & Exhibitor Information. Ms. Darcie Fawcett seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried

C-8 Review/Approval of the 2018 Performing Arts Series Performance Artist Agreement

Ms. Crystal Ritter, Community Events Coordinator the Department wishes provide the community with free concerts in the parks through the Performing Arts Series. Staff recommends the approval of the template agreement for the 2018 Performing Arts Series Performance Artist Agreement. This agreement outlines the policies and expectations of the performing artists as well as the Parks and Recreation Department. There have been no significant changes to this year's contract.

Ms. Kathleen Mills motioned to approve the template for the 2018 Performing Arts Series Performance Artist Agreement. Ms. Darcie Fawcett seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried

C-9 Review/Approval of Contract for Services with Arendal Character Company

Ms. Hannah Buddin, Community Events Specialist the Department wishes to provide entertainment at the Children's Expo in the form of two costumed characters. The Department requires the services of a consultant to provide two professional actors for a super hero and princess appearance at the Children's Expo. Staff recommends the approval of contract with Arendal Character Company.

The Board inquired what characters would be portrayed.

Ms. Buddin responded, the company does not have the Disney rights, but the characters will be similar to Captain America and the one of the Princesses of Arendale.

Ms. Kathleen Mills motioned to approve the Contract with Arendal Character Company. Ms. Darcie Fawcett seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried

C-10 Review/Approval of Contract Rental of the Monroe Convention Center for the 2018 Children's Expo

Ms. Hannah Buddin, Community Events Specialist the Department wishes to provide the community with a Children's Expo. Due to the size of the event a professional consultant is required, Monroe Convention Center is to provide facility, set up, and tear down of the tablecloths, skirting, tables, chairs and food service area. The event will include a Health Screening area, where attendees can receive free health screenings ranging from hearing tests, to eyesight and oral check-ups. Staff recommends the approval of this contract with Monroe Convention Center.

Ms. Kathleen Mills motioned to approve the Contract with Monroe Convention Center. Ms. Darcie Fawcett seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried

C-11 Review/Approval of Contract with Billy B Productions (William Brennan)

Ms. Crystal Ritter, Community Events Coordinator the Department wishes to provide entertainment at the Summer Sampler event. The Department requires a professional consultant to provide a musical performance for 60 minutes at the event, which is part of the 2018 Bicentennial Events and supported by the Bloomington Tree Commission. Staff recommends the approval of this contract with Billy B. Productions.

Ms. Kathleen Mills motioned to approve the contract with Billy B Productions (William Brennan). Ms. Darcie Fawcett seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried

C-12 Review/Approval of Consultant Contract Agreement Waldron, Hill, Buskirk Park Site Improvements Crestmont Park Playground Improvements

Mr. Dave Williams, Operations Director the Department wishes to acquire site design and construction documents to make needed improvements to the lawn performance area at Waldron, Hill, Buskirk Park and a reconstruction and expansion of the playground at Crestmont Park. The Department requires the services of a professional consultant in order to perform these design services. Waldron, Hill, Buskirk project is fund by Parks Bond, and the Crestmont playground is funded by a combination of grant and Park Bond funds. Staff recommends the approval of the contract with Cornerstone PDS in the amount of \$44,615.

Ms. Kathleen Mills motioned to approve the contract with Cornerstone PDS. Ms. Darcie Fawcett seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried

C-13 Review/Approval of Environmental Resources Advisory Council Appointments

.Ms. Elizabeth Tompkins, Natural Resources Coordinator Staff recommends the approval of the Environmental Resources Advisory Council reappointments of Jeff Ehman, the liaison from the Utilities Service Board, Bill Jones, who has been a long standing member and brings knowledge of lakes, Angie Shelton, who brings knowledge of invasive species and deer management, and the appointment of a new member, Denise Gardner who has experience with the Sassafras Audubon Society as well as participating in the Bloomington Citizens Academy. This will leave two vacant seats on the Council.

Ms. Kathleen Mills motioned to approve the Environmental Resources Advisory Council Appointments. Ms. Darcie Fawcett seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried

C-14 Election of Officers

Mr. Hoffmann nominated Ms. Kathleen Mills as President of the Board of Park Commissioners. Ms. Fawcett second the nomination. The nomination was unanimously carried.

Mr. Hoffmann nominated Ms. Darcie Fawcett as Vice President of the Board of Park Commissioners. Ms. Mills second the nomination. The nomination was unanimously carried.

Ms. Mills nominated Mr. Joe Hoffmann as Board of Park Commissioners representative to the Plan Commission. Ms. Fawcett second the nomination. The nomination was unanimously carried.

Mr. Hoffman nominated Mr. Less Coyne as Board of Park Commissioners first alternate representative to the Plan Commission. Ms. Fawcett second the nomination. The nomination was unanimously carried.

Mr. Hoffman nominated Ms. Kathleen Mills as Board of Park Commissioners second alternate representative to the Plan Commission. Ms. Fawcett second the nomination. The nomination was unanimously carried.

Mr. Hoffmann nominated Ms. Kim Clapp as the secretary to the Board of Park Commissioners. Ms. Fawcett second the nomination. The nomination was unanimously carried

D REPORTS

D-1. Operations Division – Griffy Lake Nature Preserve Deer Cull Report

Mr. Steve Cotter, Natural Resources Manager approached the podium and present the report to the Board. This report is for the information of the Board.

This report will detail the results of the deer cull completed by the wildlife management contractor White Buffalo Inc. in December of last year. An earlier deer cull effort that was scheduled to occur in 2014 was cancelled because a large acorn crop interfered with the success of baiting efforts.

Griffy Lake Nature Preserve is a 1,200 acre (1.9 square miles) park consisting of a 109 acre lake surrounded by forested ridges and ravines on the north side of Bloomington. The property is owned by the City of Bloomington and is managed by the Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department under separate agreements between the Board of Park Commissioners and the Utilities Services Board and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Nature Preserves.

Browse damage by deer in the Griffy Lake Nature Preserve was noted in the Griffy Lake Master Plan Update in 2008. In 2010 the Joint City of Bloomington-Monroe County Deer Task Force was formed in response to residents' concerns about deer in urban and suburban areas and at Griffy Lake Nature Preserve. The Task Force was charged with developing recommendations to mitigate issues of human-deer interaction, the ecological impact of deer and to engage in public education. The group submitted its report in December 2012. The task force summarized two years of meetings and research on the topic in their final report.

The executive summary of Common Ground: Toward Balance and Stewardship, the recommendations of the task force, stated: *"When it comes to deer at Griffy Woods, clear evidence points to ecosystem damage by deer-native tree seedlings are not regenerating; herbaceous plant species are severely compromised and possibly going locally extinct; invasive species are taking over some areas; the forest understory is unnaturally open; and understory-reliant birds and other animals are losing habitat."*

Deer exclosure studies in Griffy Lake Nature Preserve over a period of several years clearly indicated that there is a significant difference in all types of vegetation between the areas that were protected from deer browsing, and those that were not. *"We found strong effects of deer exclusion on all aspects of understory vegetation measured. The complete lack of native tree recruitment in control plots is particularly dramatic given that deer had been excluded from the plots for only two or three years in 13 of 15 plots. The only woody plant recruitment in the control plots was by invasive shrubs and unpalatable native shrubs."*

For the Griffy Lake Nature Preserve the Deer Task Force recommended: *Sharpshooting for immediate, substantial and humane reduction. To restore the ecological integrity of Griffy, a substantial number of deer need to be culled soon to avoid irreversible ecological damage. Sharpshooting is the most efficient way to cull the greatest number of deer in the most humane way possible. All deer culled in this effort should be donated to the local food bank.*

The Master Plan for the 250 acre Griffy Woods Nature Preserve, which covers the southwest quadrant of the Griffy Lake Nature Preserve, was approved by the City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department and the State of Indiana Natural Resources Commission. The Master Plan specifically states: *"... the Nature Preserve shall be managed to maintain and/or restore it to natural ecological conditions ... in the case of this Nature Preserve, the main purpose of the dedication is to preserve and restore natural forest communities and the associated rare native plants".*

The goal of the sharpshooting effort was to remove enough deer from the Griffy Lake Nature Preserve to reduce the browse pressure on understory plant species and seedling trees to the point these species are able to recover, and to grow once again at Griffy Lake. The re-establishment and median heights of different indicator plant species (including violets, trilliums, baneberry, Jack-in-the-pulpit, and sweet cicely), as well as the abundance and height of native hardwood tree seedlings, have been, and will continue to be, used to determine the success of deer herd reduction efforts.

The 2017 deer cull took place over 10 nights between December 15th and 28th (no sharpshooting occurred between 12-24 and 12-26.) The cull resulted in the removal of 62 deer from the Griffy Lake Nature Preserve. 43 females and 19 males were harvested over 9 days. The deer were processed by KW Deer Processing with financial assistance from Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry. 1682 pounds of venison will be donated to the Hoosier Hills Food Bank.

The cost of the 2017 deer cull included:

White Buffalo Inc.	\$35,000
Bruce Wilds Security	\$ 4,650
KW Deep Processing (50%)	\$ 2,480.
Rental Vehicle	\$ 685.64
Corn	\$ 472.14
Park Signage	\$ 210.

Total \$43,497.78

The recovery of the ecosystem within Griffy Lake Nature Preserve will require that deer browse pressure remain low enough for the plant community to recover. All of the animal species at Griffy rely on plants for their survival. Deer have reduced the number, size and reproductive success of most species of plants in the preserve, which has a negative effect on the mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, insects and other life forms in the preserve. Deer browse pressure must be kept low, especially during the recovery period, if the populations of these species are to thrive within the Griffy Lake Nature Preserve.

Deer numbers appear to be higher south of Griffy Lake than they are to the north. 40 deer were harvested south of the lake compared to 22 harvested north of the lake despite an equal amount of hours spent on both areas. Two likely reasons for this disparity are that hunting is occurring on private property immediately north of the Griffy Lake Nature Preserve which may decrease the number of deer browsing inside the north boundary of the preserve. The other reason may be the high quality deer habitat provided by the Indiana University Golf Course to the south of the preserve. The long-term success of deer management in this area may require deer herd management on Indiana University property.

The Department is exploring options to maintain the deer population at a sustainable level within the Griffy Lake Nature Preserve and other parks. Optimal deer density in this part of the country is thought to be around 15 deer per square mile, however it may be necessary to keep the population lower than that for a period of time to allow plant species to recover. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources recently developed the Community Hunting Access Program to help communities address overabundant deer by allowing hunting on public properties. Bloomington Parks and Recreation will consider this and other options to manage the deer herd at Griffy, and at other parks.

Hunting has decreased in Indiana. In 2017, hunters harvested less than 120,000 deer, which is the lowest number since 2003. Deer vehicle collision has risen, there were 9 collisions on the roads surrounding Griffy Lake Nature Preserve in the two years prior to the cull. There were 14,000 crashes that resulted in injury or at least \$750 worth of property damage reported in Indiana last year. The cost of those vehicle collisions crashes were \$119,000,000. Chronic wasting disease has been reported in Michigan and Illinois. It has not been found in Indiana at this time, but this could also influence deer population.

Board clarified a misrepresentation. There was a guest column in the Herald Times, which stated the deer cull was a failure due to the goal was a 100 deer and 62 were killed, therefore it was a failure. The language in the signed contract was up to a 100 deer, not a goal of 100 deer. That was the cap, so 62 was not a failure. It will be interesting going forward, to see how things recover with less deer pressure.

Mr. Cotter stated, that is true. We will not know if it is successful until we measure the plants.

The Board inquired when the plant measurement will occur.

Mr. Cotter stated, the plant measurements will begin in April. Starting with the spring wildflowers, with the trees measurement occurring later. Plants will be measured at Griffy this spring and summer, just as has been done the last four years. Staff is not sure what those results will be, a lot will depend on the weather condition. The amount of sunshine and rain will have an effect on the plants. The plants have been measured for a while and that will continue. Hopefully we will see some trends that the plants are recovering.

The Board thanked Council Members, Susan Sanders and Dave Rollo for their support through in this process. The Board thanked Steve Cotter for his hard work.

D-2. Recreation Division – No Report

D-3. Sports Division – No Report

D-4 Administrative Division – No Report

Ms. McDevitt, Administrator reminded the Board and public, the next Park Board meeting will be held Tuesday, February 27, 2018.

Mr. Les Coyne, thanked his colleagues for allowing him to serve as chair on this body. Allowing him a deep association with an incredible department and incredible staff.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kim Clapp, Secretary Board of Park Commissioners