



A-1
7-23-19

Board of Park Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

Tuesday, June 25, 2019
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Council Chambers
401 N. Morton St.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Les Coyne at 4:03 p.m.

Board Present: Les Coyne, Joseph Hoffmann and Lisa Thatcher

Staff Present: Paula McDevitt, Dave Williams, John Turnbull, Becky Higgins, Julie Ramey, Mark Sterner, Steve Cotter, Mark Marotz, Kim Clapp, Leslie Brinson, Barb Dunbar, Marcia Veldman, Bill Reams, and Jess Klein

Les Coyne addressed the audience Today's meeting will be ran differently, as it is anticipated there are individuals who would like to make comments regarding the Farmers' Marker. Since this is not an agenda item and to allow for time, the primary action agenda has been moved up and will be compressed. This Board makes the decisions on key items, like contracts and agreements. These all function in time with events and projections underway, even within the next 60 days. To create extra time, the Public Comment/Appearances has been moved down to item three, and all reports have been removed from the agenda. This meeting adjourns at 5:30, but if needed we will take a little extra time.

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A-1. Approval of Minutes of May 21, 2019 meeting
- A-2. Approval of Claims Submitted May 2019 through June 24, 2019
- A-3. Approval of Non-Reverting Budget Amendments
- A-4. Review of Business Report
- A-5. Approval of Surplus

Joseph Hoffmann made a motion to approve the consent calendar. *Lisa Thatcher* seconded the motion. *Les Coyne* any public comments or questions, seeing none. Motion unanimously carried.

B. OTHER BUSINESS

B-1. Review/Approval of Partnership Agreement with Summer Star Foundation & Parks Partner Award

Elizabeth Tompkins, Natural Resources Coordinator approached the podium. There is an apparent need to provide wholesome and constructive educational and recreation activities to children in the Bloomington community, that will effectively contribute to the mental, physical, social and education enrichment of children. This Agreement outlines a partnership which will combine resources from each party, to provide environmental educational programming at Leonard Springs and Griffy Lake to fourth graders, in the Monroe County Public Schools. The goal of this program is to provide outdoor education experiences that connect children to nature in ways that increase their knowledge, interest and respect for the environment and natural spaces. Staff recommends the approval of this Partnership with Summer STAR Foundation.

Joseph Hoffman motioned to approve the agreement with Summer Star Foundation. *Lisa Thatcher* seconded the motion. *Les Coyne* any public comments or questions, seeing none. The motion was unanimously carried.

Parks Partner Award – Summer Star Foundation

Sarah Owen Community Relations Coordinator approached the podium. The Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department would like to recognize the Summer Star Foundation for Nature, Art, and Humanity, Inc. as the recipient of the Parks Partner Award. The Parks Partner Award is a component of the Department's sponsorship program and recognizes our most outstanding collaborators and supporters.

The Summer Star Foundation funds supplies cost, staff costs and transportation cost, for the Griffy Lake Nature Days, and Banneker Summer Nature Days. Over the course of 10 years in supporting our department, the Summer Star Foundation has donated more than \$80,000. This has resulting in over 13, 00 local children getting outside and connecting with and learning about our natural areas. We are so grateful to the Summer Star Foundations support and are proud to present them with the Parks Partner Award. Sarah Owen invited Shalin Liu, President of Summer Star Foundation to the podium.

Shalin Liu approached the podium. I graduated from Indiana University in 1978, I then moved to Boston for over forty years. Bloomington is like my second home, I am back. I feel my heart is here. I feel Bloomington is my mentor, my mother.

The Board thanked Shalin Liu and Summer Star Foundation for the years of support given to the Department.

B-2 Review/Approval of Contract with Bruce Wilds Security for B-Town Boom Fireworks

Becky Higgins, Recreation Division Director approached the podium. The Department wishes to hold a fireworks display for the 4th of July holiday. The Department requires the services of a professional consultant in order to perform security services at the B-Town Boom on July 3rd. Staff recommends the approval of this contract with Bruce Wilds Security in an amount not to exceed \$4,012. This contract will be funded by Community Events Non-Reverting budget.

Joseph Hoffman motioned to approve the contract with Bruce Wilds Security. *Lisa Thatcher* seconded the motion. *Les Coyne* any public comments or questions, seeing none. The motion was unanimously carried.

B-3 Information – BUEA Funded Mural at Building Trades Park

Sean Starowitz, Economic and Sustainable Development approached the podium. Sam Bartlett will be extending his mural at Building and Trades Park. The expansion will be around the Basketball Court, and the knee walls facing 2nd Street. The mural will included additional hospital and healthcare service icons. This is in partnership with Bloomington Urban Enterprise Association and Bloomington Entertainment and Arts District.

The Board thanked Sean Starowitz for the information provided and his time.

B-4 Review/Approval of Funding Agreement for Buskirk Chumley Theater Carpet Replacement

Joanna Sparks, City Landscaper approached the podium. The carpet at Buskirk Chumley Theater was replaced by Moriarty Floor Covering, Inc. for a total cost of \$21,035.94. Bloomington Parks and Recreation contributed \$18,200, paid from 2019 Capital funds. The remaining amount of \$2,835.94, was contributed by Buskirk Chumley Theater Management. This agreement serves as documentation, that Moriarty Floor Covering, Inc.'s invoice has been paid in full by the respective parties.

Joseph Hoffman motioned to approve the agreement with Buskirk Chumley Theater. *Lisa Thatcher* seconded the motion. *Les Coyne* any public comments or questions, seeing none. The motion was unanimously carried.

B-5 Review/Approval of Contract with STR for Buskirk Chumley Theater Exterior Water Infiltration Assessment

Joanna Sparks, City Landscaper approached the podium. The Department owns the building at 114 E. Kirkwood, which has recently experienced water infiltration into the basement. The Department wishes to have an assessment of the existing building envelope completed. The Department requires the services of a professional consultant to perform

a comprehensive assessment of the building, provide a solution, along with associated budgets to address the deficiencies discovered as part of the assessment. Staff recommends approval of this contract with STR Building Resources, in the amount of \$1,000.

Joseph Hoffman motioned to approve the contract with STR. *Lisa Thatcher* seconded the motion. *Les Coyne* any public comments or questions, seeing none. The motion was unanimously carried

B-6 Review/Approval of Partnership Agreement with Let's Go Sports

Erik Pearson, Program/Facility Coordinator approached the podium. The Department wishes to offer preschool sports programs and summer sports camps that are necessary for the positive development and well-being of the community. By combining resources, the Partnership will result in increasing the quality of preschool sports programs offered to the community. Allowing more Bloomington families to participate in programs that focus on introducing sports to children in an instruction based, fun environment. Staff recommends the approval of this Partnership with Let's Go Sports.

Joseph Hoffman motioned to approve the agreement with Let's Go Sports. *Lisa Thatcher* seconded the motion. *Les Coyne* any public comments or questions, seeing none. The motion was unanimously carried.

B-7 Review/Approval of Contract with Jackson Group

Julie Ramey, Community Relations Manager approached the podium. The Department wishes to provide to the community a program catalog three times per year. The Department requires the services of a professional consultant to print, bind, prepare for mailing, and/or deliver 38,000 seasonal program guides Fall/Winter 2019, Winter Spring 2020, Summer 2020, and Fall/Winter 2020. Staff recommends the approval of this contract with Jackson Group in the amount of \$87,000. Funds will be paid from Community Relations General Fund.

Joseph Hoffman motioned to approve the contract with Jackson Group. *Lisa Thatcher* seconded the motion. *Les Coyne* any public comments or questions, seeing none. The motion was unanimously carried.

B-8 Review/Approval of Contract with RLR

Julie Ramey, Community Relations Manager approached the podium. The Department wishes to re-brand its trail system and develop a trail logo. The Department requires the services of a professional consultant to create and present design concepts for selection. Refine one selected logo and prepare artwork suitable for output. Final logo artwork will be provided in four digital formats. Provide a simple Usage Guideline for logo or wordmark to illustrate recommended applications. Staff recommends the approval of this contract with RLR in the amount \$19, 4000. Funds will be paid from Community Relations General Fund.

The Board inquired. Does this also include weigh finding materials? At this point, this contract would not include future developments, example the 7th Street east, west bike path. Make sure what they do now for existing trails, would be in a manner that the branding would be compatible for future developments.

Julie Ramey responded. Correct. The possibility exists and the scope of work includes that sort of thing. The branding package they come up with will incorporate future potential uses.

Joseph Hoffman motioned to approve the contract with RLR. *Lisa Thatcher* seconded the motion. *Les Coyne* any public comments or questions, seeing none. The motion was unanimously carried.

B-9 Review/Approval of Contract with Ecologic

Joanna Sparks, City Landscaper approached the podium. The Department would like to create more usable open space at White Oak Cemetery. The Department requires the services of a professional consultant to remove invasive plant vegetation, with the primary focus being the possible future Scatter Garden area and secondary focus being the eastern property boundary area. Staff recommends the approval of this contract with Eco Logic, LLC in the amount of \$5,000.

Joseph Hoffman motioned to approve the contract with Ecologic. *Lisa Thatcher* seconded the motion. *Les Coyne* any public comments or questions, seeing none. The motion was unanimously carried.

B-10 Review/Approval of Median Partnership Agreement with Comfort Keepers

Joanna Sparks approached the podium. This agreement between the Department and Comfort Keepers, is to provide a means of improving, beautifying, and maintaining the median located on Clarizz Boulevard. Comfort Keepers are solely responsible for all materials and labor necessary for the improvement and maintenance of this median. The City reserves the right to provide and place no more than two signs in the median, indicating that the median has been adopted by Comfort Keepers. Staff recommends the approval of this agreement with Comfort Keepers, for five year.

Joseph Hoffman motioned to approve the agreement with Comfort Keepers. *Lisa Thatcher* seconded the motion. Les Coyne any public comments or questions, seeing none. The motion was unanimously carried.

B-11 Review/Approval of Partnership Agreement with Mad for My Dog

Bill Reams, Community Events Coordinator approached the podium. The Department wishes to provide a summer dog event to the Bloomington community. By combining available resources from each partner, this Agreement will provide an opportunity for the community to participate in an affordable summer event that is designed to create social, safe and fun opportunities for dogs and their owners. The event is to be held at Mills Pool, on August 7th – 8th, from 5:00 pm. - 8:00 pm. Staff recommends the approval of this Partnership Agreement with Mad for My Dog.

Joseph Hoffman motioned to approve the agreement with Mad for My Dog. *Lisa Thatcher* seconded the motion. Les Coyne any public comments or questions, seeing none. The motion was unanimously carried.

B-12 Review/Approval of 2019 Price Schedule.

Hsiung Marler, Switchyard Park General Manager approached the podium. The price schedule was based upon internal, local, and regional comparison of other facilities. The goal was to make the facilities accessible and affordable to the community. Staff recommends the following 2019 Switchyard Park Price Schedule;

- Pavilion Rental - \$60 to \$75 per hour/\$500 to \$600 per day/\$250 to \$300 deposit.
- Use of Projector - \$25 per day
- Table and Chair Reset Fee - \$50
- Amphitheater Rental - \$75 to \$90 per day
- Bosque Rental - \$75 to \$90 per day
- North Activity Lawn – \$75 to \$90 per day
- South Activity Lawn - \$75 to \$90 per day
- Main Stage and Performance Lawn –
 - Category I (not-for-profit) w/o theatrical lighting - \$200 per day/\$100 deposit
 - Category I (for-profit groups) with theatrical lighting – \$500 per day/\$250 deposit
 - Category II (not-for-profit) w/o lighting - \$250 per day/\$125 deposit
 - Category II (for-profit groups) with lighting - \$750 per day/\$375 deposit
- Secondary Performance Lawn Rental – \$75 to \$90 per day
- Large Picnic Shelter Rental - \$75.00 to \$90 per day
- Garden Rental - \$37 to \$44

Joseph Hoffman motioned to approve the 2019 Switchyard Park Price Schedule. *Lisa Thatcher* seconded the motion. Les Coyne any public comments or questions, seeing none. The motion was unanimously carried.

B-13 Review/Approval of Contract with HFI

John Turnbull, Sport Division Director approached the podium. Due to age, the Department wishes to replace the HVAC system at Twin Lakes Recreation Center. The Department requires the services of a professional consultant for demolition and replacement of the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning. Detailed mechanical specification are provided by Schmidt Associates, dated 04.17.19:2018-092.TLR. Staff recommends the approval of this contract with Harrell-Fish Inc., in the amount of \$493,493. This project is funded from General Obligation Bond 977-18-18016E-5410.

Joseph Hoffman motioned to approve the contract with HFI. *Lisa Thatcher* seconded the motion. Les Coyne any public comments or questions, seeing none. The motion was unanimously carried.

B-14 Review/Approval of Contract with Lentz Paving, LLC

John Turnbull, Sports Division Director approached the podium. The Winslow Batting Cages are no longer in use, and the Department wishes to have them removed. The Department requires the services of a professional consultant for demolition

of the Winslow Batting Cages, haul off all materials including any fencing, nets, wood, concrete, and deliver soil to grade. Staff recommends the approval of this contract with Lentz paving LLC in the amount of \$12,000. This project will be funded from Reversions Funds 2019: Facilities Public Work, 101-19-190000-53990.

Joseph Hoffman motioned to approve the contract with Lentz Paving, LLC. Lisa Thatcher seconded the motion. Les Coyne any public comments or questions, seeing none. The motion was unanimously carried.

B-15 Review/Approval of Partnership Agreement with Middle Way House

Lee Huss, Urban Forester approached the podium. The purpose of this agreement, is for the City to allow Middle Way House limited use of 50 city trees to cover with knitted yarn sweaters. Staff recommends approval of this partnership. Lee Huss invited Erin Hollinden of Middle Way House to the podium.

Erin Hollinden, Events Coordinator approached the podium. I wanted to point out a few of the many benefits to our community of having our wrapped in love tree sweater public art project. The only other city we are aware of that has a more extensive display then we have is Seattle, Washington. Wrapped in love helps support all sorts of programs for survivors of domestic violence, sexual abuse and human trafficking. A lot of people know about our emergency shelter, but may not realize there is an additional 95% of our clientele, thousands of people every year who are using our legal advocacy, our support groups, our childcare, and our on scene crisis intervention services. A vast array of programs, and the beauty of the wrapped in love is the originality, its creativity. It helps those knitters, crocheters, and weavers who might not have other ways to support us a way come together. It's a very distinctive way that sets our City apart. I hope that any knitters, crocheters, or weavers in our imminent audience would like to join us and speak to me about it.

Lee Huss approached the podium. I do know of one other community, Toronto, Ontario has done this with their Urban Forestry. I have talked to their City Forester and they found if they did knitting of the smaller trees in areas with high vandalism, the vandalism dropped down to none. If I can work with Erin to maybe wrap some of our smaller trees in our downtown area.

Joseph Hoffman motioned to approve the agreement with Middle Way House. Lisa Thatcher seconded the motion. Les Coyne any public comments or questions, seeing none. The motion was unanimously carried.

The Board thanked Erin Hollinden.

B-16 Review/Approval of Contract with Ellington Tree

Lee Huss, Urban Forester approached the podium. The Department wishes to remove hazardous trees. The Department requires the services of a professional consultant, to preform tree removal of seven dead Ash trees at Cascades Golf Course. Staff recommends the approval of this contract with J.R. Ellington Tree Expert, in the amount of \$1,300. Project will be funded from Urban Forestry General Fund.

Joseph Hoffman motioned to approve the contract with Ellington Tree. Lisa Thatcher seconded the motion. Les Coyne any public comments or questions, seeing none. The motion was unanimously carried.

B-17 Review/Approval of Contract Designscape

Lee Huss, Urban Forester approached the podium. The Department wishes to fertilize, and treat trees for insects. The Department requires the services of a professional consultant to provide insecticide spraying of bag worms on columnar oaks west of the Hyatt Place of the B-Line Trail, spray additional infested trees in the Bloomington City limits, and perform tree fertilization treatment at various public locations. Staff recommends the approval of this contract with Designscape Horticultural Service, Inc., in the amount of \$2,650. This projected if funded from the Urban Forestry General Fund.

Joseph Hoffman motioned to approve the contract with Designscape. Lisa Thatcher seconded the motion. Les Coyne any public comments or questions, seeing none. The motion was unanimously carried.

B-18 Review/Approval of Contract with Lee Chapman for Farm Tour

Marcia Veldman, Farmers' Market Coordinator approached the podium. The Department wishes to provide the community with a summer Farm Tour at Living Roots Farm and Sustainable Living Center. The Department requires

the services of a professional consultant to provide a grill and grilling supplies for the Farm Tour Chefs, to be held on July 14th. Staff recommends the approval of this contract with Lee Chapman, in the amount of \$550. Funding for this project will be from Farmers' Market Non-Reverting fund.

Joseph Hoffman motioned to approve the contact with Lee Chapman. Lisa Thatcher seconded the motion. Les Coyne any public comments or questions, seeing none. The motion was unanimously carried.

C. PUBLIC HEARINGS/APPEARANCES

C-1. Bravo Award – Catherine Walsh

Sarah Owen, Community Relations Coordinator approached the podium. The Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department would like to recognize Adopt-a-Stream volunteer Catherine Walsh with the June Bravo Award. Catherine began volunteering with our Adopt-a-Stream program in September 2018 and has dedicated 53 hours of volunteer services to inspecting Griffy Creek and Latimer Woods Creek. Catherine has gone above and beyond what is expected of her and we would like to recognize her for the exceptional amount of time and effort she has dedicated to this program.

C-2. Staff Introduction/Recognition–

Ashley Spurgeon approached the podium. Ashely has recently accepted the position of Community Events Specialist. For the past two years Ashely has been employed by the Parks and Recreation Department at Richmond, Indiana. Previously Ashley held an intern position with Health and Wellness in our Recreation Division. Ashley has missed living in Bloomington, is grateful for the opportunity to continue working for the parks, and is excited for what is to come.

The Board welcomed Ashley.

Steve Cotter, Natural Resource Manager approached the podium. We are sad to report that Elizabeth Tompkins has submitted her letter of resignation. Elizabeth began as an intern in 2005, was hired by her predecessor as a Natural Resources education Assistant in 2006 and became the Natural Resources Coordinator in 2009. Elizabeth has been an exemplary employee, and has done a great job over the last 14 years. Elizabeth has maintained excellent relationships with co-workers, customers, program funders and park visitors. She is passionate about customer service. Elizabeth's departure will leave a big void within the Department and she will be missed. We wish her the best of luck in all her upcoming adventures.

Elizabeth Tompkins approached the podium. It was a dream come true when I earned this potion ten years ago. It has been an honor and pleasure to serve this award winning department for the last fourteen years. To work with the professional and experts of this department has been a joy.

The Board thanked Elizabeth for her years of service.

C-3. Public Comment Period –

Les Coyne, President Board of Park Commissioners made the following statement: Over the last several weeks members of this board have received and reviewed several comments and inquiries expressing deep concerns about the challenges currently facing our Farmers' Market vendors, customers, staff volunteers and leaders. Each of us on the Board has watched the Farmers' Market Advisory Committee meeting recording from Monday, June 17 and reviewed the correspondence the Department has received on the topic.

The Farmers' Market Advisory Council, Parks and Recreation Department staff and the Legal Department of the City of Bloomington are all actively working on addressing concerns in a way that is compassionate to those who feel unsafe and in compliance with all laws, the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and Market policies. The issues in play are difficult and challenge our understanding of who we are as a community. Parks Department staff is drawing on the expertise of the City Legal Department, the Community and Family Resources Department, the ACLU and Bloomington United, among other individuals, groups and organizations and will make recommendations based on their findings to this board.

At this time many individuals and groups at the City and in the community are exploring what options the Market leadership might legally pursue, looking at similar situations in other communities, how they were handled and their outcomes. That information will be closely considered as we look at the future of the Farmers' market.

However, if you came here today looking for a final determination on what actions, if any will be taken regarding the vendor in question, I'm afraid you will be disappointed. We can tell you that at this time the City of Bloomington cannot legally alter the relationship between this vendor and our Farmers' Market.

We appreciate the urgency felt by so many people touched by this conflict, and wish there were easy and quick answers and solutions. There are not. We know many people are in pain and feel uncomfortable dealing with these issues. This is a situation in which no community wishes to find itself.

We will take comment today and will continue to gather information from a variety of other sources. By our July 23 regular Board of Park Commissioners meeting we hope to have had an opportunity to review all the pertinent information and determine our path forward.

One thing is certain: so many in this community love the Bloomington Community Farmers' Market and are working to ensure that it is a safe and welcoming place for all. Thank you for being among those who care deeply enough about our community to get engaged in this challenge.

The Role of the Farmers' Market Advisory Council consists of nine volunteer members representing Market vendors and customers. The council acts in an advisor capacity to the Board of Park Commissioners and Park staff on policy matters relating to the Farmers' Market.

Recommendations from FMAC are presented to Park Staff who, after thoughtful consideration and research present this information to the Board of Park Commissioners for final approval. It is only after that approval that policy is set. One Park Commissioner acts as a liaison to the Farmers' Market Advisor Board bringing the information sharing full circle. Advice from the Council has played an instrumental role in guiding the Market for decades.

Four Market vendors and five Market customers volunteer their time to serve on the Farmers' Market Advisory Council. Members of the public are always welcome to attend Advisory Council meetings. Meetings are usually held at 5:30 p.m. on the third Monday of each month in the Parks Conference Room, Suite 250 of City Hall. It is advisable to check with market staff prior to each month's meeting in case there has been a change.

The next steps will be a Community Forum. We realize more discussion needs to happen on a broader scale. Overall, it is outside of Parks purview. The Board of Park Commissioners will be hosting a community forum at the Banneker Community Center led by Community and Family Resources Department. We are hoping that this forum in the next few weeks. Beverly Calender-Anderson is here this evening and if you have questions or are interested in having input about the forum, please see Beverly or contact her later by email.

Market staff is looking into ways to establish more diversity in Market and the FMAC.

We ask that you sign in before speaking. This is so we can contact you later if we want clarification. This meeting is conducted with official record that becomes archived. Because of the transactions we make, we have to have that formality and this will be part of that official record. Each person will have two to three minutes to speak. We will keep track of the time and announce when the time is up. We would like to remind everyone that we insist on a respectful comment period. The people who are making the comments are addressing the Board and are not addressing the audience. We do not expect comments from the audience.

Lisa Thatcher, Park Board Member commented. I was there on Monday and it was very satisfying to launch right into the Public Comment period. Thank you so much for waiting through this, we are a different board and had to get through these agenda items. I know that was probably frustrating to wait through, thank you for doing that.

Thomas Westguard approached the podium. I appreciate the opportunity to address the Board today. The comments I wanted to make today, where to note that the Market has been aware for at least two years that these complaints were going on.

As you consider your future actions. I wanted to make the point that having the knowledge two years ago, means that the clock started two years ago. I've heard some complaints that, gosh we just got slammed with this all the sudden. Well no, you knew two years ago that this was an issue. That was the time to start looking into the public relations components of it and coming up with a plan. Looking at legal components of it and figuring out what is allowed. That clock started two years ago, and the choice not to act, is in fact a choice that continues through today.

Since then, as you probably know, there is a quote from Marcia Veldman on the front page of the Herald Times saying "First amendment, nothing we can do". That was the whole statement. I don't know what due-diligence went into making that statement. That's what should have been done starting two years ago, was to know the legal landscape.

The vendors in questions posted on their website they had suffered a flood. I contacted the Health Department as well as the Market, to say the FDA has issued regulations regarding flooded fields. You have the right to make sure that this produce is healthy. There is no first amendment protection for public health and safety. There are concrete actions that you can take, that so far the Market has chosen not to do.

I'm encouraged that you have given the July date, as a time that you might take some action. I'm encouraged that you are having a listening component. In terms of management, intentions and a quarter will get you a gumball. It's not about intentions it's about taking concrete specific actions that lead to a goal. That's my only point.

Nejla Routsong approached the podium. I am also encouraged to hear that some action is planned to be taken. I would very much like to hear, and hope to hear very soon before July 23rd, on more specifics of what legal research is being done.

I wanted to add a local component to this, as someone who has been a local for a long time, and I all so work at IU now. I wanted to point out, that we sort of think about the people that are threatened by these kind of groups as minorities. We use that term, I've used that term. In fact, if you add up all the people that these groups would like to expel or exterminate, it's the majority of Americans. It's the majority of our community, and it's even more of a majority of the students who come to here to study at IU.

I would like whoever is making these decisions, even if you don't personal happen to be in one of those threatened groups. To imagine what it would feel like if you weren't able to attend your local market without being forced by the City, the official City that is running your politics in your city, to look someone in the face who believes and has stated publicly who believes that you do not deserve to exist. Who is an official member of a group that believes you personally do not deserve to exist.

I feel like I have to comment about the free speech issue, because it has been raised by Marcia Veldman and Mayor Hamilton. Other people here today, including my friend Joe Varga who last week pointed out: that being an active member of a hate group is not a thought, it's not speech, and it's not mirrored speech. I would like to point out the qualitative difference between the ideologies these people have and any other ideological believes. The Mayor for example lumped in neo-Nazi groups with Communist and Civil Rights Protesters. I would like to point out that the ideological believes of hate groups involve violence, mass murder, and mass extermination. The beliefs of Communist, Anti-Fascist and Civil Rights Protesters they are all ideologies, but the way they want to achieve their aims of their ideologies are qualitatively different.

Robert Meitus approached the podium. I am a law professor, and a lawyer here in town. We may totally disagree with others views. We may even recognize that such views cause grieves pain to others. Without a broad first amendment protection, all civil rights advocacies could be shut down by a government. By those in power because of disagreements over viewpoints. That was true of the civil rights movement of the past, it was true in Skokie forty years ago, it was true in Charlottesville, and it is true in Bloomington today. Everyone, no matter what they think deserve a voice. If they don't incite violence, they can speak that voice freely. The public can decide who is right through reasonable discourse, debate, and their pocketbooks. Civility, compassion, and the first amendment should guide us here very carefully.

Tim Clark approached the podium. I am a resident of Brown County, and a co-administrator of Facebook group Brown County Matter. I support the position of the City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department, regarding the petition to remove a Farmers' Market vendor. In which they stated "To our knowledge this vendor has not shared these views with the market, has treated customers with respect. The City is constitutionally prohibited from discriminating against someone because their belief system, no matter how portent those views may be. The City may not intercede if an individual's actions violate the safety of human rights of others".

When allegations were posted about the same vendor regarding the Nashville Farmers Market. We removed the respected post from our Facebook site. Stating that Brown County Matters is not the site to go on record of disagreeing with someone in the community. That if true may have an opposing view regardless of how effective. In response to deleting these post, we were immediately accused of being Nazis. To quote "I really have to wonder if the goal was to defend their Nazi brother." The Nashville Farmers Market is not affiliated with the government, but is a non-profit 501c3.

It appears, that the recent controversy associated with the vendor in question was ignited by a conviction of Nolan Brewer. Brewer was convicted of a federal hate crime on Monday, May 20, 2019, and sentenced to three years in prison for spray painting anti-Semitic graffiti and lighting fires outside a Carmel Synagogue on Friday, July 28, 2018. Following the conviction the court records were made available. The statements and a transcript of an FBI interview with Brewer were taken out of context, which led to allegations perpetuated by the media. The FBI is responsible for accessing any threats to individuals in the community based on the key interview, and any subsequent investigations. The FBI most likely concluded, there is little to no physical threat to our communities. This assessment could be collaborated by the local police and sheriffs departments. In fact in Brown County, the concern by the sheriff's department is was on the potential threats to the safety of the vendors and of their families.

As you reinforce in the statement by the Parks Department, "Citizens have the right to hold beliefs and make statements that others may find frightening, disturbing, and objectionable". Illustration of these beliefs were on full display at the Farmers' Market Advisory Committee meeting on June 17, 2019. A video of these comments are available on Bloomingtonian Website. The nature and tone of these comments, to include posts on social media, illustrate to the concern of our communities may not be so much from views expressed by individuals, but from the intolerance and bigotry that many of these views represent. To conclude, our challenge is to find better ways to address issues and concerns that will result in less divisive and more productive communities.

Judy Klein approached the podium. As a Jewish person, I am one of the threatened members presumably of people of this persuasion. However, I feel very strongly that constitutionally this right of free speech allows for anyone to make remarks about their beliefs, even though they may be odious to other people in the community.

Furthermore, I think that the Farmers' Market in the best of all possible worlds, can server as a place where the commune denominator of regard for local production of food, can build a bridge amongst people of very diverse opinions. I feel that as long as vendors are civil and respectful of customers, it is more dangerous to imagine a world in which we evict people whose beliefs we don't agree with, than to allow for a civil space where we can interact with each other.

Amanda McKenzie approached the podium. I am a mental health therapist, and a former farmer at the Market. I am coming to speak briefly about the effect this is having on people's mental health. I am really concerned about our marginalized citizens. I think a lot of people don't realize there are many invisible symptoms that are already happening, that are harming people. I have people coming to me from all demographics, not only in my professional world but in my personal world. Telling me how they are already being effected by nightmares, hypervigilance, feelings of paranoia, and feelings of being unsafe in their own skin. Not just community members who are going to the Market as patrons, but also the farmers themselves.

As a former farmer, I am very concerned that the community response to this. The understandable response of cliental not wanting to go to a place where they are literally feeling endangered, and for good reason. That is also going to effect the farmers who have done nothing wrong. So for everyone's protection, famers, patrons, everyone's mental and emotional health that are not necessarily visible to the naked eye. I would like the Park Board to take this very seriously, as it is already effecting hundreds if not thousands of people in our community.

Juliana Crespu approached the podium. I will say what I said a week ago. As a Brazilian immigrant I do feel very unsafe at Market. I do feel uncomfortable going. My concern is that our Farmers' Market will become a white persons market. I would like for you to consider that. If we don't have something in place to keep more Nazi vendors from signing up, then what's going to happen? What does that mean for those of us in our community, who are minorities, who are uncomfortable, and who do feel unsafe going to market? It will be a white persons market.

One more thing I would like to say, I think being passive in the face of possible violence at market, whether that is through language or physical violence. I think that is a very dangerous space, and I think that we are inviting that if we choose not to take action. We are inviting some sort of violence. I think that will come into play at some point, because a lot of tempers are inflamed right now.

Renee Miller approached the podium. I just moved to the city from the county. Racism isn't new to me. I've been in Monroe County for twenty five plus years, actually much longer than that. I've lived with racist people all around me. There is a huge difference between racism and white supremacies. We need to really take a look at our values in the city.

I was absolutely floored to find out that this happened two years ago and nothing was done. Some guidelines weren't written, about if you were affiliated with white supremacist groups or hate groups, you are not allowed at our Farmers' Market. I am not trying to change a racist mind, I'm just say politely step out. As politely as I can, step off my property please, that's not allowed here. Or I just say, I'm not engaging with you, we don't have the same values. But white supremacies groups, hate groups are dangerous.

I went up to that man at the Farmers' Market, and I asked him because this was news to me, I hear this is going on with you and all I want to know is if it is true. If it is, I am going to move along, and I am going to get my vegetables elsewhere. If you are affiliated with white supremacist and hate groups, I don't want to buy your vegetables. You know what he said to me, you should move along then, and I did. Do you know what he did right after that? He took my picture.

That was an attempt, I think, to make me scared of him. I am not scared of him. I am a lesbian that brought gay pride and lesbian pride to Indiana, in a five state radius back in the 90's. So bring it on, we all have to die from something. I would rather die for something I am standing up for, with my brothers and sisters and other people, rather than put up with that in my city.

Teal Bingham approached the podium. I am a lifelong Bloomington resident. I believe that Schooner Creek Farm is in direct violation of the Bloomington Community Farmers' Market vendor contract. I hear a lot of people talking about the first amendment that is a really important conversation to have. The first amendment doesn't guarantee you a contract, a job, or stall at the Farmers' Market.

In that contract it said, as a vendor at the Farmers' Market they will collaborate with the City and assist with creating a welcoming environment for all who all attend the market. Shall represent themselves in a professional manner, which reflects their commitment to the market mission. As known members of Identity Evropa, which is a hate group that advocates for the nazification of America, and for violence against many groups. I think they are in violation of their commitment to creating a welcoming and safe environment for all at the market.

I know a lot of people have just found out about this through Facebook, or through the Nolan Brewer FBI investigations. I have known about it for over a year. I have close friends who have known about them for five plus years. In the past few years they have open up to and tried to recruit members of the Bloomington community. Including shoppers and vendors who attend the market.

There is a vendor who complained about them over a year ago, and now no longer attends the market, because of the harassment they received after speaking up about it. Yesterday, I had a conversation with a community member who had very troubling interaction with them, including some bordering on recruitment over the five plus five years. They are unwilling to speak up, because the owners of Spooner Creek Farm has threatened to ruin the reputation of their small business. They are afraid of having their name attached to this.

I did ask the Farmers' Market Advisory Board about anonymous complaints from people who feel unsafe. This is a known hate group, a name take group, not just an ideology or political affiliation. I was told, there is no way to make anonymous complaints. That means the people who are most at risk, and the people who may be already be experiencing discrimination, don't have a protected way to bring that forward to you.

I would like to point out, the City is opening itself up to liability for doing nothing. In the future, if there is a discrimination suit brought against Schooner Creek Farm, it's on public record that the City knows they are members of a hate group that calls for nazification of America and calling for violence. The contract they signed said they create a welcoming environment, and they are in direct violation of that.

Joan White approached the podium. I am a retired nurse, and I live in Bloomington. Two and a half weeks ago I was at the market and I witnessed a man harassing not only a vendor at Schooner Creek Farm, but also a customer of theirs. They screamed at a customer, a woman, are you a Nazi too? Do you know you are buying from Nazis? If anyone should be afraid at the market, I would think it should be the Schooner Creek Farm people.

I would like to read something from Martin Luther King Jr., after the four African American girls were murdered in Alabama. "In spite of the darkness of this hour we must not despair. We must not become bitter, nor must we harbor the desire to retaliate with violence. We must not lose faith in our white brothers. Somehow, we must believe the most misguided among them, can learn to respect the dignity and worth of all human personality." I believe we should engage in dialogue.

Community member approached the podium. People keep bring up Schooner Creek's first amendment rights, and that they haven't broken any rules of the market. I know for over a year they have been harassing customers, including myself. Earlier someone mentioned they had their photo taken. I have seen that happen to friends of mine, and to myself. They took my photo just because I was wearing a black coat. Later they actually had someone who was doing security for them. Which I don't think is normal for a market vendor to have security, but they do. They followed and assaulted a man, because the mixed race child that was with him, talked back to them at their booth. I think both of those things qualify as harassment. I would assume the market is aware of that assault, because the police were involved.

Some people have said that kicking them out would anger them. I would argue that if you are afraid of doing the right thing because it will upset white supremacist, who are members of Identity Evropa, which is a domestic terrorist group. That is negotiating with terrorist, and I thought that was something we don't do.

Patricia approached the podium. I feel a need to make a comment and give my perspective as a black woman, a resident of Bloomington, and a frequent patron of the community farmers market. I have always been proud to support my local community. I have the privilege to be able to buy things at our local farmers market. Unfortunately, I no longer feel safe attending. Every other person of color, I talked to in the last couple of weeks has said the same after this issue was brought to light.

That being said, I have a major issue with the lack of action by the City. I understand things take time, but when marginalized communities tell you they no longer feel safe. That should take priority. If you cannot take immediate action, please do not be surprised when people of color and other marginalized groups continue to dwindle out of the farmers market and other city organized events. Everyday nothing is done, people of color are losing their faith in the City of Bloomington. Because they will not protect us if things like white supremacist can't be taken out of our farmers market in a quick and effective way.

I ask the City and Parks and Recreation to make a public statement online or in the paper about their inability to take white supremacist out of our community farmers market. So that people of color and marginalized groups know that they will no longer be ensured a safe and welcoming environment. This is especially important to me because I had faith in the farmers market, and the City. As soon as this issue came up, I trusted my City to prioritize my safety.

Unfortunately I would have never know about the white supremacist if wasn't for protesters and social media. I could have bought from this vendor without knowing. Being transparent with a statement that is online and available and not just said in meetings. Being transparent with a statement like this will allow the community to know the truth.

I hope we can come together as a community, and if nothing is going to be done by the City of Bloomington. I hope we come together and create or organize an alternative farmers market to open in the future that allows marginalized people to feel safe and welcome. Unfortunately, I feel like nothing will be done, until someone like me gets attacked. I refuse to risk my safety in an unwelcome environment like our farmers market.

Lisa approached the podium. I am speaking with the end goal that Bloomington, and the Farmers' Market in particular, be a safe and welcoming place for all people. As deemed by the people who are least likely to feel safe in our community.

I have five recommendations. I recommend that the Parks and the City, host a facilitated discussion, or forum on how to make Bloomington a safe and welcoming place. Moderated by people who are trauma informed, and who are not white-centric focused.

I recommend the needs of the victims Nazi hate, be prioritized and centralized. At the top the need to feel safe in the City and at a public event such as the Farmers' Market. Particularly by marginalized groups, which is not happening now.

I recommend the City, perhaps the Parks and Recreation, have a table at the Market each week, where they are committed in education the public and establishing and anti-racism initiative. Each week it could be on a different topic or a different component of educating. This would be run by the City but in collaboration with various groups in the city.

Mayor John Hamilton statement on the Bloomington Community Farmers' Market stated, our community teams with individuals and organizations that work every day to weave that big wide welcome mat. That we want to be as real and inclusive as it should be. In order to demonstrate this welcome mat, I recommend the Farmers' Market have 20% of the vendors spots first available to people of color, as that reflects the population of people of color in Bloomington. I also encourage a scholarship fund with people of color getting priority.

Lastly I recommend the immediate removal of Doug and Sarah Dye, as they are in clear violation of the vendor handbook. Which states the Farmers' Market is a space where all feel welcome and safe, regardless race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran status, housing status, or disability status. This is not happening.

Abby Ang approached the podium. You probably know me from the letter that was circulating. What I have to say is very short. Quit a few folks in the beginning have boiled this down to an issue of disagreement. With all due respect, this is not about a disagreement when it comes down to the lives and safety of minorities, and about marginalized groups. It's not simply an issue of disagreement, when it comes to my right to exist. Especially in the Farmers' Market space and the right of other people to exist. Martin Luther King was shot by a white supremacists. As my friend said earlier, someone was murdered in Charlottesville. I urge you to take that seriously as you figure out the next steps to take.

Stacy Decker approached the podium. In addition to my own comments, I have a copy of a letter written by Amy Countryman to Mayor Hamilton.

I am a vendor at the Bloomington Market and a longtime member of the community. This is a sign that was created to be hung at the vendors booths at the market, and given out to anyone who wanted them this past weekend. This is something that could be done, and expresses that we want everyone to be welcomed and truly safe at the Market. The reality is that in so many situations, even outside of this market, individuals don't feel safe, heard, or a part of our community. We are seeing this in the current situation, and we need to remember this is systemic and is not new. It has been going on a very long time. I ask, how do we work for people of color, of LBGTQ+ people, Muslim people, Jewish

people, people with disabilities and immigrants? Are we listening to, working for, and with people who are consistently not heard. Are we admitting when we aren't doing this?

I continue to hear a lot about what we need to do, should do, and have to do. I would like to know what we are going to do. How are we going to get there, what is our consisted committed path in this work? I would like to hear from our City, as our community leaders, what action are they going to take in the short term and long term. What are the goals, what are the policies of Bloomington going to be? I feel the momentum of the energy in the community right now. People are willing to show up and do this work. My hope is that we use that energy to move in a different direction, create different patterns and use resources in learning structures that work.

Along with several other community members groups, I have been asking for transparency in this situation. Are the letters and action requests from our community getting proper attention and energy? As a city, are we making this a priority? Are we taking responsibility for our communication? Are we actively looking for resources and structures to implement? Are we asking the hard questions, and creating the coalitions and policies that move us toward restored justice.

How can Bloomington individuals, advocacy groups, the Bloomington Farmers' Market, and the City of Bloomington work together?

Our community needs a plan, concrete steps to move us towards who we want to be. The targets of white supremacy has needed the community's support for years now; here is Bloomington's opportunity to work on that. People who spread hate, must be held accountable and responsible for their actions. White supremacy must be recognized, named, and dismantled. New paths have to be created, I continue to ask how we do that.

Community member approached the podium. This is a very different talk than I had originally prepared. I realized at some point today, you already know what is happening, how we feel, and what it is we want done. What we need now is the confidence to know that something is being done, that action is being taken, and not just a verbal condemnation.

With the communication we have been given and the information we are privy to. It is impossible for us to know what is being done. So if we are asked to understand that you can't tell us specifics. We ask that you understand our frustration and our sense of urgency, whether it is productive or not.

I am a Scorpio, it's not in my nature to do this, but I really want to put faith in you. I really want to trust that you are working as hard as we are. That you care as much as we do, and that you are doing as much as possible. This doesn't mean I am done with this. It just means I am hoping that maybe, we can all be allies to solve this problem together.

Cassandra Caswell approached the podium. I am here because I have three things to ask of the Board of Park Commissioners for the City of Bloomington, regarding the presents of members of Identity Evropa at the Community Farmers' Market.

The first thing I would like to ask, is that the City acknowledges the presence of members of a known Neo-Nazi and white supremacist hate groups at the Community Farmers' Market is harmful to people of color, to Jewish people, to LGBTQ+ people, to other market vendors, and to the community collectively. By belonging to such a group, mainly Identity Evropa, Schooner Creek Farms is in violation of the terms of their contract with the City of Bloomington, to facilitate a welcoming and safe market. The City should remove Schooner Creek Farms from the market for the remainder of the 2019 market year, for the contract violation.

Number two, that the City rewrite the contracts for the 2020 market year, which explicitly prohibits vendors with ties from known hate groups from participating as vendors at the market.

Three, the City sit aside a percentage of vendor space at the Market for people of color, and establish a scholarship fund to facilitate inclusion of people of color as vendors at the Market.

Daniel Bingham approached the podium. You have heard there are good reasons to remove Schooner Creek Farms that don't have anything to do with free speech. There is a contract, they signed it, and they violated it. They have harassed

other market vendors, they have harassed customers. They have potentially denied customers on the basis of race. They have potentially assaulted some body.

Those are things that have nothing to do with free speech, and give you a lever in which to remove them, if you don't want to have the free speech discussion. But in the case that you do, I am going to go ahead and read Eli Mosely's statement in a minute. I want to give a content warning as it contains deeply racist and disturbing language. If you don't want to hear it, here is your warning. If you refuse to use those levers, or if you are still hung up on the free speech issue. Let's go ahead and have that discussion. These are Nazis, neo-Nazis we are not talking about just a disagreement between right and left. We are not talking about, I want stronger property rights, or I want fewer property rights. These are people who are part of an organization Identity Evropa that is dedicated to the creation of a white ethno state through genocide in America.

This has really disturbing language in it, and I don't really want to read it. But it's really important to know who these people are. The former leader Eli Mosley said, "Identity Evropa is dedicated to the Nazification of America. I work in HR firing niggers and spicks all day. Before that I was in the Army and go to kill Muslims for fun. I'm not sure which one was better watching niggers and spicks cry because they can't feed their little mud children, or watching Muslims brains spray on the wall. Honestly both probably suck, compared to listening to a kike scream in the oven."

That was Eli Mosely, the former leader of Identity Evropa. Sarah and Doug by their own admission are proud members of Identity Evropa. This isn't about free speech, the minute you start planning a murder with someone. That is no longer free speech. You are in a conspiracy to commit murder once you take concrete action to commit that murder. You have committed a crime.

This organization is organizing to take power in this country. They are recruiting and trying to get people to take power so they can commit mass murder and genocide. The greatest mistake the ACLU ever made was defending Nazis right to organize. It is not a legitimate political ideology, it is a criminal conspiracy and should be treated as such.

Reverend Forrest Gilmore approached the podium. I come here to support the removal of Schooner Creek Farm from our market. There are some that have talked about extending compassion, extending kindness, extending care, dialogue to these farmers, in the hope that they can convert them and treat them differently. I hundred percent support people who try to do that. I encourage them to do that, please anyone who feels they can do that go for it.

In the meantime, I feel that it is extremely important that we protect people of color, and other marginalized population from a group that would seek to destroy them. They are whom, I wish our community would extend our love, our compassion, our care, and our kindness. Subjecting marginalized people to the threat of white supremacist is not a loving or kind act.

I believe as many people do here, we need to see the City as an active partner in the removal of this farm from the market. I also want to bring to the City, the concept that they got Al Capone on tax evasion. They didn't get him on the murders, they didn't get him on the other things. We just had recent admission from the farm that they were flooded out. We know from the FDA, that sharing food from a field that has been flooded is not right for human consumption. I want the City to be creative and think outside of the box, on how to deal with this situation. If you don't feel like you can deal with it through first amendment issues, look to other issues to solve this problem.

Les Coyne, Board President commented. This has been very useful to me personally. I am very pleased to have sat here and listened to your comments. I assure you I take them quite seriously. We are in the process of trying to find ways to deal with this creative and otherwise.

Lisa Thatcher, Board member commented. I just want to say thank you again. This is very hard and uncomfortable. Being uncomfortable is a very necessary part of growth. It takes a lot to come up here and speak to us, to be filmed, and to put everything out there. Thank you for doing that it is deeply appreciated.

Joe Hoffman, Board member commented. I heard and learned something today from some of the thoughts and ideas that people have communicated. I assure you, I will be perusing some of those ideas.

REPORTS

D-1 Recreations Division – No Report
D-2. Operations Division – No Report
D-3 Sports Division – No Report
D-4 Administration Division – No Report

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.
Respectfully Submitted,



Kim Clapp
Secretary Board of Park Commissioners