



A-1
10-22-19

Board of Park Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

Tuesday, September 17, 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 4:01p.m.

Board Present: Les Coyne, Joseph Hoffmann and Lisa Thatcher

Staff Present: Paula McDevitt, Dave Williams, John Turnbull, Becky Higgins, Julie Ramey, Mark Marotz, Lee Huss, Steve Cotter, Leslie Brinson, Kim Clapp, Bill Ream, and Crystal Ritter

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A-1. Approval of Minutes of August 20, 2019 meeting
- A-2. Approval of Claims Submitted August 20, 2019 through September 16, 2019
- A-3. Approval of Non-Reverting Budget Amendments
- A-4. Review of Business Report
- A-5. Approval of Surplus

Joe 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. PUBLIC HEARINGS/APPEARANCES

B-1. Appeal of Park Suspension - None

B-2. Public Comment Period - None

B-3. Bravo Award – Allen Edwards

Julie Ramey, Community Relations Manager, the Department would like to recognize Allen Edwards as the September Bravo Award recipient. Over the past decade Allen has provided over 200 volunteer hours at Wapehani Mountain Bike Park. He has worked independently, and assisted Trails staff. Allen has also served as an unofficial liaison between the Department and the Hoosier Mountain Bike Association. Allen's passion and dedication to the Wapehani Mountain Bike Park are greatly appreciated. Julie invited Allen Edwards to the podium.

Allen Edwards approached the podium. Thank you for the award, this is quite humbling. It is great to be recognizing for the hours I have worked. Frankly, I was quite surprised to find out I have put in that many hours at Wapehani. I am

looking forward to next year, to help the Park Board in celebrating Wapehani's 30 year anniversary as Indiana's first mountain bike park.

The Board thanked Allen Edwards for his volunteer hours given to Wapehani Mountain Bike Park.

B-4. Parks Partner Award - None

B-5. Staff Introduction – Adam Ehrstein

Adam Ehrstein will be working as the Sports Division Intern for John Turnbull. Adam will be graduating from I.U. in May 2021, and is seeking a Bachelor of Science in Sports Marketing and Management. Adam has worked part-time at Valparaiso Parks' ice rink, as well as two seasons at the Frank Southern Ice Arena. Adam is interested in youth sports and hopes this internship will expose him to different career paths in that area.

B-6 Staff Recognition – Lee Huss

Dave Williams, Director of Operations, Lee Huss has held the position of Bloomington's Urban Forester since September 1983, and will retire on October 4th. During his 37 years of service, he has lead and managed a very professional and innovative program that has increased the total number of street trees from under 8,000 to over 19,900. Under Lee's direction, Bloomington became the first community in Indiana to earn *Tree City USA* status. Lee's technical skills, experience, and networking has ensured Bloomington's urban forest is fully prepared for the next environmental challenge. Lee has diligently inspected and assessed numerous hazardous trees and has done so in a professional manner by capably managing his resources, modernizing our equipment, insisting on training and professional certifications for his staff, employing competent private arborist, and adhering to the old adage of planting "the right tree in the right place". Congratulations to Lee on his retirement and for a job well done.

Lee Huss, Urban Forester approached the podium. I am very humbled, thank you very much. It has been my honor and privilege to be the Urban Forester for the past 37 years here in Bloomington.

I have been able to interact with other tree professional throughout the country and I will never forget the one time I met Dr. George Weir, who over sees the research at the Morton Arboretum. When he learned I was an Urban Forester for Bloomington Indiana, he stated how fortunate I was to work for such a tree loving community. That's when it hit me, he was absolutely right.

I am thankful to Tomilea Allison, who initially hired me in. She took a big gamble on a young Boilermaker who found his way into Bloomington. I appreciate and learned from her immensely. I am thankful to the very competent and professional crews I've had over the years. I am thankful to the other City departments, and for their professionalism. It has been a great and enjoyable ride. I want to thank my wife and son who have supported me over the years. Thank you to the Parks Department, and everyone I have worked with over the years.

The Board thanked Lee Huss for his years of service, and for making Bloomington one of the most beautiful Tree Cities in the State.

C. OTHER BUSINESS

C-1. Review/Approval of Lease Addendum with the Project School

Paula McDevitt, Director the department and the Project School entered into a lease agreement for the property located at 349 S. Walnut on April 21, 2009 through June 30, 2019. The Original Lease provide the opportunity to extend the initial term by two additional five year terms. The amount of lease for the first extension would be \$88,125.00 annually, plus the lesser amount of the consumer price index or two percent, adjusted annually. Both parties would like to extend the lease for the first additional five years, beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2024. The rental amount for the first year of the extended term will be \$89,711.25 annually or \$7,476.94 monthly. All other terms of the Original Lease and Amendments will remain in effect. The Project School is in good standings with the Department.

Joe Hoffmann motioned to approve the lease addendum with the Project School. *Lisa Thatcher* seconded the motion. *Les Coyne* any public comments or questions, seeing none. The motion was unanimously carried.

C-2 Review/Approval Contract with WonderLab

Bill Ream, Community Events Coordinator the Department and Wonderlab desire to provide five fall-related activities for children and their families attending the Bloomington Pumpkin Launch event. The event is to be held at the Monroe County Fairground on October 26th, and is designed to create an affordable and family-friendly fun way for the community to celebrate autumn. Staff recommends approval of this contract with Wonderlab in an amount not to exceed \$400. Funding is from Community Events Non-Reverting account.

Joe Hoffmann motioned to approve the WonderLab for fall activities and Pumpkin Launch. *Lisa Thatcher* seconded the motion. *Les Coyne* any public comments or questions, seeing none. The motion was unanimously carried.

C-3 Review/Approval of Holiday Market Local Product Vendor Contract Template

Leslie Brinson, Community Events Manager staff recommends the approval of the 2019 Holiday Market Local Product Vendor Agreement for the 2019 Holiday Market. This agreement outlines the expectations and policies for both parties. The event will be held the Saturday, November 30th. No significant changes have been made to the template.

Joe Hoffmann motioned to approve the contract template for Holiday Market Local Product Vendor. *Lisa Thatcher* seconded the motion. *Les Coyne* any public comments or questions, seeing none. The motion was unanimously carried.

C-4 Review/Approval of Holiday Market Artist Vendor Contract Template

Crystal Ritter, Community Events Coordinator staff recommends the approval of the 2019 Holiday Market Exhibitor Agreement for the 2019 Holiday Market. This Agreement outlines the expectations and policies for both parties. The event will be held the Saturday, November 30th at City Hall. Changes to this year's contract include details outlining the sale of prints of artwork. Artist must now sign their prints.

Joe Hoffmann motioned to approve the contract template for Holiday Market Artist Vendor. *Lisa Thatcher* seconded the motion. *Les Coyne* any public comments or questions, seeing none. The motion was unanimously carried.

C-5 Review/Approval of Fee Waiver for Parks Foundation Golf Outing

John Turnbull, Director of Sports staff recommends the waiving of cart and green fees for the 24th Annual Parks and Recreation Foundation Don Brineman Golf Scramble, to be held on Wednesday, October 2, 2019. This event is the primary fund raiser for the Bloomington Parks Foundation which supports the Lloyd Olcott Youth Endowment Fund. This tournament generally raises between \$8,000 and \$12,000 in scholarship funding. Providing assistance to community youth with financial needs, giving them the opportunity to participate in some programs offered by the department.

Joe Hoffmann motioned to approve the fee waiver for the Parks Foundation Outing. *Lisa Thatcher* seconded the motion. *Les Coyne* any public comments or questions, seeing none. The motion was unanimously carried.

C-6 Review/Approval of Contract for Value Fence Company

Barb Dunbar, Operations Office Coordinator the department wishes to replace and extend old fencing located at the Crestmont Park Playground. The department requires the services of a professional consultant to order and install 152' of 4' high black vinyl fencing, and one 4' gate, running north-south along Illinois St. Staff recommends approval of this contract with Value Fence Company, not to exceed \$1,685. Funding is through the Parks General Obligation Bond Series: 977-18-18016E-54510.

Joe Hoffmann motioned to approve the contract with Value Fence Company. *Lisa Thatcher* seconded the motion. *Les Coyne* any public comments or questions, seeing none. The motion was unanimously carried.

C-7 Review/Approval of Contract with Umphress Masonry, Inc.

Barb Dunbar, Operations Coordinator the department wishes to make repairs to the perimeter wall at Rosehill Cemetery. The department requires the professional services of a consultant to make tuck-point repairs, and clean-up loose debris resulting from the repair work to the original wall along 3rd and 4th streets, which was constructed by the WPA in 1936. Staff recommends approval of this contract with Umphress Masonry, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$4,800. Funding is through the Cemeteries General Fund account.

Joe Hoffmann motioned to approve the contract with Umphress Masonry, Inc. *Lisa Thatcher* seconded the motion. *Les Coyne* any public comments or questions, seeing none. The motion was unanimously carried.

C-8 Review/Approval of Contract with Bledsoe Riggert Cooper James

Lee Huss, Urban Forester the department wishes to determine the ownership of a tree in Sycamore Knolls subdivision. The department requires the services of a professional consultant to provide a boundary survey to determine ownership of a leaning White Pine at 2313 E. Edgehill Ct. Staff recommends approval of this contract with Bledsoe Riggert Cooper James in an amount not to exceed \$1,300. Funding is through Operations General Fund account.

Board inquired if the tree is healthy.

Lee Huss responded the tree has been inspected and determined it is a healthy tree. White Pine being shade intolerant will grow toward the light.

Joe Hoffmann motioned to approve the contract with Bledsoe Riggert Cooper James. *Lisa Thatcher* seconded the motion. *Les Coyne* any public comments or questions, seeing none. The motion was unanimously carried.

C-9 Review/Approval of Contract with Designscape

Lee Huss, Urban Forester the department wishes to maintain healthy public trees. The department requires the services of a professional consultant to perform air spade work and fertilization injections of a Beech tree, and transplant a Black Gum tree, both located in Waldron, Hill, Buskirk Park. Staff recommends the approval of this contract with Designscape in an amount not to exceed \$2,179.32. Funding is through Urban Forestry General Fund accounts.

Joe Hoffmann 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.

C-10 Review/Approval of Contract with Nature's Way

Lee Huss, Urban Forester the department wishes to replace a tree that was destroyed by a vehicle earlier this year. The department requires the services of a consultant to plant a new Ginkgo tree in the median on East Third St. Staff recommends approval of this contract with Nature's Way in an amount not to exceed \$660.00. Funding is through Urban Forestry General Fund accounts.

Joe Hoffmann motioned to approve the contract with Nature's Way. *Lisa Thatcher* seconded the motion. *Les Coyne* any public comments or questions, seeing none. The motion was unanimously carried.

C-11 Review/Approval of Contract with Habitat Solutions

Steve Cotter, Natural Resource Manager the department wishes to reduce the risk of fire and improve the habitat for native vegetation and wildlife at Griffy Lake Nature Preserve. The department requires the services of a professional consultant to furnish all labor, materials, and equipment necessary to write burn plans, conduct prescribed fires, and complete burn summary reports to burn approximately 7.7 acres on the north side of Griffy Lake. Staff recommends approval of this contract with Habitat Solutions in an amount not to exceed \$5,000. Funding is through Natural Resources General Fund accounts.

The Board inquired if a prescribed burn is fairly new at Griffy, and if a loop trail goes through the burn site.

Steve Cotter responded yes, a prescribed burn is fairly new at Griffy. A site has been selected that has a high likelihood of success. There are other sites at Griffy that could benefit from a prescribed burn. It not only preserves habitat and reduces fire risk, it also reduces some invasive species. There is a loop that is formed with this trail. A portion of this area burnt last year, the rest of this area will be finished by this burn.

Joe Hoffmann motioned to approve the contract with Habitat Solutions. *Lisa Thatcher* seconded the motion. *Les Coyne* any public comments or questions, seeing none. The motion was unanimously carried.

C-12 Review/Approval of Vectren Easement for Switchyard Park

Dave Williams, Director of Operations the department wishes to grant Vectren Energy a perpetual easement and right-of-way across and beneath the real estate located in Lot Two (2) of Park Place Subdivision recorded as Instrument Number 2017016085 to run natural gas service lines. The easement has been reviewed and approved by SCIHO-Switchyard Apartments, LLC and Vectren. Service lines will serve the Pavilion, Fireplace Shelter, and Splash Pad building at Switchyard Park. Staff recommends approval of this easement with Vectren.

Joe Hoffmann motioned to approve the Vectren Easement for Switchyard Park. *Lisa Thatcher* seconded the motion. *Les Coyne* any public comments or questions, seeing none. The motion was unanimously carried.

C-13 Review/Approval of Contract with Dynasty Painting

Mark Marotz, Operations Superintendent the department wishes to maintain buildings in good working condition. The department requires the services of a professional consultant to remove and replace gutters with guards, pressure wash and apply two coats of Sherwin Williams bondplex custom gray paint to the maintenance building, located on the west side of Switchyard Park. Staff recommends approval of this contract with Dynasty Painting in an amount not to exceed \$23,950. Funding is through Operations Non-Reverting Fund accounts.

Joe Hoffmann motioned to approve the contract with Dynasty Painting. *Lisa Thatcher* seconded the motion. *Les Coyne* any public comments or questions, seeing none. The motion was unanimously carried.

D REPORTS

D-1 Administration Division – No Report

D-2. Recreation Division – No Report

D-3 Operations Division – Davey Resources Tree Report

Lee Huss, Urban Forester as a natural resource manager, you cannot manage an item unless you know where it's located and its condition. Throughout the past years, three inventories have been completed of Bloomington's urban trees. In 1993 ACRT completed the first inventory, IU SPEA completed the second inventory, and Davey Resources has just completed the third inventory. Lee invited Aren Flint, Urban Forester with Davey Resources Group to the podium to present the findings of the current inventory.

Aren Flint approached the podium. What is an Urban Forest, it is both public and private. Everyone working together to benefit the community through all the environmental benefits. Why measure an Urban Forest? A tree inventory and urban tree canopy assessment provides information about individual trees and the canopy: collectively the data can provide information to prioritize and schedule work. Assist with budget predictions. Help to understand and plan for threats. Develop or measure progress towards goals, report accomplishments, and communication and outreach.

The three types of sites the inventory conducted where: trees, stumps and vacant planting sites. There were a total of 24,371 sites which revealed the following: 19,013 trees, 4,417 planting sites, 741 stumps and a stocking level of 77%. There are 168 different species, representing 63 genera. Maple dropped from 30% in 1994 to 24% in 2019. 92% of all trees were categorized as fair and good condition. Only 8% of trees were classified as poor or dead. 49% of the trees were classified as young, 35% as established, 6% maturing and 10% mature. Maintenance needs were given by risk rating: removal 1,302, prune 2,881, discretionary prune 8,833, training prune 5,997, large-growing planting 1,428, medium-growing planting 454 and small-growing planting 2,735.

Total annual benefit of city-managed public trees is \$968,823, benefit per capita \$11, benefit per tree \$51. Aesthetic of \$643,202, air quality of \$23,884, carbon sequestered and avoided of \$10,870, energy of \$76,686 and stormwater of \$214,180.

Land cover included in the urban tree canopy assessment was 15,000 acres citywide and were as follows: tree canopy 5,735 acres, impervious surface 5,064 acres, pervious surface 3,641 acres, bare soil 435 acres, open water 125 acres. Plantable spaces were identified and ranked by priority. Maximum tree canopy is 61%. Currently there is an existing canopy of 38%, plantable space of 22%, impervious surfaces 34%, other pervious surfaces 5%, and water 1%. There is 24,371 plantable acres with the following ratings: 176 acres very high, 356 acres high, 417 acres moderate, 455 acres low and 1,934 acres very low. The tree canopy increased from 39% in 1998 to 40% in 2008. In 2018 it dropped to

38%. Projected change in canopy in 10 year a decrease of 1.6%, and in 20 years a decrease of 0.6%. Canopy condition 74% was categorized as fair and good condition, 24 % classified as poor or dead.

Other analysis were geographic units: census tracts, city-owned parcels, citywide, council districts, Indiana University campus, neighborhood associations, parks, watersheds, and zoning. Neighborhoods with most tree canopy percentage: Bittner Woods, South Griffy, and Woodlands-Winding Brook. Neighborhoods with most tree canopy acreage: Elm Heights, Covenanter and Sherwoods Oaks. Neighborhoods with most positive change in tree canopy percentage: Autumn View, Southern Pines, and Highland Village.

Urban Tree Resources Analysis and Cost Estimator (UTRACE) tool, utilizes the land cover assessment data to estimate the number of tree required and costs to increase and maintain the newly planted tree canopy. 2% Canopy increase equals 10,841 trees for a cost of \$4,770,016. Zoning types with most trees to be planted: institutional, planned unit development, and residential cores.

Total benefit of urban tree canopy is \$54,994,625. Total annual benefit is \$1,931,950, with aesthetic and other benefits of \$19,688,555 and stored carbon benefit of \$33,374,120.

To give a summary and next steps to be considered. Create a 5 to 7 year public tree management plan to develop a strategies for improving genus and species diversity, manage for maturing/mature tree population, and maximize public benefit through planting an building resiliency. Prune young trees now to improve structure to encourage better form as they age. Theoretically, this is a cost saver down the road. Use TreeKeeper to keep the inventory up-to-date as work is performed, budget for partial re-inventory every year to continually measure progress and adjust, and tree preservation and landscape plans. Review and revise as necessary the tree ordinance, adjust tree preservation and landscape ordinance, and refine other policies. Consider tree canopy goal establishment and an urban forest master plan to bring the community together in achieving the same goal and building equity.

Lisa Thatcher inquired is there anywhere citizens can find information about what is the most desirable species to plant.

Lee Huss responded for the past few years, the department has published a tree care manual that is available to the public. The five year plan is in the manual, as well as the municipal code, and a list of approved recommend trees to plant. It is published on line, or a hardcopy can be picked up at Parks Department main office. This document is revised every two years.

Les Coyne inquired how the inventory information is going to be kept updated.

Lee Huss stated three I-pads have been purchased that staff can use to update the information.

D-4 Sports Division – No Report

Paula McDevitt, Director thanked Aren Flint for her time and report.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kim Clapp
Secretary Board of Park Commissioners