



Board of Park Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

Tuesday, May 19, 2019
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

Public comments were accepted through Facebook Live and through emails sent to Paula McDevitt

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Kathleen Mills at 4:00 p.m.

Board Present: Kathleen Mills, Les Coyne, and Israel Herrera

Staff Present: Paula McDevitt, Dave Williams, Becky Higgins, John Turnbull, Julie Ramey, Kim Clapp, Rebecca Jania, Joanna Sparks, Sarah Owen

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A-1. Approval of Minutes of April 28, 2020 meeting
- A-2. Approval of Claims Submitted April 28, 2020 through May 18, 2020
- A-3. Approval of Non-Reverting Budget Amendments
- A-4. Review of Business Report
- A-5. Approval of Surplus

Less Coyne made a motion to approve the consent calendar. *Israel Herrera* seconded the motion. *Kathleen Mills* any public comments or questions, seeing none. Vote taken, motion unanimously carried 3-0.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS/APPEARANCES - None

B-1. Appeal of Park Suspension - None

B-2. Public Comment Period - None

B-3. Bravo Award – Cathy Meyer

Sarah Owen, Community Relations Coordinator the Department would like to recognize Cathy Meyer for more than 15 years of volunteer services, in which she has provided over 600 volunteer hours. Cathy Meyer has served on the Environmental Resources Advisory Council, participated in the Adopt-an Acre program, volunteered with Griffy Lake Nature Days, Leonard Springs Nature Days, and Dearly Departed Cemetery Tours. The Department is grateful for her time and efforts and is proud to present her with the May Bravo Award.

Cathy Meyer stated she was fortunate to live in a community with a wonderful park department and so many wonderful natural spaces. It is a privilege and honor to promote the actives and services of the department anyway she can.

Board Comments: *Kathleen Mills* thanked Cathy Meyer's for her time and efforts.

B-4. Parks Partner Award – None

Staff Introduction – None

B-6 Staff Recognition – None

C. OTHER BUSINESS

C-1 Review/Approval of Contract with Eco Logic LLC.

Joanna Sparks, City Landscaper the Department wishes to remove invasive plant species at Switchyard Park along the southern sections of the B-Line Trail, and at Park Ridge Park. The Department requires the services of a professional contractor to provide invasive plant management at the two locations. Staff recommends approval of this contract with Eco Logic LLC in an amount not to exceed \$13,552. Funding for the project will be from Landscaping General Fund.

Less Coyne made a motion to approve the contract with Eco Logic LLC. *Israel Herrera* seconded the motion. *Kathleen Mills* any public comments or questions, seeing none. Vote taken, motion unanimously carried 3-0

C-2 Review/Approval of Partnership with Summer Star Foundation.

Rebecca Jania, Natural Resources Coordinator 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 virtual and socially distance environmental educational programming through the Banneker Community Center in Bloomington for children in grades K-6 (the “Nature Day Project”). Staff recommends the approval of this Partnership with Summer STAR Foundation. Funding for this program is through Summer Star Foundation in the amount of \$4,860.

Less Coyne made a motion to approve the Partnership with Summer Star Foundation. *Israel Herrera* seconded the motion. *Kathleen Mills* any public comments or questions, seeing none. Vote taken, motion unanimously carried 3-0.

C-3 Review/Approval of License Agreement with OuterSpatial

Rebecca Jania, Natural Resources Coordinator the Department wishes to deepen visitor engagement via mobile devices in parks, on trails and at greenspaces. The Department requires the professional services of a contractor to provide data integration, training, and publishing to the OuterSpatial app, an outdoor technology platform designed to take advantage of the most innovative web and mobile technology. Staff recommends approval of this contract with OuterSpatial, in an amount not to exceed \$3000.

Board Comments: *Israel Herrera inquired* if the app would only be available in English. *Rebecca Jania responded* it would be available in other languages, and would depend on what language the individual downloads the app in. *Israel Herrera inquired* if Griffy Lake would be the only location where the app can be used? *Rebecca Jania responded* staff is currently considering Griffy Lake, Switchyard Park and Clear Creek Trail as location for the project. Parks and trails that already have interpretive signs are great pilot locations, as there is already information available to use. *Israel Herrera inquired* what type of engagement would be available. *Rebecca Jania responded* it would open a communication channels between park managers and park users.

Less Coyne made a motion to approve the partnership with OuterSpatial. *Israel Herrera* seconded the motion. *Kathleen Mills* any public comments or questions, seeing none. Vote taken, motion unanimously carried 3-0.

D Reports

D-1 Administration Division – Administrative/Community Relations Update

Paula McDevitt, Director presented the Administrative Update

- COVID-19 in March 2020
- City and Department services remained opened
- Department responded quickly to meet guidelines, restrictions and closures

- Department stayed in contact with Indiana Parks and Recreation Associations and the National Recreations Parks Association for support and guidance
- Parks and trails remained available for public use, and we witnessed how these sites helped meet the physical and mental needs of the community during the pandemic
- Staff quickly changed programing to meet the social distancing and stay at home order
- PPE was provided to staff, so they could safely continue their work
- Staff responded in a matter of hours to meet the changes as they continued to occur
- Staff worked on the frontlines while some staff telecommunicated
- Staff took advantage of the many resources available to them.
- Staff participated in the many in-depth round tables hosted by the IPRA
- Staffs attention was changed from reaction to focusing on the future
- Summer program guides where distributed, with notation to stay in touch for cancellations and changes
- Comprehensive plans have been made to safely open park facilities during each stage of the reopening plan
- The Department has followed CDC guidelines and worked closely with Monroe County Health Department
- The Department’s Health and Wellness Coordinator has been instrumental in research and planning

Julie Ramey, Community Relations Manager present Community Relations Update

- Department is utilizing virtual programing
- Banneker Community Center has been providing virtual programing for pre-school, youth and teens
- Banneker Community Center has their own website
- Community Events staff has planned several virtual programs for the community
- Natural Resources has provided a virtual series called “What’s in My Backyard”
- Social media has used to promote and inform the public of changes to the Farmers Market
- Staff continues to update websites and social media on any changes to programs and facilities

D-2 Recreation Division – Updates

Becky Higgins, Recreation Division Director

Farmers’ Market

- In April, Farmers Market opened as a preorder, prepaid, curbside pickup market
- In May, Farmers Market was changed to a preorder, prepaid, walk through market
- Will continue with the online Market as long as it is recommended by the Monroe County Health Department
- Future plans for the Market are being discussed

Banneker Community Center

- Banneker perusing programing option through the summer food program, that would help meet the needs of youth and families through June and July
- Banneker continues to engage residents and provide virtual programing to Banneker Facebook and Parks YouTube channel
- Banneker summer camp will have a different look, focus will be to provide nutritional meal to those in the community that need assistance
- Banneker will provide “Summer Camp on the Go” activity packets to the youth in the area.

Kid City

- Staff of Kid City has diligently been researching ways to provide summer camp in these unrepresented times.
- Staff of Kid City has used guidance from local health authorities, the CDC, American Camp Associations and Family and Social Services policies when developing a new camp model.
- Kid City Camp will have policies in place to screen participants and limit social circles
- Kid City will be group structured limiting interaction
- Drop off and pick up of Kid City participants will be outside, limiting amount of people in the building
- Strict hygiene and disinfectant procedures have been put in place for Kid City Camp
- Kid City staff will wear masks and will ask participants to wear masks.

Emergency Services

- In response to emergency services needs during COVID-19, discussion and plans were implemented for emergency childcare for healthcare workers.
- The Child Care Emergency Task Force reached out to the community for assistance
- Staff worked closely incorporations with other local agency to develop a pod concept of childcare
- Staff was ready to implement to three pods for childcare for the community
- Due to telecommuting, the need for childcare declined and the program was never used
- Those plans were instrumental for developing our camps
- Allison Jukebox Community Center has been utilized by the Bloomington Indiana Fabric Mask Drive
- Site was used to drop off supplies and picking up fabric masks
- The Bloomington Indiana Fabric Mask Drive will move to the Banneker Community Center in the near future

Other

- To maintain social distancing the Fourth of July Parade has been cancelled for 2020

Banneker Community Center Grants

- The Banneker Community Center is one of fifteen agencies nationwide, that has received a Parks as Community Nutrition Hub Expanding Access to Health Foods Grants from the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), with support from the Walmart Foundation
- There were three categories – Urban, Suburban and Rural
- Banneker was one of the five departments chosen in the Urban category
- The Bloomington Parks Department was chosen nationally, for support of our efforts to increase access to meals, provide nutrition education, and implementing a nutritional hub model.
- The focus is on addressing food insecurity, by increasing valuable nutrition resources to underserved residence
- Congratulations go to Erik Pearson, Cory Hawkins, and Jess Klein who worked on applying for this two year grant totaling \$80,000
- In 2019, the Banneker Community Center was awarded approximately \$200,000 in a grant funding from Regional Opportunity Initiative, Inc. (ROI) to enhance spaces within the facility, in support to becoming a community and cultural hub. The improvements are currently underway, and aided in receiving the NRPA grant.

Board Comments: The Board congratulated staff for being awarded the grant. *Israel Herrera* inquired what other departments were awarded the grant in the Urban category. *Becky responded*, the other department names have not yet been released. *Paula McDevitt stated* to be awarded this by the NRPA is phenomenal, this is the national organization that accredits parks departments and award the Gold Medal. Staff has competed at a national level, and will benefit from the training and support that will be provided by NRPA to run this program.

D-3 Sports Division – Project Updates

John Turnbull, Sports Division Director

Aquatics

- Ongoing discussions to determine if pools will be opened in 2020
- Staff have spent countless hours studying CDC requirements and the state and county directives
- The many professional associations, and pier organization have been extremely helpful to gather information and help intrepid pool issues
- American Red Cross will not certify lifeguards until social distancing has been lifted.
- The required classed would not be available until after July 4th
- Large mechanical operations takes a minimum of three weeks to open
- Pools must be inspected before opened
- Social distancing would be difficult in pool setting
- Water fountains would not be available use
- Deck chairs would not be available to use
- 50% bather load
- Swim lessons would not be available

- Staffing would have to be modified
- Use of water features would be unavailable or have to be modified
- Financial impact – the later the opening the larger the deficit
- Many public and private pools have already made the decision not to open their aquatic centers

Twin Lakes Recreation Center

- Front counter remodel is 95% completed
- New countertops and cabinets
- New rubberized flooring in front hallway
- New carpeting in offices
- Repaired and painted drywall
- HVAC replacement 75% completed

Twin Lakes Softball Complex

- Parking lot being repaved
- Parking lot being raised and berm included to help extend the life of the new pavement

Bryan Park Tennis Courts

- Repair of tennis courts scheduled in late summer

Green Yard Waste at Lower Cascades

- Green yard waste project to be used for City departments to dump debris, 80% of volume could be reduce by mulching before hauling away
- Lower cost of disposal
- Water issues and erosion issues would be improved during this project

Board Comments: Kathleen Mills appreciated the in-depth research and information provided regarding pool issues. Israel Herrera inquired how the physical social distancing would be managed around the slides. John Turnbull responded it would be difficult. The areas around the slides would need to be marked on where to stand, and the amount of required cleaning would be an issue.

D-4 Operations Division – Capital Project Updates

Dave Williams, Operations Division Director

- Projects have continued during COVID-19

Duke Powerline Easement

- Establish scope of work to add trail from Rogers Street to Weimer Road

Griffy Lake

- Fishing pier under design
- Six mile loop trail under design

Cascades Park

- Design plans for erosion control

Switchyard Park

- Landscaping is being completed
- Punch list being completed
- Remediating coal ash and cinder soil
- Pavilion inspections still being completed

RCA Park

- Over the years trail was damaged from storm water
- Tail was repaved
- Replaced pipes to handle storm water
- New boardwalk
- Paved service access to shelter house
- Plantings and cleanup remain to be completed

Waldron, Hill, and Buskirk Park

- ADA compliance accessible entrance
- Pervious pavers installed in front of stage

- Irrigations system installed
- City Utilities future project will have impact on playground and some trees

Crestmont Park

- Playground completely replaced
- Constructed in-house
- Vacancies have been filled with individuals with strong trades and construction experience
- Community Development Block grant was received to help with cost
- Shade seating installed
- Ready for ribbon cutting

Other

- Staff was determined as essential
- 95% have been coming to work and working on the frontlines
- Staff has been working on backlogged projects
- Maintenance has continued

Paula McDevitt, Director stated recently CFC and Duke Energy partnered, and awarded the department with a \$10,000 grant to improve the three mediums at Twin Lakes Recreation Center.

The community was encouraged to take advantage of the Lower Cascades Road Conversion Pilot Project, and to complete the online survey to give feedback.

Next Park Board meeting is scheduled for June 23, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kim Clapp
Secretary Board of Park Commissioners