



A-1
01-26-2021

Board of Park Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

Tuesday, December 8, 2020
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Kathleen Mills at 4:03 p.m.

Board Present: Kathleen Mills, Less Coyne, Israel Herrera and Ellen Rodkey

Staff Present: Paula McDevitt, Becky Higgins, John Turnbull, Julie Ramey, Kim Clapp, Sarah Owen, Steve Cotter, Bill Ream, Leslie Brinson, Joanna Sparks, Barb Dunbar, Rebecca Swift, Erin Hatch and Amy Shrake.

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A-1. Approval of Minutes of November 17, 2020 meeting
- A-2. Approval of Claims Submitted November 17, 2020 through December 7, 2020
- A-3. Approval of Non-Reverting Budget Amendments
- A-4. Review of Business Report
- A-5. Approval of Surplus

Ellen Rodkey 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 4-0.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS/APPEARANCES

B-1. Public Comment Period

The Board received public comment regarding respecting the process of making public comments.

B-2. Bravo Award – None

B-3. Parks Partner Award – IU Credit Union

Sarah Owen, Community Relations Coordinator, over the past 20 years IU Credit Union has supported BPRD through advertising, sponsorships, and donations of giveaway items. BPRD is incredibly grateful for the ongoing support of IU Credit Union and is proud to recognize them with the Parks Partner Award.

David Sipes, IU Credit Union Representative IU Credit Union appreciates the recognition, even though it is unnecessary. IU Credit Union is proud to support BPRD, and enjoy watching the programs grow and how much they benefit everyone in the community. This is something IU Credit Union is proud to do, and look forward to the continued partnership.

Board Comments: The Board thanked IU Credit Union for their support.

B-4. Staff Introductions-None

B-5. Board Member Recognition – Les Coyne

Paula McDevitt, Director - It is my honor to recognize Les Coyne for his 44 years of volunteer service to the Bloomington Board of Park Commissioner. During those years, Les assumed many different roles, as President, Vice President, Planning Commission Representative, and Board Member. Les has given much personal time, commitment and support to the BPRD. Over the years, Les has supported the youth, trails, and golf course. Les began as a Park Board Commissioner in 1976, and has seen the department through many landmark important moments, from acquiring land, opening new facilities, taking land donations, Gold Medal winner, creating partnerships. Les has left a lasting legacy of parks to all people in the community.

Board Comments: Les Coyne's decades of service are without parallel. He has had a hand in so many things, from the Switchyard Park, the B-Line Trail, the Clear Creek Trail, and countless other connecting pathways through out Bloomington. The acquisition of the Twin Lakes Recreation Center, and the management of Buskirk Chumley Theater. Les has been committed to all of the park users, not matter what their interest. Especial to children programs, and expanding access to recreation and summer time meals in underserved communities. Les has been a vocal champion of the Parks Department and the employees. Les has always been available to consult about meeting ideas, or just brainstorm about the future of a program or facility. The Board thanked Les for the many volunteered hours given to BPRD.

Jim Murphy, President Bloomington Community Park and Recreation Foundation - The Bloomington Community Park and Recreation Foundation supports the BPRD through fund raising. To put Les's time with the Board into prospective, since 1976 Les has endured five mayors, six park directors, in 1976 Elvis Presley preformed in Assembly Hall, and IU had an undefeated championship in basketball. Throughout those years, Les has done some amazing things. A lot has changed over those years, but one thing that hasn't changed is Les, who has remained steady and steadfast, and as committed as anyone could be. Les has shown his love and compassion for BPRD. Les worked tirelessly through those years to support the Parks Department and create good experiences for families, joggers, runners, bike riders, nature lovers who spend quality in our parks system. Know the Foundation will continue to carry on and support BPRD, as they have under Les Coyne's leadership and guidance.

Mick Renneisen, Deputy Mayor – Out of the 99-year history of the Park Board, Les has served 44 years as a Board Commissioner. This Board was formed in 1921 to preserve the 88 acres of land known a Cascades Parks. During Les's tenor, the property in Park's control now exceeds 2,200 acres. A couple of projects to give a since of why it is important to have a constant like Les Coyne involved. The first is the B-Line Trail, the project spanned 20 years in the making, starting with the acquisition of the property in the late 1990's. That project was initiated based on one of the many community surveys that Parks conducted, and still conducts, under Les's leadership. That survey in 1996, said building trails was the most important asset that was lacking in the community. Today, people still crave trails and trail connections in our community. That leadership, that constant of a Board Member that understood that and watched that happen over all of those decades has really been important. The second project would be related to the early property acquisition that happened for the B-Line Trail. That little switching facility adjacent to the B-Line Trail, happened as a result of a 20-year effort to acquire property, to Master Plan it, to have numerous community conversations, to have community surveys and to ultimately now see those results, the Switchyard Park. To quote Les "Reach for the extra 10% margin of excellence". Les always said that turned a good project into a great project. The community can see the result of that extra 10% of excellence in the Switchyard Park. Thank you Les, for all that you have done for the community, you leave a legacy that residents and visitors will enjoy for centuries to come.

Mayor John Hamilton – On behalf of the five mayors you worked with, the thousands of residents you helped access the parks and the millions of visitors who come to our community, we thank you. You have left a wonderful legacy.

Mayor Hamilton read Proclamation to Les Coyne. See attachment.

Les Coyne, Board Member, thanked his wife Ann, for giving him the time to be involved with this Board. It has been a labor of love and, it's one of the best volunteer jobs in the City. You have a chance to have an impact in some incredibly positive ways. That is what drove me for years. I could see the wonderful things that happened, it kept motivating me to help. I have had the opportunity to work with some incredible people, especially in the department. Bloomington is blessed, in a very important way, we have some of the best, brightest and talented people available staff

our departments. Especially in Parks and Recreation, they are able to provide an incredible product. It is a pleasure to be associated with it, it has been an honor. I thank everyone for the opportunity.

C.OTHER BUSINESS

C-1 Review/Approval of Update to Special Use Policy #13040

Paula McDevitt, Director – Special Use Policy #13040 is in place to facilitate individuals or groups usage on a reserved or special basis, as time, resources, and space permit, provided that the intended uses is consistent with department objectives, and is in the best interest of the City of Bloomington. Staff recommends making the following changes to Special Use Policy #13040: change wording of item number 3 to “Camping upon or otherwise inhabiting any property, structure, or facility of the department, at any time without a permit.” Change number 4 to “Any picnic, outing, or gathering reasonably anticipated to attract an attendance of over one hundred (100) persons sponsored by any person or organization, except as to particular parks (facilities). In addition, the department Administrator may designate areas where permits shall be required for groups of twenty-five (25) or more persons.

Becky Higgins, Recreation Division Director the Public Health in the Parks went very well. With the help our different partners, we were able to connect with different people and gain some back-and-forth dialogue. A trial period was conducted from September through November. The data is being reviewed and examined by BPR Health and Wellness Coordinator, and park partners to determine the future of this program for next year.

Paula McDevitt, Director; the program has illustrated that working in partnerships and collaborations works. We have the park, our community partners Centerstone, IU Health Bloomington, and the Monroe County Health Department along with the DROs and the BPD Social Worker were there every step of the way. It took that effort and that presence, that we will continue if this policy is passed. We know that it takes time to build relationships, and to talk to people and find out what their needs are. The program showed a lot can be gained from our partners, who are the experts in this field and area.

The Board received public comments regarding camping in the parks.

Board Comments: Ellen Rodkey inquired; why this policy change was brought up at tonight’s meeting.

Paula McDevitt, Director responded – the department is managed and operates through Parks policies. Whenever an issue arises, the Policy Manual is what guides decisions on how the department operates from facility management to programs. The department had received a sufficient number of U-Reports and phone calls concerned about the situation at several of parks. In addition, to the impact the amount of trash staff was carrying out of parks was having on the operations. In response to these concerns, Policy #13040 was reviewed and an update was proposed. Kathleen Mills commented helping people unhoused is a community issue, it is not just up to the Parks Department. Bigger forces are needed to work on this issue. A lot of those things are being discussed. There was an initiative out of the Mayor’s Office today, to have conversations going forward on how we can make a difference on this.

Israel Herrera made a motion to approve Special Use Policy #13040. Ellen Rodkey seconded the motion. Vote taken: motion denied 1-3.

Paula McDevitt, Director in order to review the items remaining on tonight’s agenda, an additional Park Board meeting will be scheduled before the end of the year.

D-Reports

D-1 Operation Division – None

D-2 Recreation Division – None

D-3 Sports Division – None

D-4 Administration Division –

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Kim Clapp

Secretary Board of Park Commissioners

WHEREAS, LESLIE J. COYNE'S long, storied history with the City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department dates back to January 20, 1976 when he was first appointed to the Board of Park Commissioners meeting; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure on the Board of Park Commissioners, Les Coyne oversaw the protection of more than 2,242 acres of land for the benefit of the Bloomington community; and

WHEREAS, Les Coyne steadfastly supported recreation opportunities for youth throughout the city through the expansion of programming at the Banneker Community Center and Allison-Jukebox Community Center; and

WHEREAS, his commitment to supporting youth has been demonstrated through more than four decades as a member of the Bloomington Parks Foundation Board of Directors, who provided scholarships for youth and accepted endowments and gifts of land for the Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department; and

WHEREAS, Les Coyne was creative and resourceful in identifying partnership opportunities to leverage the provision of parks and recreation services for the benefit and well-being of the people of Bloomington; and

WHEREAS, his dedication to expanding the city's network of trails both through trail construction and by connecting parks via trails and sidepaths has resulted in the city's signature trail system including the B-Line Trail, Jackson Creek Trail, Clear Creek Trail, Bloomington Rail Trail, and Cascades Park Trail; and

WHEREAS, Les Coyne's leadership on the Board of Park Commissioners has been pivotal in guiding the Department through the process of conducting community surveys, collecting stakeholder input, and developing no fewer than six, five-year Master Plans that focus the Department's goals on serving the needs of the Bloomington community; and

WHEREAS, Les Coyne played a key role in some of the most significant recognition received by the Parks and Recreation Department, including accreditation by the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies in 2001, 2006, 2011 and 2016, and the Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management as a finalist in 1999, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007 and 2018 and as a winner in the Class III category in 2007 and 2018; and

WHEREAS, the above distinctions would not have been possible without the thoughtful, persistent suggestion to "reach for the extra 10% margin of excellence" that Les Coyne insisted upon during his tenure; and

WHEREAS, for generations to come, the City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department parks and facilities will remain a fitting tribute to the remarkable dedication and accomplishments of Board of Park Commissioners member Les Coyne.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John Hamilton, Mayor of the City of Bloomington, do hereby proclaim December 8 as Les Coyne Day in Bloomington, Indiana.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have here unto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Seal of the City of Bloomington this 8th day of December 2020