



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
Parks and Recreation

A-1

8-17-2021

Board of Park Commissioners
Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 27, 2021
4:00pm – 5:30pm

Zoom Meeting

CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL

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

Board Present: Kathleen Mills, Israel Herrera, Ellen Rodkey and Jim Whitlatch

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A-1. Approval of Minutes of June 22, 2021
- A-2. Approval of Claims Submitted June 22, 2021 – July 26, 2021
- A-3. Approval of Non-Reverting Budget Amendment
- A-4. Review of Business Report
- A-5. Review of Credit Card Refund Report
- A-6. Approval of Surplus
- A-7. Review/Approval of partnership with Mad for My Dog for Drool in the Pool community event
- A-8. Review/Approval of addendum to El Mercado partnership agreement to expand event on to Elm St.
- A-9. Review/Approval of addendum to partnership agreement with Civic Theater for performance date change
- A-10. Review/Approval of service agreement with Raheem Elmore for touch up to BLM street mural on Elm St.
- A-11. Review/Approval of service agreement with Christina Elm for touch up to BLM street mural on Elm St.

Ellen Rodkey made a motion to approve the consent calendar A-1 through A-11. *Jim Whitlatch* seconded the motion. Vote taken: motion unanimously carried 4-0.

Kathleen Mills stated; agenda items D-1 and D-2 were rescheduled from the June meeting and would be moved up on the July agenda.

D-1. Bravo Award - Gillian Field

Sarah Owen, Community Relations Coordinator, BPRD recognized Gillian Field for her incredible volunteer efforts, serving as a supervisor to multiple Weed Wrangle events across several City park locations. Over 406 total volunteer hours were provided during these events. Gillian was a member of the Monroe County Identify and Reduce Invasive Species (MC-IRIS), an active and dedicated group that focuses on the removal of invasive plants species from local green spaces. Gillian had been an enthusiastic leader in helping preserve and beautify city parks. BPRD recognized Gillian Field as the June Bravo Award recipient.

Gillian Field thanked the Board for the award, and thanked BPRD for providing a great service to the community.

Board Comments the Board thanked Gillian Field for her volunteer hours.

D-2. Parks Partner Award - Choice Realty & Management

Sarah Owen, Community Relations Coordinator, BPRD recognized Choice Realty & Management as an outstanding collaborator and supporter. Choice Realty & Management had been a generous supporter of the BPRD Performing Arts Series and Movies in the Parks. The generosity of sponsors like Choice Realty & Management, allowed BPRD to offer

these types of programs to the community free of charge. BPRD appreciated the support of Lori Todd and Choice Realty & Management and presented them the Parks Partner Award.

Lori Todd thanked the Board, and looked forward to continuing the partnership with BPRD.

Board Comments the Board thanked Lori Todd for her generous support of BPRD.

B. OTHER BUSINESS

B-1. Review/Approval of Addendum to Marshall Security Contract for Parks and B-Line Trail

Tim Street, Operations and Development Division Director, on June 22, 2021 the Department entered into a contract with Marshall Security to provide overnight security at Switchyard Parks. Due to numerous security issues that occurred during daytime hours, staff recommended approval of the addendum with Marshall Security. Both parties mutually agreed to addend the original contract to add day time security patrols at several parks, facilities and the B-Line Trail. The addendum reflected the additional charge \$52,500.

Board Comments: Jim Whitlatch inquired: on the number of shifts that would be provided and the number of security officers per shift. Tim Street responded: there would be two shifts per day, and one security officer per shift. Jim Whitlatch inquired: how the security detail would be delegated among the parks. Tim Street responded: the security detail would shadow BPRD custodian staff at the beginning of the day. After that time, if no other area had been identified by BPRD staff, the security detail would make rounds to the other locations via a vehicle that would be certified for both street and trail use. Any necessary adjustment could be made to the route if needed. The security detail would be available during the day if situation occurred at a park site. A communication plan would be discussed on how staff would notify the security detail of any issues that occurred. Jim Whitlatch inquired: how Marshall Security would communicate with Bloomington Police Department. Tim Street responded: Marshall Security had direct contact with BPD, however in an emergency situation 911 would be called. Jim Whitlatch commented: Interaction between BPRD and BPD was encouraged, as well as for BPD to patrol the parks. At one time there were plans for BPD to patrol on bicycles. The events that had occurred in the parks were not acceptable. The parks needed protected. Not only to those who use the parks but also to staff. Tim Street responded: BPD had primary jurisdiction over the parks, and would be present in the parks to the extent that they would be able. Paula McDevitt, Director responded: BPRD and BPD worked very closely and would meet on a regular basis. The security hired, was to support BPRD staff that were in the field. BPRD maintenance staff and facility staff had been pulled off daily tasks to manage behavior issues or cleanup vandalism. The security detail would provide staff the opportunity to get back to their responsibility of programing and maintaining parks. Kathleen Mills commented: hiring private security for the parks was an extraordinary step and seemed to be the best temporary solution. Perhaps the substation at Switchyard Park would be staffed by BPD, and cut down on some of the vandalism and behavior. Israel Herrera inquired: if the type of vandalism that occurred was the same at each location, and if the public would have the ability to contact Marshall Security. Tim Street responded: hiring a private security company guaranteed, there would be someone in the parks with the training and appropriate background to look out for the users and staff safety. Safety would be the focus during the daytime hours. The vandalism was an issue that mainly occurred in early morning hours. The one security office during daytime shifts would need to be kept as a staff resource. The public would be encouraged, and would receive a quicker response by calling 911. Ellen Rodkey commented: this would not be a sustainable long term solution, and additional work needed to be done towards finding other solutions. Ellen Rodkey thanked: Paula McDevitt and Tim Street for providing a solution to protect BPRD staff, and thanked the staff for the work they do.

Ellen Rodkey made a motion to approve the addendum to Marshall Security contract for Parks and B-Line Trail. Jim Whitlatch seconded the motion. Vote taken: motion unanimously carried 4-0.

B-2. Review/Approval of Partnership Agreement with Trustees of I.U. for Urban Forestry Mail Based Survey

Erin Hatch, Urban Forester, in order to evaluate impacts of city tree planting, maintenance, and citizen understanding of the urban forestry program, staff recommended approval of the partnership agreement with Trustees of I.U. and Researchers Stephanie Freeman-Day, PHD student and Dr. Burnell Fischer. The Research Team would conduct a mail-based survey to gather community members responses related to the City's urban forestry program and projects. The Research Team would provide the City a short report, documenting the survey process and results. Funding for the project would be from the Bicentennial Bond Fund –Trees, in an amount not to exceed \$3,000.

Board Comments: Kathleen Mills inquired: if any thoughts had been given to a web-based survey. Erin Hatch responded: research was more supportive of a mail-based survey for more statistically accurate results, as the address are randomly selected. Jim Whitlatch inquired: what end result were anticipated from the survey. Erin Hatch responded: the survey was

geared towards what the impact of tree planting and other urban forestry programs have on people's perception of the urban forest. What was their own individual actions, as well as if people knew there were city trees and that BPRD took care of them. Jim Whitlatch commented: the survey could help us learn if the public knew about the penalties for removing city trees.

Ellen Rodkey made a motion to approve the partnership agreement with Trustees of Indiana University for Urban Forestry mail based survey. Jim Whitlatch seconded the motion. Vote taken: motion unanimously carried 4-0.

B-3. Review/Approval of Partnership Agreement with CanopyBloomington for Urban Forestry Programs and Events

Erin Hatch, Urban Forester, in order to bridge urban forestry management that occurred on public City owned lands and private properties, staff recommended approval of the partnership agreement with CanopyBloomington. Both parties would host joint educational programming and volunteer events to teach about tree planting, pruning, and any other relevant urban forestry topics. BPRD would allow CanopyBloomington staff and volunteers to conduct planting and tree work on City trees with the oversight of a Certified Arborist.

Board Comments: Kathleen Mills inquired: if CanopyBloomington was a new organization. Erin Hatch responded: it was a new non-for-profit organization that was developed in the last year. The founders were Sheryl Woodhouse and Dr. Sarah Mincey. Jim Whitlatch inquired: if CanopyBloomington was a local chapter of a larger organization. Erin Hatch responded: it was a standalone organization.

Ellen Rodkey made a motion to approve the partnership agreement with CanopyBloomington for Urban Forestry Programs and Events. Jim Whitlatch seconded the motion. Vote taken: motion unanimously carried 4-0.

B-4. Review/Approval of Addendum to Resolution 21-02 Bloomington Parks and Recreation 2021-2025 Master Plan

Paula McDevitt, Director, on February 23, 2021 the Board of Park Commissioners approved Resolution 21-02 approving the 2021-2025 Master Plan. In April 2021, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of State Parks request a final rewrite of the natural features section of the Master Plan. On June 2, 2021, Troyer Group provided and IDNRD accepted an addendum to the natural features section of the Master Plan. Staff recommended approval of Resolution 21-04, approving the 2021-2025 Master Plan Addendum.

Board Comments: Jim Whitlatch commented: the natural feature section was very interesting, and suggested using it as an educational tool. Paula McDevitt responded: ways of using it would be considered. It was also critical to have the approval of the IDNRD for future grant applications. Israel Herrera inquired: about the resolution number on the documents. Paula McDevitt stated: the error was discovered, and a corrected document had been sent to the Board prior to the meeting.

Ellen Rodkey made a motion to approve Resolution 21-04. Jim Whitlatch seconded the motion. Vote taken: motion unanimously carried 4-0.

B-5. Review/Approval of Service Agreement with Commercial Service at Banneker

Becky Higgins, Recreation Division Director, to meet Monroe County Health Department's requirements to serve meals produced in the kitchen at Banneker Community Center, a three bay hand sink and drain board would need to be installed. The project would aid in the development of a nutrition hub at the Banneker Community Center, by allowing staff to grow produce in the garden and work with community partners to provide cooking classes in the kitchen. Staff recommended approval of the contract with Commercial Services, in an amount not to exceed \$10,000. Funding source for the project would be NRPA Grant 201-18-G20010-53990.

Ellen Rodkey made a motion to approve the service agreement with Commercial Service at Banneker Community Center. Jim Whitlatch seconded the motion. Vote taken: motion unanimously carried 4-0.

B-6. Review/Approval of The Project School Discount for Bryan Park Pool Rental

Paula McDevitt, Director, The Project School leases the building (349 S. Walnut) from BPRD, and frequently collaborates on projects and use of Waldron, Hill and Buskirk Park. Staff recommended approval of Bryan Pool discount rental for The Project School on August 29, 2021.

Board Comments: Jim Whitlatch inquired: how it was determined on who received a discount, and would MCCS be given a discount if they requested one. Paula McDevitt responded: MCCSC had a partnership agreement with BPRD that

included discounted pricing. The discount request was not included in the agreement with The Project School, and the approval would allow for a discount to them as well. Israel Herrera inquired: who would be allowed to use the pool during the rental time. Paula McDevitt responded: it was a one-time event for the school and would be a private event host by The Project School. Israel Herrera inquired: was the discount offered by BPRD or did The Project School request the discount, and if another school requested the discount would it be considered. John Turnbull responded: The Project School made the request, and other requests would be considered. Kathleen Mills inquired: why the lagoon at Bryan Park Pool has been closed a couple of times during the year. John Turnbull responded: most likely it would have been due the chemical balance.

Ellen Rodkey made a motion to approve The Project School discount for Bryan Park Pool rental. Jim Whitlatch seconded the motion. Vote taken: motion unanimously carried 4-0.

C. REPORTS

C-1. Administration Division - None

C-2. Recreation Division- None

C-3. Operations Division – None

C-4. Sports Division - Cascades Golf Course Update

John Turnbull, Sports Division Director gave an update on Cascades Golf Course. During COVID-19 like many outdoor activities, golf participation increased.

Facility Upgrades from the General Obligation Bond

- Clubhouse and Banquet Room was completed in 2019 at a cost of \$1.3 million.
- Pine 9 zyosia grass fairway was completed in 2020 at a cost of \$241,000
- Quarry 9 zyosia grass fairway was completed in 2019 at a cost of \$199,000
- Ridge 9 zyosia grass fairway was completed in 2018 at a cost of \$185,000

Advantages of Zyosia Grass

- Chokes out weeds, thus less weed application was needed
- More draught resistant
- Grows best in hot weather
- Spreads when it grows so replaces damage
- Golf balls sit up on turf, thus making play easier and more to the liking of golfers

Analysis by the Numbers

- In 2020, the number of 18 hole rounds was the highest since 2003
- In 2020, the general fund gross revenue was the highest in the last 20 years
- In 2020, season pass holders was the lowest over the last seven years as individuals like playing at a variety of courses.

Menu of Programs

- Tee time rounds
- Outings
- Clinics
- Summer Youth Camps
- City Tournament
- Banquet Room rental
- Indiana University classes
- Bloomington North HS and Edgewood HS home course

Area Golf Market Influencers

- Indiana University closed fall 2018; and reopened summer 2020 at high end price point; The Pfau Course
- Hidden Hills closed spring 2020
- The Golf Club at Eagle Pointe closed fall 2019; re-opened spring 2020
- Rolling Meadows near Ellettsville and Bloomington Country Club competitors

For 2021, Cascades was off to a very good year. Year to date rounds were up about 20%, and gross General Revenue is up about 60%. Staff was cautiously optimistic about this, as the year end of 2020 was very good, and weather always plays a factor in golf. A draught or a lot of rain could cause golf to suffer.

Board Comments: Jim Whitlatch inquired: if golf breaks even, makes money or loses money. John Turnbull responded: money had never been made from golf. Direct expenses and direct revenue are accounted for. General Obligation Bonds or large capital expenses are not accounted for, and depreciation is not accounted for which is a very real expense. The mortgage on the Ridge Course that was put into place in 2000, has terminated. On an operational point, it was anticipated the golf course will break even. Jim Whitlatch inquired, if the banquet room was being utilized. John Turnbull responded: due to COVID-19 it had not been utilized well. It was a very nice venue and staff had high hopes. It was very effective for youth camps, clinics and outings, but there was a lot of capacity for it to be rented more. Kathleen Mills inquired: if IU was \$90 for a round of golf, what was BPRD cost per round. John Turnbull responded: it was \$30 through the week, and \$32 on the weekends. If a season pass was purchased, and a lot of rounds played, it was calculated at about \$15 per round. Kathleen Mills inquired: if the population using Cascades was local or coming from other areas. John Turnbull responded: there was a great mixture. Cascades was probably considered the local course, as well as considered the senior course. In 2020, there were a larger number of IU students.

D. PUBLIC HEARINGS/APPEARANCES

D-1. Bravo Award – moved to beginning of agenda

D-2. Parks Partner Award – moved to beginning of agenda

D-3. Staff Introductions - William Baker (Natural Resources Intern)

William Baker, Natural Resources Intern introduced his self. William was a first-year master's student at the Paul H. O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs at IU, pursuing a Masters of Public Affairs and a Master of Science in Environmental Science. William attended Arizona State University, where he majored in biochemistry. Before attending college, William was a Cavalry Scout in the United States Army and was deployed to Afghanistan in 2013. William was interested in the preservation and conservation of natural habitats.

D-4. Public Comment Period

Public comment were received regarding the vegetation along the trails.

Paula McDevitt responded: vegetation work in the area was scheduled for the week of August 9th.

Board Comments: Ellen Rodkey commented: Bloomington Parks Foundation offered scholarships for individuals under 18 years of age. Kim Clapp, Office Manager responded: \$300 per child was available through the scholarship program. Certain criteria must be met, and individuals must reside in Monroe County. Funds could be used throughout the calendar year for BPRD programs. Individuals could contact the Parks office for assistance with the scholarship application.

Paula McDevitt, Director updated the Board on the current programs and events. The next Board of Park Commissioners meeting would be held August 17, 2021, and would include the 2022 General Fund Budget request.

Board Comments: Israel Herrera congratulated: BPRD for receiving a preliminary rating of 100% during the CAPRA accreditation.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kim Clapp,
Secretary Board of Park Commissioners