



A-1

12-07-2021

Board of Park Commissioners  
Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 16, 2021  
4:00pm – 5:30pm

Zoom Meeting

**CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order by Kathleen Mills at 4:01

**A. CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A-1. Approval of Minutes of October 13, 2021 Special Meeting and the October 19, 2021 Regular Meeting
- A-2. Approval of Claims Submitted October 19, 2021 – November 15, 2021
- A-3. Approval of Non-Reverting Budget Amendments
- A-4. Review of Business Reports
- A-5. Review/Approval of Credit Card Refunds
- A-6. Approval of Surplus
- A-7. Approval of 2021 service agreement with Southside Rentals.
- A-8. Approval of 2022 service agreements with Above all Floors, City Glass, Commercial Services, Gooldy & Sons, Koorsen Environmental Services, Koorsen Fire & Security, Photizo and the Motz Group for Sports Division.
- A-9. Review/Approval of contract with EACI for mold remediation at Leonard Springs.
- A-10. Review/Approval of contract with Indiana Door & Hardware for installation of Griffy restroom doors.
- A-11. Review/Approval of contract with BCA Environmental Consultants for Switchyard coal ash removal.

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

**B. Awards and Introductions**

**B-1. Bravo Award - none**

**B-2. Parks Partner Award -none**

**B-3. Staff Introductions - Jaylynn Burney – Banneker Community Center Program Specialist**

Jaylynn Burney, Program Specialist, accepted the Program Specialist position at Banneker Community Center. Jaylynn moved from Fort Wayne, Indiana in 2018 to obtain her Bachelors from Indiana University. She would complete her degree in sociology and African American studies, in 2021. She served as the advocate for community engagement at Templeton Elementary school for four years, and began working as a seasonal staff at Banneker in the fall of 2020. She looked forward to contributing to the diversity, equity, and sense of community within Bloomington.

The Board welcomed Jaylynn Burney to the department.

**C. OTHER BUSINESS**

**C-1. Review/Approval of Tree Appeal at Bryan Park**

Erin Hatch, Urban Forester the department received an appeal from Stephanie Steward for the planned removal of six Callery Pear trees lining the trail by the Bryan Park tennis courts. Staff recommended denial of the appeal and to move forward with the removal of the six trees which were an invasive species. It was in the best interest of the City to reduce the Bradford Pear population. The Bryan Park perimeter path project would be a perfect opportunity and time to remove the invasive trees.

**Board Comments:** Kathleen Mills inquired: if there would not be room for the trees due to the widening of the path. Erin Hatch responded: it was more due to the fact the trees are invasive, and the perimeter path project would be a perfect opportunity to remove the trees. One of the main concerns of the perimeter path project, was protection of the trees. While these trees had been scheduled to be removed, portions of the path were designed to protect existing native trees. Jim Whitlatch inquired: if the project plans included any tree planting. Erin Hatch responded: the perimeter path project did not include any plantings, staff hope to plant some trees in Bryan Park to either replace these trees or other hazardous trees that have been identified. Jim Whitlatch inquired: if the trees would be damaged by the project if there were not removed. Erin Hatch responded: The new path could go in without damaging the trees, but removal of the trees would make work on the project easier. Jim Whitlatch inquired: why the Bradford Pear trees were undesirable. Erin Hatch responded: they are an invasive species and spread very easily, which makes it difficult to manage them in the more natural areas. They are a safety concern. Over time they have poor branching and poor form. Jim Whitlatch inquired: how the tree spread and why they were a safety concern. Erin Hatch responded: they spread by seeds, and the tree has several tight equally sized branches that causes failure to the tree. Kathleen Mills inquired: how long would it take for new trees to provide a shade canopy. Erin Hatch responded: the available space would only allow for trees with a smaller statured canopy. In the grander scheme of Bryan Park, trees of a larger scale could be planted in other areas and provide a larger shade canopy. It would be ten years or so before the trees would provide shade. Israel Herrera inquired: how was it determined these trees needed to be removed, and what would the impact be for the community. Erin Hatch responded: the decision to remove the trees was made when the project plans were reviewed and evaluated. Tree protection was considered, as well as trees that were in conflict with the project. The impact of the project would provide the community with a safer path. Tim Street, Operations Development Director responded: A big part of planning the trail project was, how to balance making trail improvements, preserve existing trees, and take the long term health of the trees into consideration. With the budget, the plans preserved trees whenever and wherever possible, some places the path was rerouted, some areas the path was overlaid, and other areas boardwalks were used. The invasive trees were located in a narrow site, and the trees were being removed in tandem with the path project. At one time the Bradford Pears were thought to be the perfect tree, and thought to be sterile. It was discovered that they were not sterile and spread quickly.

Jim Whitlatch made a motion to accept the recommendation and deny the appeal of the six Bradford Pear trees. Ellen Rodkey seconded the motion. Vote taken: motion unanimously carried 4-0

## **C-2. Review/Approval of Contract with Miracle for Waldron, Hill and Buskirk Park Playground**

Barb Dunbar, Operations Coordinator due to Bloomington City Utilities “Hidden River” project, the playground at Waldron, Hill & Buskirk Park was removed. Staff recommended approval of the contract with Miracle Recreation Equipment Company for the procurement, installation of play equipment, and the poured-in-place rubber safety surfacing. Total project for the playground replacement was not to exceed \$244,993.60. CBU would reimburse BPRD \$160,000 for the replacement playground. Additional funds of \$93,582.90 would come from the Parks General Obligation Bond to allow for additional improvements.

**Board Comments:** Kathleen Mills commented: she appreciated the children’s input, and the two play areas for the two different age groups. Catherine Diersing, Project School Representative commented: she was grateful for the communication for the planning of the playground and allowing the students to provide their input. The Project School was in its thirteenth year as a school, and had partnership with the Parks Department during those years. The Project School was involved in the plans of the first playground, and was very excited with the proposal of the new playground.

Israel Herrera made a motion to approve the contract with Miracle Recreation Equipment Company. Ellen Rodkey seconded the motion. Vote taken: motion unanimously carried 4-0

## **C-3. Review/Approval of Contract with Winterland Rentals**

Leslie Brinson, Community Events Manager the Department wished to provide the community with a new winter event. The event, Winter Lights December Nights, would be held for two nights at Switchyard Park and would offer fourteen different light displays for the community to walk through the park to enjoy. Staff recommended approval of the contract with Winterland Rentals for rental of the light displays. Total cost was not to exceed \$5,184 and would be funded from the Community Events Non-Reverting Fund.

**Board Comments:** Kathleen Mills inquired: on the size of the light structures. Leslie Brinson responded: they ranged from 2 feet to eight feet tall and 2 feet to five feet wide. Kathleen Mills inquired: who would be managing the structures. Leslie Brinson responded: staff would be working closely with Winter Rentals on the placement of the structures, and when possible they would be placed close to outlets.

Paula McDevitt, Director thanked Rundell Ernstberger Associates and CFC properties for sponsoring the Winter Lights December Nights event.

Ellen Rodkey made a motion to approve the contract with Winterland Rentals. Jim Whitlatch seconded the motion. Vote taken: motion unanimously carried 4-0

#### **C-4. Review/Approval of 2022 Price Schedule**

Paula McDevitt, Director the 2022 Price Schedule draft was presented at the October 19, 2021 Park Board Meeting. Staff recommended approval of the 2022 Price Schedule.

Ellen Rodkey made a motion to approve the 2022 Price Schedule. Jim Whitlatch seconded the motion. Vote taken: motion unanimously carried 4-0

#### **D. REPORTS**

##### **D-1. Operations Division - Goat Farm**

Tim Street, Operations and Development Division Director presented a project update on the Goat Farm

The property was acquired by the BPRD in 2007. A donation was received in 2020 for further development of the Goat Farm. In 2020, Mader Design reviewed and updated the original 2018 Master Plan. The updated plan was presented to the community in April 2021 and at an open house on November 1, 2021, the department accepted and considered community feedback. The plans will include the following:

- A completed loop trail with a .5 mile inner loop
- Increased nature interaction through new trails, seating, and rest areas
- Native prairie expansion
- Barn and silo exterior repairs
- No additional lighting
- Limited parking – 10 spaces with four being accessible
- Public art component

##### **D-2. Recreation Division - no report**

##### **D-3. Sports Division - none**

##### **D-4. Administration Division - none**

#### **E. PUBLIC HEARINGS/APPEARANCES**

##### **E-1. Public Comment Period - none**

Paula McDevitt, Director congratulated staff on the awards received at the Indiana Parks and Recreation Conference:

- Urban Forestry received the “Excellence and Use Improvement Award” for the Davey Tree Canopy Tree Keeper.
- Switchyard Park received the “Exceptional Facility Award” for the SYP Pavilion
- Mick Rennesien received the IPRA Life Time Achievement Award

The next Board of Park Commissioners meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 7, 2021

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Kim Clapp,  
Secretary Board of Park Commissioners