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Superintendent: Carl Malone

Muncie Park & Recreation Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 20, 2025
City Hall Auditorium

- (1) Call to Order
- (2) Pledge of Allegiance
- (3) Roll Call
- (4) Approval of the minutes from (April 2025) Park Board Meeting
- (5) Indiana American Water Prairie Creek Presentation
- (6) Superintendent Report – Carl Malone
- (7) Parks Programming & Approval of Events – Nikki Eckerson
- (8) Prairie Creek Report – Tawny Hall / Kellie McClellan
- (9) Friends of Prairie Creek
- (10) Old Business
 - Westside Skate Park Update and Rules
 - Riverview and Thomas Bathroom Update
 - Tuhey Update
 - Program Director Update
- (11) New Business
 - Board Contract for Summer Program, Tuhey Pool, Legacy Security (Tuhey) and Cardinal Community Swim Club
- (12) Action Items
- (13) Public Input – (3) minutes limit – Please state your name and address.

*** Next Park Board Meeting – Tuesday, June 17, 2025 (6:00 p.m.) - City Hall Auditorium**



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Superintendent Report

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

Muncie Parks and Recreation Department has been busy preparing for Tuhey pre-opening provided by Buddenbaum & Moore. They arrived on May 6th to begin the pre-opening process. However, the process was not completed and faced multiple challenges which delayed our pre-opening completion date. However, we received assistance from Muncie Fire Department, Muncie Sanitary District and American Water as they provided great support in troubleshooting our pool pumps and valves process allowing our filling of the pool to begin.

Tuhey Pool

Buddenbaum Field Representative (Vic) returned to Tuhey on May 14th to complete our pre-opening process. Parts needed are two flow meter valves, two read-out boxes (a.s.a.p.). Parts were called into office of Buddenbaum & Moore.

Y.M.C.A.

- Pool water sample provided by Y.M.C.A. staff.
- We are having mechanical problems at our wading pool (call has been reported to Buddenbaum).
- Buddenbaum & Moore will be providing a proposal cost for pit renovation.

Riverview Park

- Restroom bids have been sent out on Riverview and Thomas.
- On May 13th I received an email from Thom Noble from Muncie Sanitary District wanting to remove the splashpad drain out of the storm waterline prior to Memorial Day weekend.

Splashpad Update

- Halteman splashpad is up and running
- Riverview splashpad is up and running
- Tuhey Pool splashpad is operating as well
- Cooley and Thomas need pit hubs replaced.

Westside Park

- Restroom main sewer lines to be replaced by J-Bird, LLC
- Baseball field renovation work is starting next week (Randy O'Connor)
- Basketball court has standing water in spots (drain-out)

- Skate Park Grand Opening will be sometime in June

Cannon Common

- We held our 4th Annual National Parks Day on May 17th from Noon – 4 pm

If the Parks Board has any questions, please feel free to contact Carl Malone at the park office (765) 747-4858 or cell (765) 749-8490.

Carl Malone
Superintendent
Muncie Parks and Recreation



MUNCIE PARKS PROGRAM REPORT

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

NATIONAL KIDS TO THE PARK DAY

National Kids to the Park Day was held this past Saturday May 17, 2025 at Cannon Commons. It was a day of fun in spite of the high winds. We had games, bouncy houses and music. We would like to thank our community partners for making this another wonderful community event. Thank you to Thrive Credit Union for coming out and providing the two face painters, DJ Goldie for the good music, Dee's Creations for providing the 360 machine and inflatable games, Second Harvest, Walmart South, Girls Scouts, Girls Coalition Inc. We would also like to thank Dee's Creations, Heather's Creations, and Festival Factory for setting up vendor booths.

Muncie Teen Internship Program

We are looking forward to starting the program and having our first Mentor Day on June 4th. Thrive Credit Union will be there to discuss financial literacy and to ensure all of the youth are able to access their accounts through the app.

The youth are currently being sorted into groups to learn from and work with our partners this year will be Eco-Rehab, Muncie Community Schools, Second Harvest, IU Health Ball Memorial, the YWCA, Tuhey Pool, Walker Event Center and Negasi Gardens.

We have filled all of the Team Lead and driver positions and are awaiting a few remaining background checks.

T-shirts for the Leads and workers have been ordered and should be ready for pickup on Friday, May 30th.

Any individual, business or organization that would like to donate water or snacks for the youth workers can drop items off at our office Monday – Friday during our normal business hours which are 7 am – 3 pm and we close for lunch from 11 – 12. If you have questions about what can be donated as we have some participants with allergies, give us a call at (765) 747-4858 or email us at muncieparks@muncie.in.gov for more information.

SUMMER SPORTS PROGRAMMING

We are working on finalizing our sports programming for the summer.

FALL PROGRAMMING

We have the dates for several fall events and will begin planning those once the Teen Internship Program is underway. Kristina Harris the manager at Walmart South has been discussing partnering for a few events that will give back to our community.

Backpack Drive/Giveaway – with Walmart is currently scheduled for July 22nd in the McCulloch Cabin from 10 am – 12 noon. Donations can be dropped off at our office and bins will be set up at Walmart South.

Trunk or Treat – is currently scheduled for October 18th to avoid conflicting with the Ball State University homecoming.

Winter Wear/Coat Drive – with Walmart is currently scheduled for November 4th in the McCulloch Cabin from 10 am – 12 pm. We will be collecting new and gently used coats, hats and gloves in October to donate to the members of our community who need them. We will have collection bins set up in our office and at Walmart South.

Muncie Park & Recreation Board Meeting

May 20, 2025 6 p.m.

City Hall Auditorium

1. CALL TO ORDER- Brad Marshall called meeting to order at 6:00p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – All stood for the Pledge

3. ROLL CALL- Present were Brad Marshall, Shannon Powers, Mark Earvin, James Lutton, and Chandra Parks.

4. APPROVAL OF APRIL BOARD MINUTES-

James Lutton motioned for the approval of the April minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Shannon Powers.

Vote was taken by all Board members present. Motion carries. Motion approved by all members present.

5. Indiana American Water Presentation on Prairie Creek – Wade Amos

Wade Amos – Director of Operations, Kris Scott-Snell – Water Quality Lead, James Henderson – Eastern Indiana Operations Manager & Joel Rueder – External Affairs Manager were present at the meeting to squash any rumors about them shutting down all public access to the reservoir and discuss possible changes. He stated they value the relationship they have with The City and the Parks Department and want future generations to enjoy the recreational value the reservoir brings while sustaining high qualities as it is the primary drinking water source for the area.

Wade Amos provided a background on the history of Prairie Creek the agreement between American Water and the City of Muncie regarding the usage of Prairie Creek.

Kris Scott-Snell gave an overview on the recent water quality testing at Prairie Creek and past issues at other local reservoirs.

Wade Amos stated the possible changes at the end of this season could be the removal of the ATV and Horse trails.

The complete presentation can be viewed on the City of Muncie Facebook page or on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/live/9SYufiYCSFE?si=PK9NlhhU4I5i13Fg>

5. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Carl Malone, Superintendent

It's the super month of May, our busiest month of the season. It's the month we kick off our parks system.

We've been down at Tuhey Pool the last couple of weeks trying to get ready to open over Memorial Day weekend. We've had a few challenges along the way but we've reached out to Buddenbaum and Moore who did our pre-opening. We had some challenges but received some support from our Muncie Fire Department, Muncie Sanitary District and the water company to give us some direction in which way to go with our valves and pumps. With their cameras we were able to at least get ourselves in a better place until we can reach back out to Buddenbaum and Moore to finally give us the direction we should go but with all that being said we got there and so that was the most important thing.

The field rep, Vic returned on May 14th to complete our opening process and he had a few challenges. He and I went over some things that needed to happen in the chemical room, made the phone call back to the office and we're able to get some parts ordered. The owner came down today and stated that those parts should be in this week. So, we should be able to get those put in place and we should be good to go for Memorial Day weekend as I know it to be.

YMCA will be doing the water samples, they've taken one of them this week already. I think they're due to do another sample tomorrow. We had a few little problems with the mechanical at the wading pool that as of today has since been corrected. Jared from Buddenbaum was there throughout the afternoon in the midday and so we seem to have got that fixed and that wading pools being back filled and it's ready to go just as soon as we can get a second sample on the small pool as well.

Buddenbaum will be providing a proposal for our pit which is outdated per what they see around the state. They're gonna be providing us with a proposal to provide to the Board and then to the Mayor to have a conversation about what direction we go with that as well.

Riverview Park

Riverview Park restrooms as far as I know is out for bid. That's for Riverview and Thomas. On May 13th I received an email from Tom Noble of Sanitary District wanting to remove the splash pad drain out of the stormwater line prior to Memorial Day and I think that's been done. We've got some cosmetic stuff we need to do with some mulch in the playground area, a section of the sidewalk that needs to be put in place and then maybe smoothing out some of the dirt that's there.

Splash Pads

Haltman splash pad is up and running. Riverview splash pad is up and running. Tuhey splash pad is operating as well. Cooley and Thomas are still needing to have the hubs put in the in the pit. And those should be getting done. They may be on this weekend, maybe next week.

Westside Park

The main sewer line is to be replaced by Jay Jaybird LLC. They're going to be the company fixing our drain line running from our bathroom to our main system. When we get traffic at the park during the week, that's probably one of our more usually parks on the weekly. With all of the flushing, flushing, flushing with the old lines that we had it was causing problems. We've made two repairs already. So, it's time for a major fix and they're set and ready to go on that as well. They did their troubleshooting and will soon be starting that project.

And then we've had some conversation with Randy O 'Connor for baseball field renovation at Westside Park and as well as Heekin Park. There's been some requests to get some baseball play going and to get those fields up to par. The basketball court at Westside has some standing water spots and I think it's due to some drainage issues. So, we hopefully will be looking to rectify that here in the weeks going forward.

Skate park, that's what everybody's been waiting to hear as we get closer to opening date sometime in June. And if you ever went or drove by there, you see kids out there all day long, all evening. They just can't wait to get on and get some time in on the skate park. The community is looking forward to having that skate park open.

Canan Commons

National Kids to the Park Day was this past Saturday. There was a lot of wind, but we still were able to keep some of the bouncy houses up, though it was a challenge to keep one going. One was always falling and seemed to have some support issues, but we had about 75 to 80 kids out along with their parents. We went from noon to four pm. It was our first time having it at Candid's Commons and overall it was pretty successful.

Carl asked if there were any questions and Shannon asked if the signs have come in for the skate park yet. Carl replied not yet but he will follow-up to see the progress. We may have to do some changes. Some of the signs are the basic ones, just no dogs on the skate surface, just some real general rules. And then as we look into the extreme skate park rules, and that I have a ledger of pretty much everything.

Brad added on that same note, that ordinance did come before City Council and he had a few questions before the meeting from some of the council members, but overall it

seemed positive. And that should be up next month for a formal approval to get codified into the city rules.

Brad asked if there were any other questions for Carl and there were none from the Board. Brad stated he had a few. You talked briefly on pending no surprises between now and the weekend we're on schedule. Carl replied, yes. I was there talking with Jared today, and everything seems to be going in the right direction. They're hoping to get our water test back hopefully with good results. Other than that, we're ready to open up and meet that deadline. Brad added you mentioned you hit all the splash pads. Carl replied, they're all either ready to be opened or open for this weekend as well, except for the two, Cooley and Thomas. We've got some hub work that needs to be replaced and our mechanic was on vacation. He'll be back tomorrow and we should be able to get those up and going as well.

Brad asked if there were any additional questions for Carl, and there were none.

6. PARKS PROGRAMMING/EVENTS – Nikki Eckerson, Secretary

Just a side note on Tuhey, we did get the pool vacuum in as well so that is down there. We didn't really have one that was operational last year so it was kind of difficult for the staff down there to clean but it did come in. It has been delivered to Tuhey's so that should help for this season.

NATIONAL KIDS TO THE PARK DAY

National Kids to the Park Day was held this past Saturday, May 17, 2025 at Canan Commons. There were some high winds, but it was still a fun time. We wanted to thank our community partners for helping out with the event. So thanking Thrive Credit Union for not only coming out but also providing the two face painters who were there. They had the longest line until literally four o'clock when we were wrapping up and starting to break down the event. DJ Goldie provided the music, Dee's Creations provided the 360 machine and some inflatable games. We also had participation from Second Harvest, Walmart South, Girl Scouts and Girls Coalition, Inc. And then we also wanted to thank Dee's Creations, Heather's Creations, and Festival Factory who set up as vendors for the event. They all helped to make it a wonderful, fun event for the kids, giving out giveaways to the kids and their parents, so it was a very nice day considering that we were wrangling inflatables and bouncy houses from the wind.

Muncie Teen Internship Program - The Muncie Teen Internship Program is starting June 4th. That is our first mentor day and Thrive Credit Union will be there to discuss Financial Literacy with our youth and also to ensure they have access to their accounts through the app to make sure they can check their payroll every Friday.

The youth are currently being sorted into all the groups for our sites. We will be at Eco Rehab, at three of the Muncie Community Schools, Second Harvest, IU Health Ball Memorial, the YWCA, Tuhey Pool, the Walker Event Center, and also at Negasi Gardens. We have filled all the positions for the team leads and drivers and we're just waiting for a few background checks to come through but they have until Friday for that. All of the uniforms or the t-shirts for the leads and the youth workers have been ordered and will be ready for pickup on the 30th.

If there are any members of the community, businesses or organizations that would like to donate water or snacks for the youth, they can drop them off at our office. We're there Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. and we close from 11 to 12 for lunch.

SUMMER SPORTS PROGRAMMING

Carl and I are trying to figure that one out since we are down a Program Director. We are trying to figure out what we're going to be able to do, but we definitely are still going to do the big community events. We are working with the manager over at Walmart South on doing our second backpack drive/giveaway. That is currently scheduled for July 22nd at McCulloch cabin from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. If anyone would like to drop off donations for that, they can do it at our office and then they're also going to have a bin up at Walmart South. We also plan on doing our Trunk or Treat event which is currently scheduled for October 18th. Our partner for that wanted to avoid conflicting with the Ball State Homecoming.

PARKS EVENT APPROVALS: Nikki presented six events for Board approval.

4Everlasting Superator, Inc. – That's Zion Strong. He originally had his event approved for McCulloch Park for June 20th through June 22nd. They wanted to move it to Heekin Park for July 11th through 13th. There's nothing else on the calendar for those dates. He has provided his insurance. So, the only change would be the park and the date. So, moving from June 20th through 22nd at McCulloch to July 11th through 13th at Heekin.

Brad asked if there were any other questions from the Board and there were none.

James presented a motion for approval the date change and Mark seconded the motion.

Vote was taken by all Board members present. Motion carries. Motion approved by all members present.

Ashley Duke – would like to put on a Basketball Skill Camp on May 29th at the McCulloch Park basketball court. She's requesting the basketball court and the cabin. She is expecting about no more than 75 youth to participate. She will have security if you guys want them to have it. There will not be any vendors, but they will provide lunches

for the youth. They're not requesting anything else from the Parks Department besides the use of the basketball court and the cabin. Brad asked is that an independent group or she affiliated with an organization? Nikki replied she doesn't have a group on here, she only has her name. Brad asked if there is any indication of where the kids are coming from or how she's networking on those? Nikki replied no, but I can call tomorrow morning and find out. This event request was dropped off when I was out and it is for next week. But I can run out in the hallway when I get finished and make a call and see if she answers.

Brad stated with the missing details, he thinks we'd want to make sure that we require security on that. But overall, he personally doesn't have an objection outside of requiring security and asked if there was other discussion from the Board? Shannon asked in the advent of our new contracts, would an event like this require them to have insurance. Mark replied someone would need to provide insurance if it's a sponsored event. Security and insurance. Shannon stated the reason she brings that up is because we ask Zion Strong the same thing. I want to make sure that we're equitable and consistent.

Brad stated we've heard two modifications requiring security and clarification on the insurance. He asked if there was any other discussion or questions. If not, he would entertain a motion to approve contingent those items.

Shannon presented a motion for approval and James seconded the motion.

Vote was taken by all Board members present. Motion carries. Motion approved by all members present.

East Central NHA – put on three small concerts to promote community building and to promote a local artist. They are looking for June 11th, July 9th and August 13th from 6 to 8 p.m. Those are Wednesdays. They're expecting no more than 40 people. They will not have any vendors, but the neighborhood association will provide hot dogs, vegan hot dogs, pop, water, and chips. The only thing they are asking for is a portapot. I asked if there would be enough parking and they stated the majority of people will just be walking over from the neighborhood so there wouldn't be a large number of cars coming over.

So that would be Wednesday, June 11th, July 9th, and August 13th, from 6 to 8 p.m. And they're expecting 30 to 40 people. They said that they don't currently have a security plan, but if you require it, they will get it.

Brad stated he knows we've discussed several times about having a security threshold or a requirement. In my mind, this kind of falls right in that window of should we or shouldn't we require it. Obviously, if the event is larger than expected, that's something that we would need to request security for. He asked for discussion from the Board. Shannon asked is this the first time they've hosted an event, and Nikki replied it's the

first time she remembers seeing it. When I looked through the copies I had from last year I didn't have any but since I wasn't actually doing the presentations last year, so I don't know.

Chandra asked how different is this from if they were like West Side taking a shelter, so they don't have a shelter they're just doing a party like what would we require for that? Brad replied if it was just a shelter reservation, as long as it stays within the confines and sizing requirements of the shelter, it falls under a reservation. I think the direction I might like to see us go on this is that we approve the June event and see how that goes. We can approve the July and August contingent on this first one going well and reevaluate if we need to require security on the future events. I know we also had another neighborhood association recently that we did require that they're gonna provide the cost coverage for the porta pots. So, I think we'd want to match that as well. Chandra asked if the first event goes well, we'll just let Nikki know and she can just tell them to go for it with the other two, and Brad replied yeah, I think that would be the best way is we can improve all three contingent on the outcome of the first event. That will save us one more on the list next month.

Shannon asked what type of concerts it is, is it like symphony, and Nikki replied they listed solo or duo artists. Shannon asked are there no noise ordinances that have to be sought out or something like this? That's my first question, and secondly, 40 people is a guesstimate. I don't even know the size of Washington Park. So is there ample parking or are people going to walk. Nikki replied basically people will be walking over. Shannon added the event is early, 6 – 8 pm, it'll still be light out, but it ends at 8. James added it's going to be a neighborhood event, so, I believe we should move forward with June 11 and then let them know. Shannon added she knows the Southside Neighborhood Association has done similar events. Mark added maybe they could file a short report after June 11th so we have something to review. Chandra stated she thinks we should just go see how the first one goes and if it's 40 or a bigger crowd or more, then we would need to move forward with security. This is the first time it's been done, and we don't know what to expect.

James presented a motion for approval and Chandra seconded the motion.

Vote was taken by all Board members present. Motion carries. Motion approved by all members present.

Oaks Church – would like to use Halteman Park on July 12th from 10:30 to 3 pm. It is an opportunity for their members and members of the community to gather and enjoy pickleball, food, fellowship, and community. They are expecting about 100 people. They said their security team will be out. They do not plan on having any vendors, but they

will be bringing in pizza. They are not requesting any additional equipment or services from the Parks Department.

James asked if it is a neighborhood church and Brad replied yes. Brad stated his request is if they're providing a security team we need a name, and they also need to make sure that they relay to MPD as well who the security contact is.

Chandra inquired what would be the difference of this versus the last one? Outside of there should be more people and Brad replied the larger event is the main thing I see. Chandra responded she doesn't have a problem with the event, she just wants to make sure we're consistent. Brad agreed, yeah, I think that's really where we need to spend some more time on what our security requirements are going to be and what our threshold is. Chandra asked did we not discuss a number of what we would cap for what hits large, what hits small. Brad replied he thinks it came up, but he didn't think we've put a number to it per se. We've just had the discussion and certainly we probably can have that now if we want or if we need to kind of think about that and review with the legal team and understand what the exposure may be on event sizing, and probably talk to the police department to understand what their recommendation may be. Mark interjected the Police Department would be a good source of information. When we talk about security, I think it's really important for people to understand we're not necessarily worried about people at the event, but some of the events attract outsiders and we want to protect people at the event too. So, the security kind of serves two purposes.

Chandra presented a motion for approval with the stipulation security is required and they pay for the stages and Mark seconded the motion.

Vote was taken by all Board members present. Motion carries. Motion approved by all members present.

Grissom Elementary School – is requesting to do their annual Back to School Bash at Cooley Park on July 31st from 3 - 7 p.m. They are expecting 300 people. They will have security provided by Legacy Life Security Solutions. They will not have any vendors and the only thing they are requesting is restroom facilities. Since the bathroom is locked, I guess that would be porta -pots. This would be the third year they've done this or have requested to do it. Brad added we've never had any issues either and it's always been a good event. He added in this case the restrooms is outside their control and I think those should be provided by the Parks Department unless there's an objection.

Mark presented a motion for approval and Chandra seconded the motion.

Vote was taken by all Board members present. Motion carries. Motion approved by all members present.

Mary's Miles w/ Recovery Cafe – They are requesting to use Westside Park on August 23rd from 6 a.m. they end to 2PM as the hub for the start and finish of their 5K fundraiser run. They are expecting 200 people. Security will be provided by Muncie Police Department. As of right now, they have four vendors, they have A Team Concessions, and then local services and organizations that will be there giving out information. They are requesting the use of shelters three and four and let's see here to have the bathrooms open and 2 ADA porta pots. They did fill out a request for a waiver as it is a 501c3 fundraising event to help fund and operate their 501c3.

Shannon asked what would the cost be for all of the rentals and Nikki replied the shelters are \$53.50 each and the porta pots are \$45 each. Brad replied it's about \$200 and Nikki replied it's a little bit more than that because the portapots would be at least a two-day charge. So that's \$180 right there. The two shelters would be \$107.00 and then the portapots would be \$180. So, \$287. Brad asked if there was any discussion on the waiver discussion and there was none. Brad asked if there was any discussion on the event. Shannon asked to clarify if it was 200 people and Nikki replied yes. Brad asked to confirmed it was the MPD as security right and Nikki confirmed it says it. Chandra commented they've done this before or something similar right and Nikki confirmed they have.

Brad asked if there were any other questions from the Board and there were none.

Chandra presented a motion for approval with the waiver and James seconded the motion.

Vote was taken by all Board members present. Motion carries. Motion approved by all members present.

Brad asked Carl if there was any update or status on the Program Director position being posted or if they were still working through it. Carl replied he spoke to Patty before she went out on vacation. The Mayor and I had also discussed the first quarter. We're a little bit past the first quarter now that we wanted to start going. She has some apps in our office that we need to go through and then repost the notice and then start getting someone moving in that direction so that should be happening as long as the board is in support of us going in that direction. I think we're ready. Nikki and I are ready to start help assist in trying to find a capable person moving the parks in the right direction. Brad addressed Nikki stating she has done a great job picking up the pieces here and working through it, and he assumes Nikki's going to have vacation days at some point, so we've got to get on that. Carl added she's actually really done an outstanding job in the office, manning all the other duties. And then the summer work program, the interns, the interviews, and just helping out wherever she can and doing whatever is asked of her. And so, I definitely appreciate it but we are ready to move in

that direction. Brad asked if there was anything Carl needed from the Board in that regard and Carl replied not at this time. Just updating them that we are meeting with Patty to go through apps and start narrowing down some candidates.

7. PRAIRIE CREEK REPORT – Tawny Hill, P.C. Asst. Supervisor

Tawny stated it's May and we're starting to get a lot more traffic. We had a couple of large events over the weekend. I've gotten a lot of good feedback from that. We had a race and had some people here that had never been to the reservoir before and they said that they'll definitely be coming back. They didn't know we had such a beautiful place out there.

This weekend the beach is going open on Saturday. It'll be from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday it will be open the rest of week from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. That's also the launch hours. So, we do have the launch open seven days a week now.

Everybody's hired. I do have a part-time security position that could pick up a few extra hours that aren't filled. We could hire for that if anybody's interested. We do have security from 4 p.m. to 4 a.m. most days through the week and on the weekends so they're doing a very good job. They're not letting anything really go past them. They're not picking and choosing who they're going to enforce them to. They are doing an amazing job.

I don't know if everybody has that PCR security phone number, but they can call the office and have that. We have it posted all around the park and non-dispatch. There are some things you would want to call police before our security in certain situations. If you do call our security, it's just going to have the police come in just a little bit later, because that's what they're gonna do. They're gonna call the police if that's what's needed.

All the boats are in. If you have any issues with any boards, call us, we'll get a work order in. And the maintenance team will get that taken care of.

This weekend we also have the Catfish Pirates event. That's gonna be a pretty big event. They've done it every year, but this year we're working with Wesley Miller. We will have fire trucks out there to do a Touch A Truck. It's pretty much just to raise money for the veterans in our community. I know that's a very big need of ours. That's gonna start at 2 p.m. at the beach as well.

The beach is free again this year. We are working on getting usage of the card. In the past it's only been cash for concessions, so we should be able to use cards this year. I think that'll help us a lot.

I've been working with the Chief and Sergeant on Ironman and Fourth of July events. In 2023, we had 14,000 people attend the Ron Bonham Days. Last year, it was 21,000. So, Carly and I have been working really hard this week.

We spent an hour today going through the Indiana Health mass event walls trying to see what those rules are to comply at the campground and other areas. So, we're not so overcrowded that ambulances can't get in. I'm also working with Wesley on getting maybe the off-road Ambulance the little one like the golf cart staged inside the campground since they're staged at the beach so that we have additional resources that get the help if it's needed.

We've added some sand at the beach I know it's been a concern. There was a big issue with Windsurf. A lot of people were upset about the swimming, but we did add three loads of sand there trying to help. We do know that there's a rock issue we're going to address that start trying to get some of those rocks out of there in the past.

We've had a lot of people asking about more things to do for the children. So, we added George last year. He was a hit. He's been out on the weekend. Since school's about to end he'll be out every day. We're doing a rock painting day, June 6th. That's a Friday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. I'm going to go out there and do that with the kids. And afterwards, we're going to start a snake in the reservoir for the kids. And after we do the snake, like at the entrance, they can paint rocks throughout the year with their families and just go at it. We'll clean it up at the end of the year.

We already did to have a little bit of theft, but they were caught instantly that day and trespass. So, between security and police being on it, I really think it's going to be a lot better this year. I'm satisfied with how it's been going. So that's where we are.

Brad asked if there were any questions for Tawny and there were none.

Brad asked if Tawny had any events for approval, and she replied she doesn't and this is like the first time ever as everybody got them in early. That's good.

James stated he was talking to security and they're reciting fishing codes and requirements and the rules off the beers and they're pretty impressive. They've been doing some studying. Tawny added he told her he's read through all the rules and he knows them and he's like nobody can question me on these because I know them really well. He said he's read them several times. So now I'm messaging him just so I don't have to go through like the 15 pages. I need a quick answer. I'm like can you tell me exactly what this is and he answers it quick and sends it to me. So, they are amazing, Brian and Matthew.

8. FRIENDS OF PRAIRIE CREEK –Jackie Sciscoe

There were no items. Brad asked if they had elected a new President and those present stated they had.

9. OLD BUSINESS –

Brad announced we've got several old business items, some of which have already been discussed.

Westside Skate Park, we talked about that. The scheduled opening is for mid-June, and still working with a date for a grand opening ribbon cutting type ceremony. I know at the city council meeting, they requested that that could be on the weekend, if at all possible, and make sure families and kids could be there.

Riverview and Thomas bathroom update, Carl already highlighted that. I did see that those requests for bid are due in at the end of the month here. So, I assume those will go before Board of Works and hopefully see some progress here this summer to get those under construction.

Talked about the Tuhey update, I don't think there's anything else to discuss there. It is scheduled to open Memorial Day, pending any major issues we see there.

Talked about the programing director, looking forward to get somebody in that role.

Any other old business of discussion? I know we had some open contracts and some work we were doing through those and how those were handled moving forward. I know Shannon and Mark both worked on those. Mark stated we actually made really good progress. These are all programs that involve third-party providers and that means not the city, but the city's working with someone and as we worked to get the contracts reviewed and in place. One of the big things that was needing to be attended to was insurance requirements. You can imagine with activities of the kind that go on at all the programming, insurance becomes really, really important. And we have a number of contracts that are in place subject only to some very details, find details, so I want to report that to give status to the board, and I think those will be in place and ready to go in time for programming to start for the summer.

Shannon added our partner will be the Whitley Community Council as a collaborator, not just fiscally, but they've got a lot of educational goals and committees that are invested in the youth in in Muncie. So, we're excited to be able to work with them on this program and hopefully some other future programs.

We are going to be able to offer some programming this summer. For example, we'll have free learn to swim programs for all ages. We'll start with baby and me classes all the way up to adults that want to learn how to swim. They're going to be free classes and those will be at Tuhey Pool. We'll have information on our social media sites. And our partner with that is Cardinal Swim Club. So very excited about that program. We'll also be able to have Aqua Zumba classes, which have been very successful, two nights a week. And the only cost to be able to participate in those is the gate entrance fee, but you don't have to pay for the actual Aqua Zumba instructor or the class part, but just getting into the pool. So that we should have a nice summer Tuhey Pool.

Shannon added that Carl mentioned some of the challenges that we had at Tuhey, but it was really a city effort.

Brad asked if there were any other questions from the Board and there were none.

10. NEW BUSINESS –

Brad invited Joe Kucharski from the Sail Boat Club to speak about a dock feature available to Prairie Creek for shore fishing. He put together a package regarding a guard rail and seating for the new docks that would help with shore fishing.

Shannon asked if the fish have been stocked and Brad replied that would be a DNR question.

Joe stated the foundation would be secure and is accessible to people with mobility issues as well. This addition would put the fisherman approximately 20 feet offshore to be in deeper water. You could put curbing on it to keep people in wheelchairs safe. Every option can be expanded as it's the same material as the docks. Maintenance is minimal with easy winter storage. There are options for solar lighting or a swim ladder.

See attachments.

Shannon brought forth possible changes in pricing for Tuhey Pool admissions by \$1. That would make the adult price \$6, teens \$5, child and seniors \$4 and still keeping infants free. The prices have not increased in the time she has been with the Parks Board. This would help offset the costs of running a public pool for thousands of visits per season. James asked if this would be just to help cover operational costs and Shannon replied yes though the Parks Department won't see the funds based on how funding is set up. Those funds would go into the general fund. James asked so will it be used for the pool and Brad replied the budget is fixed and this doesn't change our budget unlike Prairie Creek where the funds stay there and can be controlled by the Board. This will not change our budget per se but this could give us another level to go before City Council and the May to request increases to the Tuhey budget. James stated if we're going to do it he would want to money to directly impact Tuhey. Carl asked that we look at the total operational budget to see what is needed as it hasn't been done since he's been in position. James asked for the Board to see everything before the budget request or increases go to City Council so they can support the request. Carl stated that can happen. He added there are several hard costs for running the pool that aren't taken in to account. For instance, last year we didn't order the pool vacuum we need to keep the pool clean as they are over \$5,000 and that's something we need a.s.a.p. before we open. That's something that has to come out of a park line item. Shannon asked if we are buying one and Carl replied we have to as the pool gets very nasty with the geese down there.

Brad added that's a topic we need to get more guidance on. Historically, the City administration from both sides have supported the pool and have viewed it as an asset and value to the city. He doesn't believe it has ever been viewed as a profit center by any

means. That's something that could be entertained in order to support the pool unless they are will to provide a budget that supports it and this may not be needed. He thinks we need to have more discussion on it. His goal would be to keep the pool affordable and wishes it could be free though that isn't possible. Shannon added YMCA members get in for free and Brad stated that's part of the agreement. James agreed we need an increase as everything related to the pool is going up including the chemicals and supplies. Shannon added there are hard costs for payroll and supplies that comes out of the Parks budget not the City budget and we should at least try to keep up with the times. Most of the increases are less than twenty percent and it's still cheaper to go to Tuhey Pool than it is to go to the movies, and you can spend all day at the pool. We have people that come from all over as it's the only public pool in the county. Brad stated he isn't opposed to raising the rates, there just isn't any financial benefit to do so at this time. James added he would like to discuss it again next month after they can get some clarity on how they can make that money go to Tuhey Pool. Brad interjected that is the main point is the budget is very tight and we're having trouble maintaining the pool in the current state. Shannon added from her conversation with the Controller the funds don't make it back to Tuhey's lines as the pool doesn't make money. The same goes for the cabin rentals, that money goes into the general fund. There is a non-reverting fund that maybe they need to have a conversation about with the Controller. Brad stated it is a conversation we need to continue to see how we can sustain the pool and see how the City will support that. Mark added with all of the parks and the pool it is a quality of life issue. We want the quality of life to be the best it can be because it attracts people to live and work here. So, any conversation about how we maintain the quality of life here is a good thing and need to take place. Carl stated when he and Nikki look at the water and electric bills it impacts the budget especially when you factor in the splash pads and pool. James stated we can't continue to grow if we can't take care of what we have.

Prairie Creek – There was a meeting between the City, Parks Department and Indiana Water regarding Prairie Creek in which they did air some concerns and issues they have. They did take some responsibility and ownership in their engagement historically in the partnership we've had. Their main concern was water quality and they also had concerns about runoff, erosion, usage, and expansion at Prairie Creek regarding amenities. They indicated they would bring a proposal before the Board and give us some more details to talk about what they're seeing, and the vision they have. He doesn't believe the trail was discussed in that meeting. Brad stated he spoke with Flatland Resources in the morning and he hadn't heard any confirmation either way regarding the trail phasing but he thinks theirs more to come on that. We've all expressed our interest and concern in making sure we're working within their guidelines and continue the good partnership there because if it went bad it could go very bad but he doesn't think that's where it's headed. Everything seemed very positive and open communication from his understanding. He wasn't personally in the meeting but those are the notes and feedback he received. He believes Carl and Mark were there and Carl added Kellie was there as well. Carl added he thinks they really wanted to hear from DNR in regards to regulations on what we can and can't do out there. He isn't sure how much their input has been before but things were put in place like the horse trails, ATV trails to see what we can do or what we may have to scale back on. They want to have a direction with the City and the Mayor going forward as a team. They don't want to see

an increase in growth, that was the only thing they did mention. Some of those private piers that were put in they want to discuss.

Mark added one of the things that was an outcome of the meeting is they want to come and make a presentation about Prairie Creek in May. He thinks in the interest of transparency for everyone here tonight to know that or anyone who sees it on the website it's really important because they have raised a good point. Like Carl said everyone is on the same team, that's the spirit of cooperation. We want to have it for recreation and they need to protect it for water supply, as seventy five percent or more of Muncie's water supply comes from Prairie Creek. So, the two things can coexist having a discussion is needed to ensure they coexist well. He encourages everyone to come hear what they have to say at the public meeting in May. We don't want any rumors and want everyone to know what's going on and why.

Trash – James asked about the trash agreement and Brad stated this should have been under old business as it was discussed a little bit during the last meeting was a trash interlocal agreement between Muncie Sanitary District and the Parks regarding trash pickup in the city parks, pocket parks and green spaces. Brad stated he did send that out to the Board this afternoon and it was reviewed by him and some of the other members. He asked if there were any questions or concerns to discuss or if that is something they would want to vote on. James stated he read it and spoke with Jason at Sanitation about it and he thinks it's a good idea as it will free up some workers to put on mowers when mowing gets crazy. Carl stated he and Brad briefly spoke about it and he wants to have more conversation about it, regarding the duration and other items. When he first came on we didn't have a trash truck and we picked it up on the back of the truck but before his time Sanitation did some of the pickups. Brad stated the contract would stay in effect until December 31, 2029. The only thing he had an issue with or needed legal clarification on is part of it states we would surrender our current trash truck to Sanitation and if for any reason the contract was terminated does that truck revert back to us. He wants to make sure we're clear on that because it would put us in a bad situation if we surrendered the trash truck to them and if the contract expires we're back where we were. Shannon added they also said they would provide tree removal every year for up to \$52,000 which Brad stated was the current agreement. Brad stated he isn't sure if that was a handshake deal or if it was solidified and Carl stated they had the initial meeting but he doesn't recall a MOU being drawn up. Brad stated the sooner we get an agreement the better as we're coming into mowing season. He thinks there are enough questions to put this on the agenda for next month.

11. ACTION ITEMS

Brad asked if there were any action items or event approvals and there were two names on the list.

John Reeder – stated he had two concerns and the majority of it is about Prairie Creek. One issue is the handicapped pier and the rail. The top rail needs to be dropped down so people who are handicapped or sitting in a wheelchair can fish off of it better. He understands why it was put on but if you're in a chair, you can't get anything over

that top rail. It just needs to be dropped an inch and it will still be safe. The fishing is the best it's been in fifteen years.

The other thing that needs to be addressed in an emergency boat ramp for when the weather is like it was today and you have a breakdown in the water and can't be towed right away. The best spot for the ramp would be the dead end by Burlington and you would have shelter back there.

Trash cans are also needed out there as people are just throwing their trash on the bank or ground. People leave trash out there all the time. Brad stated that has been an issue since we switched out to the large trash bins and is something we need to look into again.

He doesn't understand why the docks aren't taken out in time every year to prevent damage from them floating away or banging against each other.

Warren King – discussed the changes he's seen over the year at Prairie Creek. Back when he was growing up there was the Hunt Club, Beach, Sailboat Club and the Bait Shop were the only businesses out there. His issue when he called Mr. Malone he notified him he had two issues, one was the accessibility to bank fishing and trash was the other.

12. PUBLIC INPUT – Please limit time to 3 minutes.

Brad asked for those signed onto the list for Public Input.

There were no names on the Public Input signup sheet. He added he didn't see any names on the list. He stated he did see some new faces in the crowd and he appreciates that as we're always glad to have people here. He inquired if there were any other comments from the board and there were none. He stated there are no places to access the water. The few fishing places are littered with debris and have high brush.

Brad stated he appreciated his concern as this is a topic that has been discussed before. The fishermen are a group we don't actively hear from and we may need an active group to bring forth their specific concerns. Brad added this is something we can discuss as we put together the next Five-Year Plan.

Mark presented a motion to adjourn which was seconded by James.

Meeting was adjourned by Brad Marshall, President.

*** Next Park Board meeting is currently scheduled for June 17, 2025 at 6 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium.**