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(765) 747-4858
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Superintendent: Carl Malone

Muncie Park & Recreation Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 15, 2025
City Hall Auditorium

- (1) Call to Order
- (2) Pledge of Allegiance
- (3) Roll Call
- (4) Approval of the minutes from (March 2025) Park Board Meeting
- (5) Superintendent Report – Carl Malone
- (6) Parks Programming & Approval of Events – Nikki Eckerson
- (7) Prairie Creek Report – Tawny Hall / Kellie McClellan
- (8) Friends of Prairie Creek
- (9) Old Business
 - Board Contract for Summer Program, Tuhey (legal team) and Cardinal Community Swim Club
 - Westside Skate Park Update and Rules
- (10) New Business
 - Joe Kucharski (Sail Boat Club) – Prairie Creek Dock
 - Todd Swackhammer (Plant Studios) – Westside Skate Park
 - Tuhey Pool admission increases
- (11) Action Items
- (12) Public Input – (3) minutes limit – Please state your name and address.

*** Next Park Board Meeting – Tuesday, May 20, 2025 (6:00 p.m.) - City Hall Auditorium**



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Superintendent Report

Tuesday, April 15, 2025

Muncie Parks and Recreation Department has been busy the past two weeks clearing downed trees and debris. We also have started our mowing season at several parks. I met with TeenWorks to discuss both summer youth programs and some future collaboration efforts and partnership.

Parks Department

- The hiring process for seasonal help has started.
- We lost 3 utility people/ground maintenance workers in the month of March

Riverview Park

- Pickleball nets have been installed
- Restrooms – no update
- Splash pad pre-start-up will be starting soon

Thomas Park

- Splash pad motor has arrived
- Pre-start-up/install is starting within the next two weeks
- Restroom – no update

Tuhey Pool

- Work has started on replacing the roof on the old bath house
- Shade structures are being installed this week
- Water being turned on a.s.a.p.
- Buddenbaum & Moore is coming May 6th for pre-opening

Westside Park

- Softball field work has started
- Restroom sewer quote is being prepared by J-Bird, LLC
- Playground mulch is very low
- Skate park opening - TBA

If the Parks Board have 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, April 15, 2025

Muncie Teen Internship Program

Interviews took place from March 24th to April 4th and we will be notifying those who are accepted into the program via email no later than Monday, April 21st. They will receive the attendance policy, dress code, and information regarding opening their bank account with Thrive for direct deposit. Once the youth are sorted into their work sites any additional documents which may be required by their site will be sent to them individually. Some of our partners this year will be Eco-Rehab, Muncie Community Schools, Second Harvest, IU Health Ball Memorial, YWCA, Tuhey Pool, Walker Event Center and Negasi Gardens.

NATIONAL KIDS TO THE PARK DAY

National Kids to the Park Day will be held on May 17, 2025 at Canan Commons. It will be a day of fun with games, bouncy houses and music. We have confirmed the Bounce Houses, DJ, Balloon animals by Bob's Balloons, some games provided by Dee's Creations and the face painter will be provided by Thrive Credit Union. We are inviting the community and the Board to come out and enjoy the festivities.

Any vendors interested in participating in the event can email us at muncieparks@muncie.in.gov for more information.

NFL FLAG FOOTBALL

Registration for flag football is ongoing and we have already received a great response. This is our third year partnering with the NFL and 3rd and 11 to offer flag football at Ball Corp Park. We still have a few slots for the program for youth in K – 6th grades, so if you have a child that is interested you can still sign them up until Friday. They will be having the parent's meeting on May 7th and the season will begin on May 14th.

Any local businesses or organizations interested in sponsoring a team can email us at muncieparks@muncie.in.gov for more information or call the office.

SUMMER SPORTS PROGRAMMING

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

Muncie Park & Recreation Board Meeting

April 15, 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, and James Lutton. Chandra Parks was absent and notified President Marshall in advance.

4. APPROVAL OF MARCH BOARD MINUTES-

James Lutton motioned for the approval of the March 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. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Carl Malone, Superintendent

We had the storm come through and the staff has been busy with clearing and cutting up trees, making repairs, things of that nature, it's keeping us pretty busy. We still have a few trees still down and are trying to get everything hauled away.

I met with Teen Works for a general meeting to talk about both of our programs, what we each do and how many youths we each serve. We discussed having some ongoing conversation in the future to meet the needs of the youth with summer employment. It was a pretty positive meeting.

Staffing

Our hiring process is ongoing as we're currently down three employees and we have one going out on sick leave with some major medical concerns who won't be back until late summer around July. We are having to get some people in through the portal and get our seasonal staff in. We usually hire around May and they work until September around Labor Day.

Riverview Park

Pickleball nets have been installed. We still don't have any update on the installation of the restroom. Pre-opening of the splash pads will begin once the weather allows us to

get in there and do the work that is needed and get the water turned on so we can run some tests.

Thomas Park

Is the same thing. We did receive the motor for the splash pad and staff will be installing it and running some tests to make sure it works right.

J-Bird came out and was able to get the main water line from the street running into the park. We'll soon turn the water on to see how it goes.

Tuhey Pool

They've started replacing the roof on the old bath house. That work is being done with financial contributions by Community Development. We're hoping to get some more work done on that building as well. We appreciate all the work that Community Development is doing on that building and in the parks.

Our guys are doing work inside installing water fountains, working on the showers, and then we have some minor cleaning of the pool to do and we should have it ready to go by the time Buddenbaum comes out on the May 6th to do pre-opening. Barring any leaks or repairs we should be ready to go when they arrive.

Westside Park

The softball field is being worked on. The restroom sewer lines were a problem last year and the concern is as the park becomes full with visitors, and the skate park opens up that will bring a lot of people to that area. Last year we had to change out some pieces of that line and we don't know if it's going to hold up. We do have J-Bird giving a quote on getting that line repaired as it is a major job from the main sewer feeding into the restrooms.

Skate Park opening date is still TBA as work is still being done and we have some people in the audience that would like to come up and speak on that a little later.

Park Playgrounds

Many of our playgrounds are low on mulch. We need to get a truck load of mulch in from our provider to allow us to go around to our parks and replenish the levels.

Carl stated that was all he had and asked if anyone had any questions. James inquired about the restrooms at Riverview Park and what is the hold up there. Carl replied the last conversation he had with Flatlands was they were waiting on the City Engineer to bid the project out. James stated he thought Pridemark had already bit it out and Carl stated that was his understanding as well. He knows we will be doing some of the work, like plumbing and J-Bird is waiting for us to get started and determine the scope of what we need to do. He added he wishes he had more information for the Board but that's

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

Brad added Carl mentioned the splash pads and inquired if the plan is still to have them up by Memorial weekend and Carl stated it is. He isn't sure how that will work at Riverview and Cooley as they don't have functional bathrooms or changing stations. Cooley was damaged and we'll see if the neighborhood association wants to contribute funds to its repair. Brad interjected we opened the bathroom at Cooley and it was vandalized in less than a week. There was malicious damage to the toilets and restroom facilities and so it has been locked. Portapots have been put up for temporary use. He has talked to Carl and we are not comfortable putting the same situation back in so we have to look at a more industrial or robust replacement and we don't know how much this is going to cost, and we need to find ways to protect those assets from being damages. James added maybe we needed to just stick with portapots if the bathroom is going to keep getting vandalized. Brad stated we've had it down there for three years and it's been closed the last two years because of damage.

Brad stated we are continuing to work on. He added he knows we have some bids on the table for security options and additional cameras. He also encouraged the community to report anything they see to us or the police.

6. PARKS PROGRAMMING/EVENTS – Nikki Eckerson, Office Manager

Muncie Teen Internship Program - We have concluded all of the interviews for the applicants. We interviewed from March 24th - April 4th and we will be notifying all of the youth who are being accepted into the program via email no later than Monday, April 21st. I had a little delay due to a family issue that had me out of the office for a few days. We have accepted 110 of the 148 applicants and they will be receiving a welcome email that will include the attendance policy, dress code and information about opening their bank account with Thrive. Those chosen to go to IU Ball Health and Second Harvest will receive the additional documents they need to complete for those worksites.

NATIONAL KIDS TO THE PARK DAY

National Kids to the Park Day will be held on May 17, 2025 at Canan Commons. We have confirmed the bouncy houses, DJ, balloon animals by Bob's Balloons, games provided by Dee's Creations and the face painter which is being sponsored by Thrive Credit Union. We are inviting the community and the Board to come out and enjoy the festivities.

Any vendors interested in participating in the event can email us at muncieparks@muncie.in.gov for more information.

NFL FLAG FOOTBALL

There are still a few spots left for youth in kindergarten – 6th grade. You can still sign up until Friday. They will be having their parents meeting on May 7th at Heekin Park and their season will begin on May 14th.

Any local businesses or organizations interested in sponsoring a team can email us at muncieparks@muncie.in.gov for more information or call the office.

SUMMER SPORTS PROGRAMMING

We are currently working on finalizing our sports programming for the summer as far as softball, baseball, basketball camp, etc. Once we have that all nailed down we will present that to the board.

PARKS EVENT APPROVALS: Nikki presented one event for Board approval.

Muncie Black Expo – This event was already approved by the Board but they are requesting a change of date for the event to prevent conflict with another Black Expo which is taking place nearby. They would like to change it from July 17th – 20th to July 31st – August 2nd. There is nothing else on the calendar for those dates.

Brad asked if there was any change in the scope of the event and Nikki replied the only change is the date.

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 Shannon seconded the motion.

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

4everlasting Superator, Inc. – This event was previously discussed with the Board last month by Zion Strong. This is a basketball tournament he would like to host at McCulloch Park Basketball Court from June 20th – June 22nd. He is expecting 70 – 100 people. Muncie PD and Legacy Security will provide security. They expect to have food vendors and are aware they will have to get the permit from the Health Department. They also expect to have some retail vendors as well. The only thing they are requesting from us is 2 sets of bleachers.

James asked if those dates are currently open and Nikki replied they are. Brad asked if he is only looking for that one weekend at this time and Nikki confirmed that is correct. Brad added he knows he initially discussed having an expanded program and Nikki replied June is a tough month to have events as pretty much everyone else has taken the weekends by January. For now, they will do the one weekend and will see about adding additional dates in July and August but for now wanted to get this first one presented to the Board.

Shannon asked if Mr. Strong said they have insurance and Nikki replied he stated he does have insurance.

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

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

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

Halteman Village NHA – would like to hold a neighborhood party to promote community and engage residents in outdoor activities in the park. They would like to host this event on Saturday, June 21st from 11 am – 3 pm with set up/tear down they would want 8 am – 5 pm. They are requesting a rain date of Sunday, June 22nd for the same time period. They expect to have 100 people and have engaged Muncie PD & DSCO to oversee and participate in the event. At this time, they do not have food vendors but they expect to have some and will provide a list once they have it. They plan to post an open invitation seeking vendors, local organizations and small businesses. They also plan to have live music and inflatables. They are requesting extra trash toters (4), two port-a-pots to be placed at the end of the park, have the restroom cleaned and grass mowed.

Shannon asked if they are renting the portapots and trash toters or if this is something they want the Parks Department to pay for and Nikki replied that would be up to the Board. Brad interjected he believes in the past we have provided them but that can be a discussion. That neighborhood has had several fundraisers and made investments into that park and that's why they have asked for the waiver in the past. Brad inquired about the price for the portapots and Nikki replied they are \$45 per portapot per day. If you have a weekend event it comes out to three days as they typically don't pick up until Monday. James asked if they paid for them last year for their pickleball tournament. Brad replied he wasn't sure and Nikki replied she believes we waived the fee. Shannon stated she would like to ask they should pay for it. Nikki confirmed with Carl that the Parks owned portapots are available to use and we can put those out and have them cleaned and dumped after the event.

Mark stated for every event they should submit the waiver and it should be reviewed by the Board on a case by case basis to avoid slipping back into waiving fees without careful review. James added he would like to see the cleaning fees be covered for the portapots.

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

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

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

America's Hometown Band – would like to hold their free, public concerts at Westside Park on July 24th, August 14th and August 21st. They expect 150 people. They do not expect to have security or vendors. They are requesting four stage sections and were notified they would need to pay for them. James stated he believes last year we discussed this and they had to pay for the stages. Nikki and Brad confirmed it had been previously waived but as of last year they were notified they would have to pay. Nikki added they did provide proof of insurance as well. Brad asked how did they handle

security last year and Nikki replied they have never had security at the event. Shannon stated she thinks they should have security for 150 people, Brad agreed, and James added we're requiring everyone to have it.

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

Shannon 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.

JAR Community Church – is requesting the Halteman Splashpad area on May 31, 2025 from 1 – 3 pm to host a free community event leading up to their Kidskamp. They expect approximately 50-60 people and security will be provided by Tony Boze a retired police officer. They don't plan on having any vendors but will be giving popsicles away for free. They aren't asking for any equipment from us.

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

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.

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

Tawny stated they have been working on getting the docks in. It has been a slow process. We had to get a boat, then we got the boat and it wasn't running. We got the boat running and steering but we were behind. We could have been working on the wooden piers but they were all under water including the metal that went to them. We did have them come in and look at the damaged ones and have gotten replacement parts for the ones damaged under the warranty. That slowed us down so we will probably have some that get put in late since we couldn't do any one of them. It's still a little high and a lot of the areas we still can't get to the wooden docks. One of our maintenance workers has been out for a week as he lost half of his house due to the tornado and that contributed to us being behind as well.

James asked if the floating piers are secured now. He was out checking his camper and it looked like was banging up against the wooden docks. Tawny replied they are still where they've been for the last couple months as we just got our boat operational in the last few days. James asked if they are still incurring damage and Tawny replied some have been moved but the one he is talking about is probably one of the damaged ones that the parts are in the garage to be replaced.

Shannon asked how many docks will not be replaced in time and Tawny said they aren't sure at this time. Brad interjected it probably depends on the weather between now and

then and Tawny agreed. Shannon asked how far in the process we are, and how many have been put in. Tawny replied she didn't have that exact number but the guys have been out working to get them put in. Today they couldn't do anything due to the high winds. Shannon asked how do we get those wooden ones out the water and Tawny replied they just have to wait for the water to go down as they've had some very significant flooding out there that also shut down the bridge and a lot of the roads out there.

Tawny stated they have extra security this year. They have security at night from 4 – 10 pm, Tuesday – Friday and Saturday from 2 – 10 pm. They also have someone coming out from 1 – 4 am and 1-6 am on the weekends. We had somebody else set up for the weekends in between the shifts but that didn't work out but we may have someone to cover it. They now have two people instead of one and that should cut down on issues. The light poles that hadn't been repaired since the 70's are currently being worked on this week by Indiana Michigan. So, the area is lit up really bright now and looks pretty good. Shannon inquired about the hours for security and Tawny gave the hours again and stated it started April 1st. They do have the security phone on them every night which is an improvement from last year.

Brad inquired if move-in went okay and Tawny replied it did but the weather was a huge issue. They did the lottery today and all the campsites have been filled. Everybody who was drawn and they had to go into one alternate. They have until next Friday to pay and sign the lease. If needed we can extend it a few more days. As for docks we've gotten through half of them and went through about five of the alternates on the list. Half the people didn't answer so we may go through most of the alternates on the list. They have one ADA spot to be filled and the other two have been filled. Shannon asked if there is more demand than supply and Tawny replied it's hard to tell as some of the names are spouses. For the docks we may need to look at doing something different than the lottery in the future. The reason the lottery was good the last few years is because we were transferring so people didn't have a chance to get in without knowing somebody. All the people that have been waiting said they've been waiting so long they didn't even watch the lottery to know they got in. The lottery list is going down but there is still a demand for them, it just needs to be handled differently. As far as the campsites we started out with eleven and ended up with twelve but had one hundred and fifty people on the list. There's still a high demand in the campground.

James asked what is the plan for the security gates and Tawny replied one is working and one is not. She has tried to reach out to the company several times through different methods and hasn't gotten a response. She thinks they are going to have to find somebody else that has the knowledge to work on them as she isn't having any luck with the company that installed them. James asked if there was a warranty provided at the install as they've never worked and Tawny replied she isn't sure. They worked until they got hit and James stated they've never been operational by the campers that he knows of. He's never had to use a fob and Tawny stated they were operation from 11 pm – 6 am until they got hit. They were repaired and then hit again. The one that is leaning was hit. Brad asked if she's been working on that with Carl or Kellie and she said they've been trying but will need to find someone else to repair them.

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

Tawny stated she had a few events to present for approval by the Board. First, she had the Catfish Pirates/AmVet Post 12 to introduce themselves. Their event has already been approved but since it is growing wanted to discuss it to get more people from the community to come out and support. The event is growing and she has been working with Roger the past few months. They've been working with the Fire Department and they will have a fire truck and some military vehicles out there to do a Touch-A-Truck to get younger generations and families out to the event to support the veterans in our community. They help vets with many of their medical and housing needs.

Fishers of Men National Tournament Trail Indiana North Division – is requesting August 9, 2025 from 5:45 am – 4 pm. They expect less than 30 people and are requesting use of the parking lot by the boat launch to weigh the fish and a totter.

Brad inquired if they've hosted the event before and Tawny stated she couldn't remember. Shannon inquired if they're just on the water and Tawny stated yes besides the weighing on the side.

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

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

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

Old National Bank – is requesting to have their employee picnic on June 21st from noon – 5 pm. They've rented one the shelters and expect approximately 50 people. They are aware to follow all the health guidelines and they've done this several years. Brad asked if they will have vendors and Tawny replied they state they will not as they will be grilling.

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

Mark 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.

Chariots of Fire Revival – is requesting the beach by the bathrooms in the grassy area where we hold concerts. It would be a three-day event from June 12 – June 14th. They expect to start setting up on the 12th around 4 pm and to finish cleaning up by 10 pm on the 14th. They expect about 40 people and would like to have someone camp overnight to watch their \$10,000 worth of equipment. They are requesting the bathrooms to be unlocked and the space by the bathroom.

Shannon inquired what a revival is and was told it's a big church service. Brad said they're probably wanting to protect all of their sound equipment. Tawny added they said if all goes well they would like to come back over the years. Brad asked how other multi-day events handle protecting their equipment and Tawny replied each group does it differently. Some have people on site to watch the equipment but for IronMan the Prairie Creek staff is partially watching and they have people out there. Brad stated what they essentially are requesting is overnight access to the park during closed hours and Tawny said that's correct. James asked if that's outside of the fence and Tawny replied it is. Mark inquired if they have insurance and Tawny replied they do. Shannon clarified the person staying overnight is basically their security and Brad stated that's correct. Shannon asked if they are paying for three day and Tawny replied they don't have anything they are renting down there as there is no rental fee for that particular space other than the event fee. The event will be in the evening but their equipment will stay up. James confirmed they will be occupying the space for several days and Tawny replied that's correct. Shannon asked if that would be impeding on public space and Tawny stated not that area. The only thing they would be using is the parking and the expect less than 50 people and there are other events with the same amount of people in nearby areas, so they aren't taking up any more room than anyone else. Most people are only in that space for events. Brad requested she get the name of the person who will be staying overnight and Tawny replied they would also be in contact with security as well while there.

Shannon stated if they are occupying the space for three days that should be the time of the rental not just the hours of their event. Brad replied there isn't currently a rental fee for that particular space. Tawny added they have another event that's going on out there that sets up the night before and they have a tent too in order to monitor the equipment. That's a two-day event the dealership puts on every year. We haven't charged anyone in the past who have set up early but we can look into that for the future. Brad said that's something we've discussed in the past that we need to look into as the event costs out there are pretty nominal and are across the board without regard to the size. Brad said he charges Tawny, Kellie and Carl to come up with some pricing for event size and multi-day events.

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

James presented a motion for approval at the current event rate and Mark seconded the motion.

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

Family reunion – is being presented only due to the size. They have rented the shelter on August 9th from 10 am – 6 pm which has a max occupancy of 50 people and they are expecting 60 so they may need some space outside of the shelter. Brad added that is something that has been discussed before that if your size extends beyond the shelter occupancy size that then qualifies it as an event. That would then incur the event fee in

addition to the shelter fee. Tawny added they are serving food but there won't be any vendors.

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

Shannon presented a motion for approval with the event fee and James seconded the motion.

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

Tawny thanked the Board and presented Catfish Pirates and AmVets Post 12 from Royerton. Roger the founder of Catfish Pirates introduced himself and gave background of the organization which has been running on Facebook for 12 years. They've been doing this event for 6 years to help veterans. They have been working with Commander John at the AmVets Post 12 and since then the event has grown. It's a great cause and he's proud to be part of this non-profit organization which last year raised approximately \$11,000 for veteran needs and the majority stayed in Delaware County though some funds were used across the state. It is only used to help with veteran needs and has also been used to help with funeral costs for veterans. They've had a great response from the fishing community and last year they had about 240 nationwide sponsors. He is requesting our help with advertising the event.

Brad stated he knows Tawny has spoken highly of the event in the past and what we can do is to have them continue to work with Tawny, Kellie and Carl. He sees they have a Facebook presence so he encourages them to share on there and we can post it as well. Shannon inquired when the event will take place and Roger replied it will be May 24th and is always over Memorial weekend.

Carl interjected he will work with Amber the Communications Director to get the flyer out. Tawny added she believes she sent the flyer to Amber already but will check.

8. FRIENDS OF PRAIRIE CREEK –Jackie Sciscoe

There were no representatives present. Brad stated they have their Easter Egg hunt coming up and their next meeting will be April 25th at the Community Building.

9. OLD BUSINESS –

Brad announced we've got several old business items.

We've got the Summer Program, Cardinal Swim Club and Tuhey contracts. He asked Carl if we had any updates and added he knows Shannon has been on some of them as well. Carl stated the Tuhey contract was one they wanted the Board to review as it has been reviewed by him, the YMCA and legal. Brad inquired if the Board has seen it and understands it was approved either by Carl or the Mayor. Carl stated he believes Aubrey

has it. Brad said he understands we are contractually obligated at this point but he wants the Board to review it and that's why they've been requesting it since November. He added they didn't want to step away from the Y as they appreciate all of their help out there but our hands were kind of tied if we wanted to make any adjustments. Carl stated he doesn't know how many options we have if they pull out and James inquired if they will get a copy of the contract and Carl said they will. Shannon inquired if it's already been signed and Carl replied it has. James asked if all contracts were supposed to come before the Board first and Mark replied they are typically submitted for preliminary review and then signed after the Board has approved. James asked what happens if it isn't preliminary reviewed as we are basically skipping oversight by the Board. Brad said he knows the Board had some highlight notes they reviewed with the budget but there was no contract associated with it. Carl asked how many days does he have to get it over and Brad stated at this point it's already signed but moving forward they need to see it prior to it being signed. James inquired why they didn't see it or review it and Carl replied he thought it had been discussed before. Shannon stated they had questions about the budget in February because there were new price suggestions for different line items they wanted and she'd requested info on their requests to determine if this was based on a full year or the days from last year which was cut short due to the vandalism. There were questions that were never responded to and we never received answers about the budget. Brad added he and Carl had some conversations about what we do at this point as we are between a rock and a hard place. Even if we wanted to pivot or they wanted to pull out, we're so late in the game, what do we do. That's the biggest issue for him. He has faith the legal team reviewed it and there's no major legal issues in there. Mark interjected the solution may be to have the contract pushed to the Board tomorrow to review with the understanding time is of the essence and for oversight purposes should be reviewed. He has spoken with Aubrey and the contract has been approved. From a legal standpoint it is okay. He, Carl and Aubrey discussed it today so it can be pushed out to everyone.

Cardinal Swim Club - Shannon stated the Cardinal Swim Club contract was submitted to them last Wednesday and their Board is meeting this week to look at the contract. She hasn't spoken to their President since. Brad added he knows he and Shannon discussed the contract but isn't sure if he sent it to the entire Board but will get that out to everyone.

Westside Skate Park Update and Rules – there is a packet associated with that. It looks like this is trimmed down from what we originally had and looks like a good foundation to start from. He asked if there was any discussion on it and asked Carl his thoughts. Carl stated he wanted the Board to have some discussion as there is nothing out there right now and there are people out there skating though the park isn't open yet. There are no signs posted. There were some keep out signs but people are still out there. So, the sooner we can get signage posted out there the better. Because if someone gets hurt out there right now it will be on us.

James asked on the report a problem to Muncie Police Department, we need to add the dispatch number. Shannon added she knows we've discussed the language of signs. This is a nice list of rules but there also needs to be additional verbiage and need to get the signs up as soon as possible to protect the City. Carl replied he agrees. This is our first

skate park and we can look at other city signs as well. Shannon asked if Carl knows if other skate parks have times on them. She knows are parks are open until 11 pm and Carl replied what he's seen they are closed dusk to dawn. Shannon added we need to add time signage in the skate park as well, especially if there aren't any lights yet. Carl said that is stuff we can add. This is new for us and he's talked to the City Engineer a little bit. It will be open soon and it will be packed, so we need to get some signs posted.

Brad asked Todd Swackhammer if he had any additional information to share. Todd brought up some Indiana State Codes which may be used on the signs and gave examples of some other City signs. Shannon asked about fencing around the skate park and Todd said they only one he knows of that has fencing is Kokomo. Brad stated he believes Todd has seen the list and asked if he had any major concerns or objections and Todd replied he did not. Brad stated from what he understands the Parks Boards doesn't specifically have jurisdiction to make ordinances or laws, anything that varies outside of the current Parks rules will need to go before City Council to have enforceable rules and penalties. Mark added he wanted to give kudos to Carl as he is trying very hard to get ahead of this first-time venture. They've had several conversations about security and lighting so any input from people knowledgeable about skate boarding or other skate parks will be very important. We have a situation where the park has come up and we're trying to catch up to make sure we have the rules, regulations, and notices. He wants to give Carl a lot of credit because he has been concerned about that and working towards that for a number of months.

Brad asked if there were any additional questions and there were none.

Shannon inquired about action items and wanted to know if they could order signage in the next month. Brad replied they could get through the rules and go through the process to have them approved by City Council. He believes they can reference the state code on extreme sports, and doesn't see anything that could be objected to. It's just the enforcement portion which was an issue the police had at Prairie Creek. Where it's a rule that isn't codified anywhere so there's no enforcement and it's more of a suggestion. He believes we need to add on the sign that all city park rules apply regarding hours, firearms, graffiti, etc. Shannon said that would mean it would be open until 11 pm and Brad stated that's correct until they go through the process to have it modified through City Council. Carl added in his conversation with the City Engineer the skate park will definitely be from dusk to dawn and there is no support at this time for lighting or security cameras. Brad stated we all agree on that but until City Council approves it there is nothing to enforce it. Shannon asked if Carl wanted the Board to take it on and Carl replied they can take it on as a team. He added he and Nikki have been trying to get a definite opening date but they haven't received a response. Brad added he knows it's getting close. Mark asked Todd for the State Code again and they stated they would look into it. Todd added he will send over some of the pics he has of signs at other parks. Shannon asked if they could work to get it before City Council in May and Brad thought that would be tight.

Brad asked if the Board had any issue with the rules as presented adding a reference to the State Code, adding dusk to dawn and dispatch contact to the rules. He inquired if

there were anything else they want to add and to the rules and stated they still have time to add but wanted to take a vote on these preliminary rules with those additions.

Brad stated if there were no additional concerns he would entertain a motion to approve these preliminary rules with the additions.

Mark presented a motion for approval with the event fee and Shannon seconded the motion.

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

Todd stated he has been approached by several community members and skateboard buddies to solidify the Muncie Skate Park Coalition which will be comprised of volunteers to help maintain the integrity of the Muncie Skate Park. He shared their mission statement which includes working with the Parks Department to ensure the park is inclusive and maintained. He requested approval from the Board to move forward. They would have monthly updates and want to create a QR code so people can check in to show usage of the park and where they are from. Brad asked if it would be like a digital guestbook and Todd said it would be. Brad said he thinks it's a great idea as they've seen the success we've had working with The Friends of Prairie Creek and sees this as another great venture. The Board has discussed this is another venture we can build and work together. Brad stated there was nothing for the Board to vote on but to keep the Board involved in things as they come up. Todd stated they wanted to do some fundraisers, demos by professional skaters, company sponsors, etc. Brad added this is another amenity for us to have events out there and to build usage in the parks.

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 Mayor 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 May 20, 2025 at 6 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium.**