



811 E. Centennial Avenue

Muncie, IN. 47303

(765) 747-4858

[cityofmuncie.com/parks-deparment-muncie.htm](http://cityofmuncie.com/parks-deparment-muncie.htm)

[muncieparks@muncie.in.gov](mailto:muncieparks@muncie.in.gov)

Superintendent: Carl Malone

## **Muncie Park & Recreation Board Meeting**

**Tuesday, July 15, 2025**

**City Hall Auditorium**

- (1) Call to Order
- (2) Pledge of Allegiance
- (3) Roll Call
- (4) Approval of the minutes from June 2025 Park Board Meeting
- (5) Superintendent Report – Carl Malone
- (6) Parks Programming & Approval of Events – Nikki Eckerson
- (7) Prairie Creek Report –Kellie McClellan
- (8) Friends of Prairie Creek
- (9) Old Business
  - Tuhey Pool Update
- (10) New Business
  - Prairie Creek Rate Review (docks and campsites)
  - PCR West side closing per request of Water Company
  - Suspension of the lottery for the 2026 season
  - Rules change to suspend transfers
  - 5 Year Master Plan
  - PCR Budget
  - PCR Winter Storage
  - Audio Navigation for Parks
- (11) Action Items
- (12) Public Input – (3) minutes limit – Please state your name and address.

**\* Next Park Board Meeting – Tuesday, August 19, 2025 (6:00 p.m.) - City Hall Auditorium**



811 E. Centennial Avenue  
Muncie, IN. 47303  
(765) 747-4858  
muncie.in.gov  
Superintendent: Carl Malone

## Superintendent Report

Tuesday, July 15, 2025

Muncie Parks and Urban Forestry Department have been busy clearing and removing fallen trees and debris from several city parks. We also have been very busy with our mowing season. Our office received multiple complaints about grass needing to be mowed. We are finally caught up on all of our mowing. We also assisted with event set ups for Ron Bonham Day, Iron Man 2025 and Zion Strong's Annual Open Men's Basketball Tournament.

Park signs are now posted on the splash pads (No Pets)

### **Tuhey Pool**

- Changes have been made to how many people are allowed in has been great to manage.
- Youth under the age of 17 years old must be accompanied by an adult
- Adjustments have been made to the hours for open swim

### **Thomas Park**

- The splash pad is working fine
- Restroom renovation work has started
- Mowing has been completed

### **Halteman Community Park**

- Shelter rental has increased this year.
- Restroom renovation work has not been completed
- Pickleball courts are being used daily

### **Riverview Park**

- Restroom renovation work is out for bid
- Water shut-off signs need to be posted
- Timeline to start the restroom work is 2 – 4 weeks

### **Heekin Park**

- Basketball court lights are not working
- Needs a park sign posted at 9<sup>th</sup> and Hackley
- Dog park drinking unit needs to be ordered and installed

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, July 15, 2025

### **Muncie Teen Internship Program**

This is the final week of the program and we will have our culmination ceremony on Friday at Northside Middle School. It will be our awards ceremony and luncheon.

Four of our Team Leads and eleven of our youth workers volunteered to come in this past Saturday and work out at Prairie Creek for IronMan. We greatly appreciate them for showing up and helping as needed.

### **SUMMER PROGRAMMING**

Baseball and Softball camps with Randy O'Connor of The Barn Academy has been ongoing at Gainbridge Field on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Our Youth Basketball League had signups last Wednesday and Thursday at McCulloch Park and began yesterday at the McCulloch Park basketball court.

The Muncie Chapter Black Expo Youth Basketball Tournament will have signups on July 31<sup>st</sup> from 5 – 7 pm at the Heekin Basketball Court. This will be for boys and girls teams for 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders. The tournament begins on August 1<sup>st</sup> at 10 am and the championship game will be played on August 2 at 10 am.

Backpack Drive/Giveaway – with Walmart is currently scheduled for July 22<sup>nd</sup> in the McCulloch Cabin from 10 am – 12 noon. Donations can be dropped off at our office up until the 21<sup>st</sup> and Walmart South has a table set up if anyone wants to go by there and purchase supplies to be donated.

### **FALL PROGRAMMING**

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

We will be discussing with Kristina and Tiffany of Walmart South about moving forward with the Winter Wear/Coat Drive. It is currently scheduled for November 4<sup>th</sup> 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**

**July 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. MOMENT OF SILENCE** – Brad addressed the Board and those present and stated before we do the roll call, I would like to read a brief statement and make an acknowledgement and then have a moment of silence for an athlete that participated in the Ironman this past weekend and unfortunately passed away. This statement was from the Ironman 7.3 of Muncie, shared on their social media and online. “It is with great sadness to share the passing of a race participant who competed in this past weekend's Ironman Muncie triathlon. During the swim portion of Sunday's race, water safety personnel recognized the athlete requiring medical attention. The athlete was attended to and provided immediate medical care by water safety personnel before being transported to the nearby hospital for further treatment. The athlete sadly passed away Monday. Our deepest sympathies are with the family and friends of the athlete, and we continue to offer them our support as they go through a very difficult time. Our gratitude goes to the water safety personnel and first responders for their quick work in assisting the athlete.”

Brad added we had a good event but unfortunately, we did have a medical issue with the passing away of an athlete so I want to just take a brief moment, recognize him and his family as they're dealing with that currently.

**4. ROLL CALL-** Present were Brad Marshall, Shannon Powers, and Chandra Parks. Mark Ervin arrived late at 6:25 pm. James Lutton was absent.

## **5. APPROVAL OF JUNE BOARD MINUTES & EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chandra motioned for the approval of the June 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.**

## **6. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Carl Malone, Superintendent**

Carl stated before he presented his report he would like to bring up Ken Hudson of the Whitely Neighborhood Association, to introduce him and to say thank you to his team and Board for stepping up in a short timeframe to assist with our summer program. It was really crucial that we found an organization that was willing to sit down and go through the process to put us in a better place. When I think about 110 kids and 110 families and that the Parks Board receives good reviews about the six weeks. There were some bumps and roads along the way this year but Nikki, Shannon, I and the rest of team will discuss that going forward.

Ken Hudson Director for the of the Whitely Community Council addressed the Board stating he can't add much to that. I'm just grateful for the opportunity to be able to help out and the same for the Whitely Neighborhood Association. We're not trying to receive any special pat on the back or accolades. We're just trying to do what's best for our community and others around us. We saw a need, we saw where we could answer a need and after some adjustments that we thought would make the partnership go a lot smoother, we were able to help out the Parks and Recreation Department and make sure they had their summer program taking place. But other than that, we're just glad to be able to support the city and the Parks and Recreation Department. I'll answer any questions that anybody may have. We don't do any of the programming. We're just the fiscal agent. So, we just had to make sure that everything was being run smoothly from that aspect. And we believe that they are. We've even established an account where the City does their banking or I should say where the Parks Program does its banking so that transactions could be smooth and we reduced the amount of paper and there's more digital transactions and it's effortless and that it'll work out for everybody.

Brad asked if there were any questions for Mr. Hudson and there were none. Chandra thanked Mr. Hudson for being willing to serve our community. Brad thanked him and the Whitely Neighborhood Association for a great partnership. He added he knows that's one of the things Carl's worked through is partnering with these Neighborhood Associations and really reaching out to the community. So, thank you for that. And we look forward to continuing the partnership and the relationship we've got.

Carl introduced Misty Raines to the Board who will be assisting in operations at Prairie Creek during the time that we have some medical issues in our office there. And then we'll look forward to long-term goals following that.

Misty introduced herself to the Board and thanked them for inviting her to speak. She stated she will be acting as the Interim Operations Manager for Prairie Creek over the next several months. I have a background with a degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Management from Ball State and experience working at Summit Lake State Park as well as Mountain State Park. I hope to use some of my skills and education to help in this role for the next several months.

Brad thanked Misty for stepping in as I know it has been a busy couple of weeks so if you have any questions don't hesitate to reach out to us and you're in good hands with Carl and Kellie.

We've been busy clearing and removing fallen trees and debris from several city parks. We have also been very busy with our mowing season. We're still in the process of cleaning some parks up, but we're trying to do it and keep the mowing up as well and so we are steady at work at policing up our parks and getting our parks in a better shape. Our office received multiple complaints about grass needing to be mowed as we had fallen behind due to some mowers being down and a lot of rain was coming down. We are finally caught up on all of our mowing. We had a meeting today with everybody in the office and everybody felt pretty good about where we are with our parks right now. There's not a park that is not in need of mowing other than us touching it up and beautifying. We're getting a lot of weeding done with our weeding team. So, we're glad to catch up and get ahead.

We finally got a chance to assist for Ron Bonham Day this year with our staff. We were behind the scenes doing a lot of the setup. And Patty from the HR department was also helpful as she helped run the concession stand as they were short staffed out there. I was out there during the morning for the Bass Fishing Tournament and stayed out with those guys all morning and was there at the end to take some photos and greet those guys that they were out there on the water. We appreciate having the opportunity to partner with Ron Bonham Day every year and Iron Man. The Mayor asked me to fill in for him at Heekin Park. He was a judge for the Zion Strong Basketball Tournament.

Kelly and some of our summer youth program kids got together and they all were able to go out to Iron Man and help assist this year out there as well as I stayed at Heekin Park at the basketball tournament. Things went well, didn't have much to say in terms of negative stuff going on. The weather caused us to go inside a couple of times to the Boys and Girls Club and we were thankful to have that outlet as well. But for the first year with the program and the event at Heekin Park, I would say it went off well. Security was there, they had a security company that had all the gear and they were always available. They did a lot of mingling, mixing with the people in the crowd, and I thought that their team did a good job.

Park signs are posted on splash pads, mainly talking about pets. There's a park that has a water fountain for pets, and that's at Emerson Dog Park. Then we will soon have one at Heekin. We are just in need of ordering the water fountain there as the water lines are ran, and then we're ready to post that and have that put in place as well.

### **Tuhey Pool**

Everybody's aware of the changes that were made after the situation we had there based along the line of safety. Everybody that I've talked to so far, the Y staff, the lifeguards, and police officers, everybody's happy with the changes that have been made there at Tuhey. We haven't had any problems that I'm aware of where the police or ambulance were called, or things of that nature and it's all right. They're pretty much clear on why those changes were made.

### **Thomas Park**

The splash pad is working fine. Restroom renovation work has started but I am not sure of the timeline for completion. I do know there was a team out there today talking about



moving the electric from where it's at right now behind the existing fence to allow for the splash pad to continue to operate while they work on the restroom.

Mowing has been completed. It's ongoing just like we do at all the other parks. We're trying to keep up and stay ahead of it as much as we can.

### **Halteman Park**

I've noticed the shelter rentals have increased. Individuals are really wanting to request the use of the shelter. I was out there a week or so ago and noticed the bathrooms still need some work. I guess one of the residents that was coming in thought there were more restroom space and we have just the one unit and they went over into the back thinking there was other space available but that wasn't the case. I just told her we were still under renovation with that and we're trying to make some things happen there.

The pickleball courts there are being heavily used throughout the course of the day. It's a growing sport, and so we see pickleball being heavily picked up and used in our community. We're glad that we have those courses there at Halteman to serve the community in the area of pickleball.

### **Riverview Park**

The restroom renovation work is currently out for bid. Water shut-off signs need to be posted. The timeline to start the restroom work is 3 – 4 weeks out, maybe, is what I've been told per the city engineer. Those folks out there have been waiting quite some time, so I know they appreciate having that restroom put in place at that particular park. That park is a little different than all the other parks because we have the daycares so close to that park with a lot of kids at Riverview Park coming down from the daycare. And I get calls all the time from staff about if the port-a-pot is broken, is leaning or someone kicked it over or if there's a bad bleacher or whatever it is. Their staff calls quite a bit just to kind of give me a heads up that something down there needs to be fixed. I appreciate the phone calls, appreciate the heads up and we try to get down there and get that fixed as quick as possible.

Shannon asked what else in the park still needs to be done and Carl replied there is a water line that has a handmade water mechanical hand pump that pumps water like well water and that's being left on quite a bit. I've got a couple of phone calls from people that live right by and they happen to go down themselves and make sure that water shut off so making and we have a water fountain that's connected to the building. I know we have water lines and water fountains connected to the couple of our parks, I know Halteman has one. We had one at Cooley when that was first put in, and things of that nature. So, making sure we have that, sooner than soon, since we can get the building up and get the restrooms up, then we can get the water line connected to the building. We need extra mulch, they didn't bring in some new mulch. They did some work there along the sewer lines with sewer sanitation and there's some dirt there that still needs to be smoothed out. I think they thought the rainwater would just run off, and it would run into the ground and kind of smooth itself out. So, a little bit of finished work there and then bring in some new malls to bring them all up to the proper level for the playground.



## **Heekin Park**

The basketball court lights are not working. They haven't been for a while. We're getting a lot of complaints about that. I've had some meetings with the Industry Neighborhood Association folks. Some people have brought their complaints to the Neighborhood Association. I've had conversations with the Mayor a little bit about it to talk about the lights and the purpose of the lights. We always had good basketball tournaments and things of that nature and the lights were used for that. Some individuals alone, alone in the Ninth Street area, for whatever reasons, would like the lights to just be on because the park doesn't close until 11. But when you get a lot of people hanging, we did that a couple years ago and we had a lot of police calls to that park. There was nothing going on, no structured activity, and I just don't think it's a good thing to have. Now, you can argue that the park closes at 11 and there's lights on at other parts. Our lighting at McCulloch is bad. Those bulbs have burnt out. They've been there since those courts were built and we just hadn't upgraded it. We did upgrade the lights at the horseshoe pit, but we just have not upgraded the lights at the basketball court.

We need a new sign for the park to be posted at 9<sup>th</sup> and Hackley. I think it got hit by a vehicle and we've yet to replace that sign. We did get a quote from the place that provides signs for parks and it's between \$5,000 to \$6,000 to get one of those standard metal aluminum signs. The wooden ones you can get for you maybe \$1,200 to \$1,500, but the ones that have the aluminum frame was pretty costly.

So, the quote that we got for the lights at Hickam was about \$9,000 from Walker Electrics, we did get a quote to look into if we would will be able to afford the cost and the cost we got is around \$9,000 for that.

Dog Park like I said the drinking unit needs to be ordered and installed there at Heekin.

There's I can say an ongoing mowing matter. In fact, we're going to be out there tomorrow and it will be all hands on deck with everybody out to knock out the other half of Heekin Park.

## **Westside Skate Park**

Adam and them are still doing some landscaping. If you went by lately you can see some of the some of the some of the earth work that's being done there. I did speak to him a little bit about that. We've got a couple more signs that we need to put up there. Other than that, it's going pretty good. Once they get done with all the landscaping, I think that's when they'll officially turned the park over to the Parks Department.

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

Brad stated he has gotten got a couple calls this week about Thomas Park. There's some overgrowth in the playground area, mulch condition and also who they needed to check with on maintenance or access to the ball diamond. I didn't know if that needs to go through the office, you or how those need to be presented. Carl replied when you say the ball diamond it it's been typically Tom Terrell who has been a volunteer maintenance guy at Thomas.

He's kind of maintained and kept the field up. He actually communicates on a regular, when I mean about what needs to happen out there, whether it's grass or if he's got the mowing done, things of that nature. It's not really been used outside of his travel baseball team so he kind of takes a little pride in it. As far as that go. Now over at the playground, we were out there last week and worked on weed eating. It was kind of high in and around but that's one of the parks we're going to keep an eye on. The mulch level was low. We're looking to bring some mulch in. We've got several parks. Westside Park is bad with the mulch. Cooley is in need of mulch. Heekin' is also in need of mulch. And mulch runs right around \$10,000. We are looking to bring some mulch in and we're just gonna drop it off in the back of the shop, load it up on our dump truck and then head around and knock out some of those parks that are in need of some mulch. Brad said that was his next question. You mentioned Heekin needs some mulch and it sounds like Thomas is on the list and probably Cooley as well are probably the top three it sounds like. Carl replied yes and then also at Thomas the new business that's there's just in the front, the root beer business folks have tried to keep an eye out as well for any kind of groups showing up late night with other activities other than the use of the park so I'm kind of glad to see a little bit of energy there at Thomas. Maybe we can have a lookout group and do some other things there with the Neighborhood Association as it relates to the diamond like softball or baseball use there within the Neighborhood.

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

## **7. PARKS PROGRAMMING/EVENTS – Nikki Eckerson, Secretary**

This is the final week of our summer program with the kids. So, they'll have their culmination ceremony on Friday at Northside. It's going to be our award ceremony and luncheon. Thanks to Shannon, they were able to have a pool party for our youth workers and team leads last Thursday. And then as Carl mentioned, on Saturday we had four of our team leads and 11 of our youth workers go out to Prairie Creek to work Ironman which that's kind of amazing. If you know teenagers nowadays that's kind of nice to have them show up at eight o'clock in the morning on a Saturday and work all day in the heat. So, we do appreciate everyone who showed up from the summer program.

Randy O'Connor at the Barn Academy has been putting on baseball and softball camps for the past couple of weeks, on Mondays and Tuesdays. We had youth basketball league signups last Wednesday and Thursday at McCulloch Park, and they began yesterday with their games. They are still taking signups for basketball via the parks website or if they call I can email the link to sign up it's also on our Facebook page.

**Muncie Chapter Black Expo** youth basketball tournament is going to take place during Black Expo. They're going to have signups on July 31st from 5 to 7 pm at the Heekin basketball court and their games will start on August 1st at 10 AM. Their championship game will be played on August 2nd.

We will still be partnering with Walmart South and having our backpack giveaway on July 22nd in the McCulloch cabin from 10 to 12. If any businesses or anyone would like

to make any donations they can make them at our office. Walmart South has a table set up with different items on it if you want to purchase it and then they'll stick it to the side and bring it out on the 22nd.

**Fall programming** - Trunk or Treat which is going to be on October 18th which is you know about two weeks before Halloween, but they didn't want to conflict with Ball State's Homecoming, because some of the organizations at Ball State like to come out and participate.

We are still discussing with Christina and Tiffany over at Walmart South about moving forward with the winter wear coat drive. It is currently on the calendar for November 4th, and we'll be talking to them once we finish with the school supply backpack giveaway to finalize that.

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

**Union Missionary Baptist Church** – requesting the use of McCulloch Park on August 16, 2025 from 12 pm – 4 pm for their community picnic which is for the Whitely Neighborhood and all of Muncie. They are expecting about 300 people. Security will be provided by Legacy Life Security Solutions. They will be feeding anyone who attends so there will not be any vendors selling anything. They are requesting a waiver on all or some of the equipment they are requesting as they are 501 (c)(3). The equipment they are asking for would be bleachers, the tents, and the stage. And like I said, they are asking for either all or part of the fees associated to be waived and that would be looking at about \$350 for the bleacher, tent and stage. Carl interjected we already have stationary bleachers out there, so it would be the tent and stage.

Brad asked if there were any questions and there were none. He added he knows our policy recently is we've not been waiving fees. I think with this one, maybe we're comfortable waiving the fee for the bleachers since they're already on site. That cost will be pretty minimal but then still ask for the fee for the tent and stage unless there's any objection to that. Shannon mention the weekend before that Walk and Pray it's an event we approved last month, they're walking from Westside to McCulloch Park what did we do with them, she didn't write that down. Nikki replied she was not sure as she wasn't at that meeting and the audio for the meeting cuts, so there's a section of it that's missing which I notated in the minutes. She added she did speak with them this week and they do not believe they're going to need the stage. I told them once we got closer to the date they could call and confirm. I don't have a note that we waived any fees on that one. I know the last several events we've not waived fees for. I

think that would make sense to match on this one.

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

Brad asked Nikki, I know we had from this this group, and I'm gonna forget their name now. Nikki replied it was East Central's Washington concert and she emailed the Board their report from their first event. I spoke with them last week because they initially called as they thought they were going to need to cancel because there was rain in the



forecast, but they ended up having the event anyway. They said they've been having a good turn-out, no issues, and nice foot traffic. They did not have any complaints about anything. We made sure we had it mowed in time to make sure they didn't have any high grass or anything. I think I forwarded you guys the email. Brad responded, we got the email here and it looks great. I think my notes say they had another one that they were hoping for August. I think based on this feedback and Nikki's conversation, I think we could entertain a motion to approve that one as well.

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

#### **8. PRAIRIE CREEK REPORT – Kellie McClellan. Asst. Superintendent**

As you know, Tawny's off on medical leave and then I've had some FMLA time off as well. But the Mayor sent some people from his team to help out and we've greatly appreciated them. They really didn't want to take credit for what they've done, but I do have some of the projects they've done in the last three weeks which includes Ron Bonham Day and Ironman.

**The audio cuts out and comes back in while brad is discussing rule changes for Prairie Creek.**

**PRAIRIE CREEK EVENT APPROVALS:** Kellie presented one event for approval.

Bob Thomas Dealership is wanting to host their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Company Picnic on September 28, 2025 from 9 am – 5 pm. They are expecting 120-150 people. They don't list security but will have if it's required. They will not have vendors as they are providing the food through Jug's Catering and will have bounce houses provided by A-1 For Fun. They are requesting trash cans for the area and access to the bathroom.

Chandra 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.**

#### **9. FRIENDS OF PRAIRIE CREEK – Charlene Moore**

No one from the group was present.

#### **10. OLD BUSINESS –**

**Tuhey Pool Update** – the motor for the slide was repaired and we are seeking funding to make additional repairs and hopefully be able to update the pit system we are currently using which is out of date.

#### **11. NEW BUSINESS –**

**Audio for the meeting cut off while Kellie was giving the report on Prairie Creek and cuts back in as Brad is discussing rule changes for Prairie Creek.**

Brad can be heard discussing rules changes from this point on.

In Boating and Docks, same verbiage added in closing of specific sections per resolution and compliance with public health and safety. Also, in Boating and Docks, those following along up here it is page 10 now. Section D for section 4D, no lease transfers permitted. So yet again that was similar to the campsites where we had lease transfers permitted for certain circumstances to specific individuals. This updates that to no lease transfers are permitted. Then in the Trails Section, page 12, added the same verbiage in regard to closing a certain sections per resolution of the board. And then that also references and highlights to the ATV and equestrian trails. So, like I said, these came out of recommendation from the legal team. There are some changes that will affect leaseholders, like I highlighted transfers will no longer be permitted under this and it also opens up some opportunities for us to be in compliance with the guidance from the American Water Company.

Brad asked if there were any questions regarding the rule changes with the one change that we noted on page five, the horses are not permitted on equestrian trails.

Chandra 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.**

So, with the approval the rules changes go into effect immediately. Those will be passed on and posted both at the campground and we'll get those updated and posted on the website after we get the one amendment there.

So, with that that leads directly into the west side closing per the request of the water company.

So, like I mentioned before in their previous meeting, the water company requested that we close the west side to ATV and horse trails by the end of the year. Talking with Carl and the administration, there's an interest, I think, in being proactive on this. And that's one of the things we wanted to have board discussion on, do we want to over deliver to the water company, try to build some good faith here, try to get ahead of some of these things that they're implementing. There are no events out at the that side of the lake for the rest of the year. There may be some reservations that we have to adjust or potentially offer a refund if there's any reservations at the Indian Hill site but I think that's something we could accommodate but wanted to have some board discussion on thoughts if we want to wait till the end of the year to close that or if we want to get ahead of that and do that here now.

Shannon stated she personally wants to show the water company that we are making strides to make them see that we are being proactive. It might sting a few people that have vested interests in ATVs and horses, but for the whole of the reservoir I think it's the right way to go.

Brad stated they would have Board discussion, then we'll have some open public comment here on this one.

Mark stated he would agree with what Shannon said. He thinks we hate to do it, but we hate to limit recreation. We're in the business of trying to allow people to have as much recreation as possible, but given the concerns and given the importance of the lease and the availability of Prairie Creek for recreation going forward. And with the concerns that the water company has expressed, I think maybe showing good faith by acting now and not waiting. There's no events scheduled and this is gonna have to be a long-term change, so it makes sense to go ahead. Shannon added she also thinks people need to acknowledge that we are leasers. We do not own that property. So, we're really at the mercy of the water company and we want to be good stewards of the environment and with our partners.

Brad added he knows with the water company presentation, they referenced as well as there's been a hands-off approach for a long time, kind of on both sides. Been a lot of handshakes, a lot of verbal conversations, but not a lot of documentation. So, I know that some people feel that that's been this way for a long time, but we've not been able to produce any evidence or anything that would hold up in a court situation that these are permitted for the lease. The water company has expressed interest in reviewing the lease and that's something that we're continuing to work on and how we continue to make changes both for the city and the parks board and for the water company as well. Brad asked if there was any other discussion from the board and there was none.

Brad asked if there was any public comment and Ken Hudson asked what's the issue the water company is trying to solve. Brad replied the west side of the park is under a wildlife preservation area and they have concerns. The water company obviously their main focus is the preservation of the water source for the city so that includes any runoff erosion of water quality. And their opinion was the horse trails and ATV trails did not comply with the original lease and did not fit under their interpretation of the wildlife preservation area. So that was one of the main requests they had in the initial presentation that west side be closed for access for those activities.

Ken asked where the west side of the Prairie Creek Reservoir is, but he could look at a picture for that. Other than that, he stated he would wait for more input because he had a couple of questions about some previous discussed. Brad replied the west side is the Indian Hill side, it is where the equestrian trails and ATV trails are. This is not the area that's the multi-use trails. It's not the beach house. It's not the campgrounds. It's not the office area. This is just the far west side of the park.

Mark added one thing he thinks that's important is that we want to be sure and recognize there has been no discussion that the ATV users have done anything wrong. In fact, they've fully complied and been good citizens. Same thing with the horse activities. There's not been any allegations that we need to shut this down because of misconduct or misbehavior and so this is not to be punitive in any way and we want to make sure our citizens understand that.

Ken stated he had another question about the same topic. He asked how do you intend to get that information out to the public and Brad replied that it's gonna be difficult. As



you know our local media, the paper doesn't always report everything and not everybody takes the paper, there's social media. Obviously, this format is where all the parks board items are discussed, but that's something that we're gonna have to work through and push. I won't say there'll be a grace period, but there'll be an education period on people that are coming out. I know our Prairie Creek team has got some contacts within those circles. The Equestrian Club is already aware of it. I know I've had personal contacts with some of the ATV individuals, so they're aware that it was scheduled for the end of the year, but this is a little bit different. So, we're looking at the remainder of five months here that would be a change that we're proposing.

Brad asked if there was any other public comment and Christopher Bilberry stated he just wanted to bring it to your attention that the feed cut out right before you guys started talking about the changes. So nobody that's watching has a clue what you guys are talking about. And the doors were locked. I about broke them off the hinges trying to get in so this is a closed-door meeting technically right now. No one can get in, so I thank God a police officer is out there or I wouldn't have got in, so you guys might want to do something about that because it's a serious issue.

Brad asked Mark if he had any update on audio or video and stated it sounds like we're back online. And asked Mark if we've got any other issues, to let him know and we can adjust accordingly.

Brad asked if there was any other public comment regarding the west side of the lake, including the equestrian trails and the ATV trails, and there was none.

Brad stated the next question will be is do we want to have that effective immediately? Do we want to do August 1st or what do we want to do as a closure for the west side? Shannon stated she moves that we close it immediately. Chandra asked if we close it immediately what does that educational grace period look like? Brad replied he thinks what that would look like or where the guidance I would have would probably need to review with the legal team as well, is that we send out a notice tomorrow to the circles that we know, probably the equestrian president, and any contacts we've got with the ATV club. We let them know immediately, and then it would just be to continue to inform users that do show up. We'd need to terminate the availability of the campsites on that side. We need to reach out to anybody that does have a reservation between now and the end of the year and refund those accordingly and give people notice if they show up. It's gonna be an education period to get that out there, to let them know.

Chandra stated her thoughts are, if we did it August 1<sup>st</sup>, could we use this time to that time to do that and then have that immediately effective by August 1<sup>st</sup>? Brad replied he thinks that would be appropriate as well. Mark added he likes that idea and that gives us a chance to post on the website. Friends of Prairie Creek may even want to post on their site just to let everyone know. I think this is one of the things that especially in light of what we may have just learned, we wanna let everyone know as much as possible and be able to answer questions and not have anyone think this is something that's trying to be pulled, you know, behind. So maybe August one still shows extreme good faith, I think, but allows us to also show some grace to people who may not know. Chandra moved to do it effective August 1<sup>st</sup> with the educational grace between.

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

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

Brad tasked Nikki, Kellie, and Carl with getting posts out and updates out on social media. He will work with the City media team to get that out as well.

Brad stated the next item is the potential suspension of the lottery for the 2026 season. As we talked about in the rules, we did adopt and approve the termination of transfers, or suspend the transfers.

The other item that was brought up with the water company was, what is the carrying capacity of the lake, both in the docks and the campsites? We don't have a number for that. They've not provided a number for that and this would be another abundance of caution if we were interested in suspending the lottery for the 2026 season. Yet again trying to give ample notice letting people know that's not gonna be happening in the 2026 season and certainly something we're gonna re-evaluate, but trying to be proactive and be on the front end of this with the water company.

Mark stated he thinks one thing really important is the water company has invited the City to participate in discussions and there has been no determination as far as what the appropriate number is of the lotteries. It seems like it would be inappropriate for us to allow lotteries to take place until we really know what number we're having, so that's part of the reason I think for this is to engage with the water company and work together in a way that's proactive for everybody.

Brad added one of the things he would hate to see is that we have a lottery and we fill up the campsites for next year and they come in with a number and then we have to make a decision about how do we get to that number. That would not be a good situation as well so I think that's kind of what we're looking to avoid

Brad asked if there was any other board discussion regarding suspension of the lottery for the 2026 season and there was none. He asked if there was any public comment regarding it and there was none.

Chandra 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**

Brad stated the next item he wants to talk about a little bit is the Prairie Creek budget. He did receive a year to date budget and past two year's budgets from the City Controller, and shared those with the Board. We are headed into the budget season here, so I know I've talked to the administration and Carl as well, that they're open and willing to take comments and feedback from this board. I know that time is rapidly approaching, but something we just need to be aware to be of as the fiscal body of Prairie Creek.

That kind of leads directly into a rate review of the docks and campsites and also the events and launch fees at Prairie Creek. Knowing that there's gonna be some changes with the west side being closed and a likely reduction in our capacity next year, that will affect our budget. So, we need to plan accordingly and look at our rates. I don't have any solutions today. I know I've conceptualized a couple of different ideas and a few of us have talked individually about different ways we can approach that. I'd really like to see that maybe in our August meeting to try to get ahead of that as well. I know in the past we've had discussions in November and December, and it really puts people on a tight spot coming up at the end of the year. So, I'd like to get ahead of that for the next season as well. I know a couple ideas that I've conceptualized and a few of us have talked individually about having either a stipend for electric or some kind of monthly service charge for the electric. Right now, we don't charge anything. It's lumped into the campsite fee. A lot of the other sites are metered sites that's not feasible for us at this time, but we quantify a price based on some of the electrical charges out there would be one way to justify or come up with a number that makes sense and is quantifiable. Same thing with the docks. Historically, you've rented the dock and that's your fee and you don't have to pay the annual launch fee as that's essentially included in your dock fee. I know a lot of the boats stay out there but they could bring it in and take it out. I know the annual launch fee is \$150. So, there may be a stipend or some adder in relation to the docks in regards to the annual launch fee.

The other item I've got on the agenda there regarding Prairie Creek is the winter storage. This relates back to the water company's comments as well. We don't know what we don't know and what that's going to look like. I think as we approach the end of the season here, we need to evaluate if we're going to offer winter storage this year and what that looks like moving forward.

Brad asked if there were any questions discussions from the board and there were none. He asked if there were any questions or discussions from the public and Ken stated he had a few observations that may have already been solved because he hasn't been out to Prairie Creek in a week and a half or maybe two weeks but when I was there the overgrowth on the banks was pretty bad and along the rock edges In previous years a lot of that was just cut down and it made it easier for people to get to where the fish actually populate, it's been kind of rough this year. So that's one observation. And again, I don't know if that's been taken care of already. It'd be nice if it was. One comment, this spring has been oddly bad for fishing. And I don't know if there's something going on with some of the things that you guys are addressing that the water company is asking to be addressed. But this has been a rough heat and spring is the hot season for fishing. Every kind of fish, just about. It has been dry as a bone out there. Typically you can get crappie, yellow bass, catfish, if you know when the fish form, walleye. I mean there's a number of different things. I mean it's been dry out there.

One more, this is probably a question more for Carl, the Buley Center. So, the Whitley neighborhood is working with Muncie Arts and Culture Council and some consultants from Indianapolis to install three art installations in the neighborhood. Buley location is one of them. There has been a question posed, and I think Carl may remember this of is there a possibility to get the sign replaced or refurbished because the new art installation is going right behind the old sign and you can already see the concern. New



art. New landscaping. The signs deteriorating in front of it the on the corner right there. So, there was an inquiry, it's just an inquiry. Is it possible to get that sign either spruced up, replaced, refurbished, or whatever the case may be? And I think that's all I had. That was three different things. the fishing part is probably my biggest concern. No, I'm just kidding, all right.

Brad replied he's not a fisherman, but we've had other fisherman express the same concern and I don't have an answer for that today. Yet again, it relates back to the water company and the erosion control is a concern. We don't know where they stand on some of the issues at this time.

Carl stated in relation to the signs, he doesn't know if you guys have rode around town and looked at some of our signs. The sun has really baked quite a bit. I've seen it the last two years more so than I had previously. We've made some changes on some signs but I would think that all of our signs that directly impact the entry to our parks are probably in need of upgrade and even changing of the structure. We got a call from Morningside about signage somewhere in some garage put away somewhere but the street department was responsible for that particular location. We put one up year or so ago but it was very small and it was directing traffic to that particular park but then there's a nice big sign when you get into the park as well. I did get an email from a committee at the Buley Center today talking about the sign there at the corner as well so to have conversation with everybody about signs I think it really would go along the lines of beautification for us to have some nice signs throughout our whole park system. Brad added he knows we went through a couple of years ago and updated several, but not all of them. So maybe that's something we need to look at as we're moving to the budget as well, as I'm sure there's some economy of scale if we're buying more than one. I know you mentioned \$9,000 and you mentioned the Heekin sign as well and it sounds like we've got maybe some identification of some of those signs. Carl added some of those like Jack's that already have the framework in place so it just would be the sign itself and that'd be a lot a lot cheaper. Then some of them have wooden frames that are old. I think the Buley has a wooden frame casing so that one could probably be easily replaced and just removed all together. A sign inventory is definitely something we could do.

## **10. ACTION ITEMS**

Brad asked if there were any action items from the Board or event approvals and there were none.

## **11. PUBLIC INPUT – Please limit time to 3 minutes.**

Brad asked if there was anyone for public input but there were no names on the list.

Brad asked Carl if he had anything else and Carl replied just in reference to the budget, that we would have some feedback and try to get ourselves in a better place. If they approve, then we're good. If we're not able to get increases, then we just have to see how the grants line up. But we do need dollars to continue to beautify our parks and add staffing, things of that nature. Because we are growing. That's one thing, since we've all been here, we've had a lot of growth in the area of Parks and Rec. So with that, it takes

dollars. Brad informed Carl if he needs anything from the board on that, don't hesitate to reach out to them.

As there was no additional public input a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

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

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

**\* Next Park Board meeting is currently scheduled for August 19, 2025 at 6 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium.**

# Park Board Meeting Public Input Sign In Sheet

Date: 7/15/2020

Name (Please Print)

Address

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	
11.	
12.	