

Muncie Park & Recreation Board Meeting

February 21, 2023 6 p.m.

City Hall Auditorium

- 1. CALL TO ORDER-** Brad Marshall called the 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 Ervin, James Lutton and Chandra Parks.
- 4. APPROVAL OF JANUARY BOARD MINUTES-** Vote was taken by all Board members present. Motion carries. Motion approved by all members present.
- 5. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Carl Malone, Superintendent**

The Parks Department staff has been trying to take advantage of the nice weather we've had in February. We didn't expect to be outside much in February but we've had some good days. We've been busy with the entry ways, our flower beds to all our parks. We've started to clean them up and putting mulch in where it needs to go and identify the different spots where we have flowers. Staff has been busy on that side as well as getting leaves and branches up from our parks. He anticipates swinging by Westside Park tomorrow to do some work over there. He's been driving to the different parks to see where we have heavy leaves and branches. Last week they spent a lot of time at Heekin, mulching and picking up branches. So the staff has been pretty busy with that.

Park Projects –

Halteman – We've been having conversations with Outdoor Courts regarding two to three pickle ball courts going in at Halteman. The staff has been busy removing the old pavement and taking down the fence. Last week we had a conference call, with Brad and Outdoor Courts who stated they would started in early spring and hopefully will be done by early summer depending on the weather. We have funding for two pickle ball courts and there's the possibility of some funds coming together for a third court. We should know something in a couple of weeks on whether funding will come in for that third

court. We're pretty excited to get this project going and seeing it completed. I know the neighborhood wants it in place and we as staff want it in place as well.

McCulloch Park – Mid States will be here on March 15 to provide us information on some playground structures. It will be an opportunity for all the day care providers and individuals to come out and see possible replacements. We took the old, dangerous, unsafe structure out that had been there for quite some time. We are looking at ways to get grants and pool our funding together to put something nice back in place. That will be held at the Buley Center at 12 noon. You're all welcome to attend and there will be some kind of light lunch provided. I look forward to seeing everyone there and hearing some good information.

Baseball at Gainbridge Field House – I spoke with Richard today a little about the lighting and where the poles are going to go. That's a work in progress as they've started on the main electrical box, then lights may be going in sometime this week. Parks Department staff will put the poles in place. We've had some discussions about schedules with Burriss and American Legion providing us with the schedules. They are looking to get on the field as soon as possible and I believe they start sometime in March. George is working on an All-Star Game between MPD and MFD sometime in March.

That's pretty much all I have as the majority of the conversation we have is coming up later in programming.

Shannon asked if he stated the lights and foul poles were being installed this week. Carl stated we have them here. They've started on getting the main electrical box in place and according to Richard Ivy, they should be getting installed soon, possibly starting tomorrow.

Brad inquired how long that playground had been at McCulloch and Carl replied it was decades, probably about 40 – 50 years. Brad stated he thought it was about the 1970's as the equipment was old when he was younger. Carl agreed and stated it served its purpose and now it's time to put something new in. We all know playground equipment is not cheap so to put something nice in place is going to take a collective group of people coming together. Brad stated he was pleased they have it scheduled to reach out to the community to get their feedback and input. Carl stated they have been reaching out to the churches and day cares to make sure everyone is aware. We gave the Mayor's Office a flyer today and Michele said she was going to put it on the website. He hopes we have a good turnout.

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

6. PARKS PROGRAMMING & EVENTS – George Foley, Program Director

George started with the Dragon Master Car Show at Thomas Park on 5/20/2023 from 11 am – 3 pm. They are expecting 500 and don't need security and will not have food. They are not requesting any additional items from the Parks Department. He reached out to the organizer John Gray last month and again today to remind him to be present to answer questions from the Board. Mr. Gray was not present so George stated he would put it to the side in case he showed up later in the meeting. Brad agreed as they had questions about possible weather provisions and parking.

Summer Mentor & Work Program – everything is going well as far as planning goes. Our approved hub will be at the Northside cafeteria. MITS will be providing transportation to and from the job sites. Thrive will be providing our Financial Literacy component, setting up direct deposits and they have agreed to give each participant that is hired \$25 in their account. Brittany thanked us for using Thrive for the program. Not only did we sign up 120 kids last year but over half of the parents also opened accounts. We have been working with Legal on some paperwork for the program and we will be doing things a little different this year. The application will be available online. Nikki and I have worked on it and sent it to Mikah (HR) for approval, so everyone will have to apply online. As for the staff, we will be running background checks on everyone. A lot of things are still the same. We will be hiring kids ages 12 – 16 and we have a little twist this year we're excited about. Every year at the end of the program we do a survey of the participants and many were interested in skilled trades. We will be hiring an additional 20 high school kids to work with Jason Haney of Eco-Rehab to build benches and picnic tables for the parks. They have a stamping machine from Ball State so we are hoping we can stamp the parks logo on them so we can identify as ours as they sometimes come up missing for whatever reasons. George invited Jason Haney up to speak.

Jason Haney, CEO of Eco-Rehab stated he was excited about the opportunity and thanked Mr. Malone and Mr. Foley for inviting them to be part of the Summer Parks Program. Eco-Rehab is a non-profit here in Muncie for fourteen years. It started as a Ball State Immersive Learning class so education has always been at our core. Three years ago we created the STEPS program which was a skilled trade opportunity program that gave individuals looking to gain some construction skills and help find them a job in that industry. It was a huge need and an opportunity to earn a pretty good living in that industry. We see this as an addition to or an extension of the program we are already running. I'm proud to say with our partners at Eastern Indiana Works, we applied for a Youth Build Grant and we were one of twenty five organizations nationwide to be a first time recipient for this every other year award from the Department of Labor. It was a nearly \$800,000 grant that was awarded to us to focus on the age group following those we will be seeing this summer, 16 – 24, and our last class that will be graduating on the

24th, we had 7 individuals that went through the six month program, five came to us without any high school diploma, a couple with no high school education, and at this point we're hoping for all five to get their GED or HSE. We know four have already completed that along with Ivy Tech's NCCER Certification, so it's kind of their base education at Ivy Tech. That was a great partnership as several of those kids had the intimidation factor when it came to higher education so it removed that as a barrier to seeking educational opportunities to further their career. He's looking forward to working with this group of youth, 12 – 16, and really it will be introducing them to the trades. I was with Habitat for Humanity for about ten years and when you see volunteers or these students we're working with now actually build something; they've never held a hammer and then to see something come together that they've constructed, that sense of self-worth and pride they have is really second to none. And I think being able to establish that with these middle school and high school age kids in the Parks Program is an excellent opportunity. Like Mr. Foley said we are working with our friends over at College of Architecture and Planning at Ball State to see if we can use the CNC machine to put the Parks logo and have also discussed letting the students put their name on the benches they work on as well. I think that will go a long way in them feeling some ownership in the parks, giving a reason to visit and show off.

The Board thanked Mr. Haney for his partnership.

Mr. Foley added they invited Mr. Haney two years ago to be a mentor with the kids and that was 200 kids back then. I thought he might be a little scared to partner with us this year as that was a little overwhelming but he jumped right on board and wanted to do this project. I'm excited about that part for the kids. The program will start June 7th and end July 14th. We will be hiring 100 kids and an additional twenty to work with Mr. Haney and the Eco-Rehab program. We've already established a lot of our partners from last year. We will be having some of the youth working in the parks, some of the staff are coming up with assignments they can do to stay busy for those six weeks. Mentor Day will be Wednesday for an hour. They will work Thursday and Friday and make up to \$100 per week. I'm really excited about the program moving forward this year and adding that piece with the skilled trade.

Shannon inquired when the application registration will start. George stated hopefully on Monday if the Board approves and Legal settles a few things. We think we're right where we need to be and would like to start advertising it Monday. There's a video we had done of the kids working in last year's program, so once we announce we are taking applications we would like to show that video. Just to show City Council making this happen along with The Mayor and the Parks Board and how important this program is to the youth and them developing work skills at a young age so when they go into

adulthood they are ready for real life situations. So we are looking to promote that starting Monday if possible.

George asked if there were any other questions about the Summer Program and there were none. Brad inquired if they needed to vote or if it would just move through the Programming Department. Mark replied the Board was probably ready to approve the concept of the program as it is his understanding from talking to Aubrey Christ in Legal that a contract is well underway yet has not been finalized. We will need to finalize the contract but we can approve the concept subject to the final contract.

Brad brought the rest of the Board up to date on the meeting he and Shannon sat in on with Legal, George, Carl, HR and the Controller. He stated as we've seen the Programming Department grow, there's been more focus and more need to address these loose ends that haven't ever been formalized. George and Carl have been great at working through them with the Legal Department to make sure we are covered from HR and the Legal perspective on all these programs. So we will see contracts for the Summer Mentorship Program, 3rd and 11 for Flag Football, and working through one with the YMCA for Tuhey. Shannon added there will be one for Cardinal Swim Club as well. Brad stated we have several documents in the legal review process right now. We may, depending on timing and how things come out, we may need to have a special meeting to review those contracts and legal documents to get them approved depending on timelines but I think several of those items will come up and my preference is to approve the programs and the project moving forward pending any major issues or anything we need to address from Legal.

Brad stated he would entertain a motion to approve the Summer Mentorship Program to move forward. Motion was moved and seconded.

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

Our second program, we have many going forward this year, but there's three or four I would like to discuss right now. The other is the NFL Flag Football which we will be doing this summer, the entire month of June. This is a partnership with 3rd and 11 which is a not-for-profit. I am working with William Hayes, former Indiana Colts player. He was the gentleman that had to apply to do this as our Muncie Parks because he is a retired NFL player/legend and it recommended doing this program in the parks. He put the application in which was approved immediately. We are going to do 12 teams, K- 6th grade and they will be wearing NFL team uniforms. So one team may be wearing the Chiefs, Colts, etc. They will get a T-shirt, shorts and socks with their team name and they will be in groups of 10. This will be the entire month of June. There is one change

we would like to make after talking with others, which is waiving the fee of \$35 per child for this first year due to the economy right now. We would like to get sponsors to sponsor a team, starting at \$250 which will cover uniforms and help promote their business. I gave the Board a copy of the sponsorship packages. We will put their banners along the fence as there is a lot of traffic that goes up Macedonia, a photo with the team they sponsored which will be posted on our social media platforms. That will help offset the costs we have to pay for the uniforms. I am asking the Board if we can, just for this year, waive the costs to the participants and recoup those funds through sponsorships. You all have a copy of the letter and sponsorship levels which we showed to Aubrey last week and she seemed to be ok with it. So I am asking for your blessing for this time, for this program, not to charge.

Shannon added one of the grants they have applied for, The Ball Brothers Foundation Grant, there's money in there to pay for the referees, so we wouldn't have to worry for this year about paying for the referees. And if she did the math correctly, there's 10 people on 12 teams so that's \$4200, and that would pay for the entire season of referee fees.

Chandra inquired if the families would be encouraged to seek out sponsors or if that would be the Parks Department? George replied the Parks Department would seek out sponsors for the program. He, Carl and Brandon have been discussing which local businesses might be interested and they have a few that are on board and willing to sponsor once everything is approved.

Shannon inquired if there was money in our recreation budget to cover registration fees this year and George replied there are funds available.

Brad added part of the reasoning for the cost associated with the program is there is some personal responsibility at that point. If it's free, kids may show up one week and not the next, which makes it tough. George agreed and stated that is the only concern they have. If a parent pays, they are investing in that program and they are more willing to bring the kid to practice and to the games.

Shannon stated it's a cool concept and loves the idea of them wearing the teams of the NFL and thinks that ownership will get them fired up. George stated Mr. Hayes is going to make a few calls to see if he can get some of the Colts to come. This will be life changing for some of these kids that want to play football and can meet a few NFL players outside of Mr. Hayes that are currently playing, so we are hoping that will come along with the program too.

Brad asked if there were any other questions or concerns about the NFL Flag Football program. There were none. He stated he would entertain a motion that Carl and George use their best judgement regarding the cost and approving not charging this year but if the numbers show there needs to be some charge in there, he is ok with that. He would entertain a motion that George move forward and if there is a fee it be no more than \$35.00.

James made the motion and it was seconded by Mark.

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

There was one last event George wanted to bring before the Board. As we want to continue to bring music to the parks as it's been really great. This year we would like to do it at Canan Commons this summer on July 27, 2023 from 6 – 10 pm. We already have two bands that have agreed to play for the event. There will be vendors out and this will be part of the Muncie Homecoming Festival, which comes every four years. It will be a huge event and is a family event, it's not just for adults. It's clean music, people bring their kids and everyone has a good time. We would like to make this partnership with Forward Vision who we've worked with before. They have insurance coverage which can be shared with the attorney's. During the show, they would like to give away two music scholarships to the youth for \$1,000 each as part of the event. The scholarships can be used for an instrument, lessons or anything related to their craft. This has been a partnership the last couple of years. We're just moving the date and location for this year. We would like to get approval to move forward and understand we may need to go through Legal and show liability insurance and whatever else is required.

Shannon inquired if there will be security and George stated there would be. Chandra inquired about the method to give away the scholarship. George replied there will be an application on the Forward Visions website to apply. They are making it very simple. It can be a minute long video of them showing their talent or a TikTok upload, and then they have a committee that picks the two winners.

Shannon inquired approximately how many people attended last year. George asked if she was inquiring about the event last year at McCulloch or the Muncie Homecoming. He stated there were about 400 people at McCulloch Park but for Muncie Homecoming Festival there are thousands that will be here, coming in from all over the nation. It's a huge event and security will be through the City Police. The Muncie Homecoming committee secures that with the Muncie Police Department.

Brad questioned whether they could approve it as they don't control or manage events at Canan Commons. George stated that is handled by Downtown Development and Muncie Homecoming has already arranged it, set the date and is paying for it. The vendors will have to pay the Parks Department the \$25 vendor fee and go through the health department.

Brad inquired if there were any additional questions for George and there were none. He stated he wasn't sure if there was any actionable items for them to vote on but they appreciated the information on it.

George stated he had no other items but we are having National Parks Day on May 20, 2023. We've started promoting it and have gotten lots of calls from people who want to set up as vendors. It's more of an information session as far as the vendors that will be out there. We're looking at a basketball tournament with elementary school kids, kind of re-enact the city basketball tournament and we've been in contact with the schools about those teams coming out to play. We'll also have bouncy houses and other activities for families just to be out in the park. Moving forward we do want to do a pickleball tournament as we've been getting a lot of calls about that. So as long as Halteman is on schedule with theirs, we plan on partnering with the YMCA to have a citywide tournament. We will also be doing some basketball clinics for kids at Heekin now that the security cameras are in place. We've been in communication with Muncie Police regarding events we have planned. We also plan on doing some softball and of course we will be doing baseball at Gainbridge. It will be a busy year for programming, so next month I will have a lot to present to the Board.

George thanked the Board members for being a part of the conversations that we've been going through. He individually thanked the Board for being involved, supporting the Parks Department and pushing for them to have this programming for the youth in the parks.

Brad added as we move forward with events we will be having at the parks in town and he was specifically thinking about National Parks Day, he would like to see us close the gap and integrating some of the city people who don't get to Prairie Creek. He pointed out he saw the Sail Club represented tonight and would love to see them bring out a sailboat or the Horse Club bring out a set of horses, or DNR could have a booth. He asked that George & Dustin work together to see what works for which events. George stated he would like to see that as well as a lot of the kids who we took out there the first year of the summer program said it was their first time ever being out to Prairie Creek. He would work on that as there is a lot for them to see and to expose them to out there. George added he was working with Shannon on another grant that could help with getting more youth out to Prairie Creek.

7. PRAIRIE CREEK REPORT – Dustin Clark

Dustin presented an event for approval by the Board. He brought Dan McDonald of Indiana Swimming to present and answer questions. Mr. McDonald requested the use of Prairie Creek for the Indiana State Open Water Championship. Indiana Swimming which is a part of USA Swimming like Prairie Creek for the good water and space. They have reached out to Ruble Racing to handle their timing and Chuck at the YMCA for their safety rector. They anticipate 197 – 250 kids and for security have already reached out to the County Sheriff for if they go over 250 participants. We've talked to two local food & beverage trucks and they are aware of the requirements for the Department of Health and the fee paid to the Parks Department. One is the Downtown Food Stand which is a local vendor where he gets his coffee. They have spoken with Joann McKinney in case the kids need a space the night before to pick up packets and such. He states it's a good event with high quality athletes. This event brings in kids from across the state to participate and their parents will get to see the area and what it has to offer. He is proud of Prairie Creek as his kids raced out there for triathlons and other events. We have a lot to offer and this could be a yearly thing. We've done fundraising and are ahead of the curve on this and just hope the Board will approve it.

Brad inquired about the date and they stated it is June 27, 2023, which is a Tuesday and doesn't conflict with regular usage as it is in the morning. The only concern is if there is thunder, as they have the same rules that Tuhey does which is a 30 minute delay that rolls the time back. If it is just sprinkling there is no change. They have safety plans in place that are pretty specific and thorough with Indiana Swimming and USA Swimming. Laura Caudill, Delta Coach will provide boats because we have a mass of coverage. We actually film the kids going in and out the water and they are chipped so we can keep a head count and we have lifeguards. The person who trains the lifeguards for open water at Prairie Creek and a number of our members from Cardinal Swim Club are our lifeguards.

Brad inquired about the age range of the competitors. Mr. McDonald replied typically there will be some middle school kids, high school kids and a few elementary school kids. His son was 12 at his first event at Prairie Creek and they swim 500 yards open water and the older kids swim a mile.

Shannon inquired who the insurance was under and Mr. McDonald stated each athlete has insurance through USA Swimming and Indiana Swimming, so there's umbrella coverage in place. Cardinal Swim Club puts on four events, three in pools and one at Tuhey, so we already have experience putting on four events per year. The problem he encountered last time was getting officials, so this time they are going outside the state.

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

Dustin stated paper leases are still going out. We have a very small staff right now and they have been working overtime to get the batches out. There's two batches upstairs ready to go out and there's one more getting ready, so there's a total of three batches of paper leases still going out for seasonal campsites and seasonal docks. While paper leases are still going out the date of payment is still the same as previous years, March 31, 2023. If you have any question about what your fee might be, you can call the office and we can walk you through that or you can wait for your paper invoice to reach you.

Dustin announced beginning tomorrow, we will finally go live after two years of working on this project, six months of contract negotiations and several weeks of the staff training with California and Australia, you will be able to go to Prairie Creek to reserve your site for an RV, camper or tent. You will be able to select your site location on a map to see if it's available, sign and pay online. It is also beneficial for our permanent users as the seasonal leases for the campgrounds and docks can now be signed and paid for online. We will walk you through that process. It will be a transitional year, so we will still be providing paper leases and we will still allow people to come in and pay cash. It is through a company called NewBook and once it goes live you will be able to go on at midnight when you think about it, Sunday morning, before we open or after we close or even the day of the 31st if you realize you forgot to pay. You can get on your computer, tablet or phone, login, sign everything and you're done. We will still have to mail your sticker but at least you would've already paid. This is a huge step forward and we're excited about this online reservation process. We confirmed once this rolls out, in 2024 you will be able to make partial payments or monthly payments. They have those options and we are set up to do that. We can even break down the payments, pay through the system and all those payments will go to the same account and once the account is paid in full they will be good to go. I just want to remind everyone March 31st is the deadline for payment whether you are doing paper or digital.

Brad asked where they would find the online reservation. Dustin stated they will post the link tomorrow when it goes live on the city site and on Facebook.

Shannon asked if people will be able to access the lease document in PDF form. Dustin stated the system they went with is based on DocuSign program and setup, so they will get an email version of everything they get in paper down to the letter per Legal. Ben Freeman has been helping us out, once it is signed they will get an email confirmation

with a signed copy and so will we. We will keep our copy on record for the same number of years we keep paper.

James inquired about the ability to set up payments and whether that started from now until the deadline or throughout the season. Dustin stated that's not an option for this season but confirmed they will have that option starting probably for winter storage 2024, we will be able to break that up into payments. Between now and the 31st it would be like if you wrote your check or whatever you normally do. Then after that we can expand. This system is highly expandable. They are in multiple countries and the majority of the states. Australia is their headquarters and California is their other one and they fill up everything in between. They are a multi-national company and highly reputable. Ashley did a ton of research before we settled on one and took it to the Board of Works.

Brad stated he was excited to see how it goes for them and would like a review later on to see if it can be used to ease some of the paperwork in our city office as well. We have already informed them of that and given them preliminary numbers based upon the internet. And we've talked about bringing on Tuhey because they can do tap pay, pay on phone, you can pre-pay, there are lots of options. We've even had Troy Waters with Beech Grove Cemetery on a conference call as they may be able to take advantage of this with people being able to make multiple payments and pay for items and/or reserve their chapel which is like a shelter. There are multiple uses for this in the city, it is easily expandable and we're already covering the cost, so everything is kind of an add-on. We are excited about its expansion capabilities as well.

We are down to a skeleton staff over the winter and are now bringing on a new clerk and a new laborer, so in about two weeks we should be getting closer to returning to spring/summer hours. People will start to see the office is open more and later. We'll start moving towards opening the dock/boat launch office soon. Our staff was out last week and will be out until they finish putting in the piers as we're already back to putting in the docks. They were out today with the tractor, pulling poles, putting stuff in and moving deck boards around. We bought another 150 planks to replace wooden piers. James inquired when the new piers will start to be installed. Dustin replied the new piers should be going in in the next few weeks and we will announce that on both the city page and on Facebook. We had hoped to get delivery, they had a load ready to bring to us but we weren't able to arrange that securely so it is being pushed back about a week or two. When it goes in, we probably aren't going to invite the public to North Shore but they can witness it from South Shore. Since it is our first time and we are going to have tractors and other equipment moving back and forth, we aren't encouraging a large audience where we're working. We had a new meeting with American Water and they are going to come out and participate as this has been on their

check off list for years and they are excited for us to start getting rid of these wooden docks piers. We want to get back to erosion control. We have good water and want to improve it and meet some of their guidelines and getting rid of these individual docks will help with getting us back to erosion control because then we will have large areas of riprap, vegetative control or something in place.

The American Water meeting we went over a lot of their concerns. We will post some pictures but you guys will notice on the eastern side, the bridge right before the sailing club, there is a large area that has been renewed and put back to the way it should be. It is now open to the public, there is a public road that goes back there. This has been American Water property for a long time and had been overlooked and not gotten the proper attention but that is now open to the tune of 1.7 acres and it's expansive. There's a parking lot, gravel road, pull off, safety area and fishing area. So that whole area, right across from under the bridge of the Sailing Club is now a public, open access area.

Dustin thanked Adam Leach and Donnie Wright as the Street Department has gifted us with a labor truck and a trailer which we were in desperate need of. We don't have the funds to continually go out and purchase those things, and they graciously rolled those items downhill to us. We are very thankful as that is a huge help for us as one of the main things that allows us to do is to get to more areas because now we can load up tractors and mowers and drive them some place as opposed to driving four miles per hour on the Dixie Chopper down the road, irritating everyone. Now we can load up two or three at a time, drop them off, mow an area and bring them back. It makes us more efficient, makes the park look nicer and saves on our equipment driving so much.

We have been doing a lot of work in North Shore. We've been removing some hazardous trees and still have some more to go but will probably do that throughout the year. Several hazardous trees were previously identified in 2022 and we've managed to address all of the ones that were identified plus a few additional ones.

We are in the process now and are proceeding with the purchasing of new safety floats and buoy markers. We've reached out to a couple stakeholders like Mr. Don, the Sail Club and the DNR, Jordan Brand getting their input about what is legal, preferred and what is the best identifier for the towing area, non-fishing area and working on buying additional buoys for a future swim course. Those will be more transient and won't be out all year long. They will probably go out before events and have them out for trainings. Those buoys will be moved back and forth for a 1.2 mile course and could do a total of 2.4 miles altogether.

We've had some really conversations and want to get out and support Camp & Eat Boat-tigue. Victoria Brewer is doing a bang up job and we are currently working with her on

getting some more permanent signs so it's lit up from the road. So we will work with the City and the County to make sure we meet all signage requirements.

Brad inquired if there were any additional questions for Dustin. Shannon inquired how it was going with the campsites with regards to those who had to move their campers. She inquired how those projects were going as he mentioned the tree removals. Dustin stated tree removal is underway and nearly complete. He inquired if they wanted him to go into detail about it all and Shannon asked if it was all being done. Dustin stated it is. There is still one camper they would like to get out of the work area and we're working through that process and as we do we will be able to get a trencher, dig up water lines if we need to, fix and or modify electric. Shannon inquired if he thought all of those projects would be completed before the new season and he stated that is their hope. They've had some setbacks on timing of getting all of those campers out which caused delays and we are waiting as we don't want to keep renting equipment over and over to complete the project. We will wait until all of the campers are out and do all that we can in the time that we have.

Brad inquired if we received a response from American Water about adjacent property docks. Dustin stated it is still on their radar. They have a consensus of what they want to do for this year and they have a long-term plan they will have to us probably in the next few weeks. They aren't here to represent themselves so he wanted to wait until we get something in writing. They have a new regional manager we met with and he is a great gentleman that has a lot of insight and knows what he's doing. We're working with him on invasive removal, what we can and can't do to get rid of some of that honeysuckle, which opens up bank fishing, makes turns easier as you will be able to see to the left and right more easily. Also erosion control, use of the Western Shore which is technically a preserve and how they interpret that. How they interpret the Levy and how far that extends. We discussed with them about one thing that is in our Master Plan to do which is a circumference trail which some parties are interested in partially funding. They are very eager for that to move forward. We brought it before American Water and there was an embracing of the concept with some things that would need to be worked out. At one portion of the park they own from water to the road and just put up a new fence and that's the section we would be forced to go out on the road. This is a long-term thing that has been in the Master Plan since '07, so we're probably not going to crack that nut this month but it is in front of them and is something they seem to be embracing.

Brad asked if anyone else had any questions for Dustin and there were none.

8. PRAIRIE CREEK RULES REVIEW AND VOTE

Brad stated we had a lot of feedback last month which the Board has reviewed. We've made some revisions to the rules and also presented an ordinance to City Council. As we've discussed some of those items are out of our control and what we've done to the set of rules we have in front of use which is version 8 is any references to the City Council rules as it pertains to Section 95 are removed from our rules and we added a line "state, federal and local rules apply". That should've been a given but it is now written in there now. So whatever happens at City Council with Section 95 is automatically adopted into our rules. There's no duplication in that regard and we also added some clarification regarding evictions or removals from the park, be that campgrounds or docks and what the reapplication procedures was there. Those are the major changes outside of that he doesn't believe there were any other revisions.

Dustin stated he had a text from Jackie Sciscoe from Friends of Prairie Creek requesting the Board be cautious about pushing through the rules too quickly and want to make sure the Board has the opportunity to observe how City Council chooses to move forward.

Brad inquired if there was any discussion from the Board. Shannon suggested including an addendum for the penalties, penalty description and what will happen if people break the rules, what the repercussions will be. Dustin stated he is for that and for the clarification and spelling that out. Shannon stated she believed that would be our first layer of enforcement. Brad stated he thinks it's a good idea and is a great way to structure it. That way we have the rules, then we have how we enforce them and what the structure is there. He tasked Dustin with working through how we structure that in different layers.

Brad asked if there was any other discussion from the Board. There was none. He then acknowledged the two City Councilmen who were present and invited them or any others to comment or speak. He stated he wanted to give everyone the opportunity to speak on this.

Troy Ingram, City Councilman stated he still sees a few people online who are confused about Section 95 and asked the Board to clarify it doesn't apply to the leased lands or the campgrounds although it will still apply in general rules to those properties that are within the parks ordinance. Brad stated that is his understanding of how the ordinance was written. So your playground, beach area, bank fishing, multi-use trail, those facilities would still fall under city park rules and the exemption is only for the leased spaces. Troy stated that's how he understood it as well but noticed there were people online who were a little confused and he wanted to get that on record. He also

thanked the Board and Dustin for being willing to listen to the campers and the dock holders and work with them to help them feel more comfortable with the change that's going on at Prairie Creek. He acknowledged they worked really hard on this and thanked them all for all their time, effort and willingness to listen to the people.

Brad asked if there was any other public comment or conversation from the Board and there was none. He stated he would entertain a motion to approve the rules presented as Version 8 dated 2/17/2023. Motion was moved by Mark Ervin and seconded by Shannon Powers.

Brad asked for a roll call on the motion.

Chandra Parks - Yes
James Lutton - Yes
Mark Ervin - Yes
Shannon Powers - Yes
Brad Marshall - Yes

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

Dustin thanked the Board, Friends Group and those that have been working on this. He stated this process started February 2021 when this list started so he's grateful they can get this out. It probably won't get sent out with the lease packets, especially those that have already gone out, but will do a separate post once everything is finalized. Hopefully next month or the month after we will start bringing forth a draft addendum for additions, so if people still have corrections or stuff they want to see added or amended, it can be put in that addendum and he can bring it before the Board.

Brad added now that we have a final set here, wherever there are legacy versions can we work on getting those down. Whether that be on the City Page, Facebook Page or anywhere, can we purge those copies to minimize any confusion. Dustin stated they will make printed copies available at the office, City Hall and the Parks Office for people to pick up.

9. OLD BUSINESS –

Skate Park - Brad introduced Adam Leach, City Engineer, to discuss the Skate Park at Westside Park. Adam stated he and Kyle Kroger pulled together a presentation with the three day notice. Kyle is working with our consultant, REA, who is the Project Managers on this. This project fell into the lap of Public Works because it's within a flood plain and

it's over \$150,000 in value. Anything that hits that general criteria suddenly comes under his domain and he becomes the project overseer. He introduced Kyle who has renderings of it to give to the Board.

Adam gave a little background on the project stating Councilwoman Selvey pushed for some of this money in the bond package that was passed by MRC a little while ago. There was a Skate Park committee put together many years ago to fundraise but there was not really any fundraising that came out of it. Between the Mayor and MRC funds they pulled together \$550,000.00 to do this. We have renderings and Hunger Skate Parks is the design consultant as skate parks are a specialized design as regular civil engineers and landscape architects don't typically do them. They are nationally recognized and were retained through him and the Board of Works and we are looking forward to getting this build in relatively short order. He then turned the floor over to Kyle Kroger.

Kyle Kroger with Rundell Ernstberger Associates (REA), Landscape Architect/Project Manager with the firm. He reviewed a few facts for the Board stating the site itself is 1.4 acres that will be impacted and that includes grading and such. The actual skate park footprint is about 9,100 square feet. It is located at Westside Park at the site of the former model airplane strips. The City has already started to prepare some demolition and site work in preparation for the project. Hunger Skate Parks and REA put out a survey last year (2022) and had 287 respondents. Of that 181 were skaters and/or riders and the other 106 were non-riders or community residents in general. Seventy three used skateboards as their primary mode of transportation, thirty five used bikes, twenty nine use roller blades, skates, motor bikes or wheelchairs. There will be fourteen skateable features which you can see on the renderings and these were the most desired features based on the respondents. The design attempts to be inclusive and will have park and street style features and will be for beginner level through skilled. They are also looking at incorporating some type of public art into the design. They are currently in the construction documentation phase, working to prepare technical drawings and specs. We need to obtain a Construction and Floodway Permit from the DNR which we anticipate the process to take about four to six months. We expect to begin this summer and be completed by the fall or spring of next year.

Kyle asked if there were any questions and there were none. Brad expressed appreciation for them being present as he has fielded some questions but didn't have answers. He knew they had been doing a lot of work on it in the background and was glad to see the rendering in front of them. Kyle stated he knows it has been a long time coming for the Skate Coalition and it's great to see something on paper and moving forward.

Brad inquired if there were any questions from the Board or the Parks Department and there were none. He then jokingly inquired when the first Skate Tournament would take place.

Adam added he has reached out to Rachel Cohn, Art Professor at Ball State and we are trying to coordinate a Tag-a-thon. Instead of having a pale gray park his intention is to try to get up to 200 Ball State students out there to tag the whole park prior to anyone using it. We hope it will bring the public art aspect and be colorful and flavorful.

Pickleball at Halteman - Brad called Carl up for an update on the Pickleball Court at Halteman. The funds we have for Halteman covers two pickleball courts and there has been conversation about a third. Brad stated the neighborhood and Carl have been working on since they leveled the pool and built the splash pad. Originally there was a quote for four courts but that was two and a half years ago and pricing has changed. Part of the bond through MRC, the City and The Mayor included monies for the courts. The money allocated covers two courts. The neighborhood expressed interest in maximizing the space and they are considering using some of their ARP money and other fundraising sources to help fund the third court. JP the President of the Neighborhood Association reached out to Brad and they will be having a meeting next week and we will be looking to see what kind of money they have available to help maximize the park. They have put in a lot of work to help improve the park and that's a challenge to other neighborhood associations that have ARP money available that the parks are a great place to use them.

Carl stated there has been an ask for outdoor pickleball courts in our city and it's definitely a fast growing sport, so we want to make sure our parks are able to accommodate some outdoor pickleball. Brad clarified we currently have two courts at Cowing, at Jack's we will have model/portable pickleball court but the court is already lined and we still have opportunities to do something at Thomas depending on the splash pad that's going in. We can then circle back around to look at Heekin as the tennis court is still there but a lot of work needs to go in there but there's the possibility one or two can go in there.

Memory Spiral – Carl stated the Open House is scheduled for August 26th at Heekin Park. The Rick Zigler Foundation has put in a lot of work at that location and they are pretty much complete except for some of cosmetic work. He believes it will be from 12 – 4. Mr. Zigler is very excited about bringing the public out and if anyone has ideas about music or entertainment they can reach out.

Recreation Grant Updates - Shannon Powers stated she and George are currently working on three grants together.

1. Project Aware Mental Health – We’ve made it to the second round. It’s a \$10,000 grant for a program we will do once a week during the summer for 12 weeks. We will on Mondays have a group of 40 middle school students in the morning and about 40 high school students in the afternoon. The curriculum revolves around getting our youth more involved with nature and also teaching them some coping mechanisms and mental health skills to help them deal with some of the issues our youth are facing today. It is a State Department of Health Grant and we are meeting with them on Friday to present our curriculum and we should know by March 10th if we are awarded the grant. George added we are looking at taking them out to Prairie Creek, The Cardinal Greenway and we’ve spoken to IU Health about doing a bike club, yoga in the park, just things so we can introduce them to some gold mines in Muncie they wouldn’t know existed. Shannon added they all have a copy of the proposal with the budget and can see they will be hiring a Certified Mental Health Counselor and an Administrator that is also a yoga instructor.

2. Ball Brother Foundation Grant – we were applying for a Ball Brother Grant. George and I spoke to them two weeks ago to discuss seed money for a lot of our equipment and referee needs. George added they were excited we had a 5 Year Plan to present. This would be a one year program to help kick off programs and replace some things like soccer goals, score boards, and other equipment needed. Shannon added it could also help us with some of our labor costs like security at Tuhey.

3. Community Foundation – Shannon stated this hasn’t been submitted but they have worked on the letter of Intent. They would like us to submit all of our requests that would fall under the Parks budget. So that would include Prairie Creek and any other entities that come under Parks. She will be meeting with Dustin to see what they may need added.

Shannon stated those three grants, if awarded, would bring in about \$70,000 to the department.

Brad thanked Shannon and George for all the work they are doing.

10. NEW BUSINESS –

Playground Structure for Morningside – Carl stated the neighborhood association has expressed interest in getting a new merry-go-round. A mix of bond, ARP and Parks playground equipment funds are being used to put in an ADA inclusive merry-go-round which is being contracted through PlayPros. George stated he has been in conversation with Councilmen Aaron Clark and Roger Overbey regarding the space and structure. We’ve agreed on the terms with Morningside putting in their funds and the Parks Department covering the additional costs. Carl signed the contract today and they will be starting in about a month and expect to be finished by the start of summer.

Aaron Clark, City Councilman – gave credit to Councilman Overbey who has been a part of the Morningside Neighborhood Association for its entirety. We started a few years ago with some significant improvements to that park starting with giving the existing pavilion a new roof, adding an additional pavilion, expanded parking, removal of old equipment, one in particular was the merry-go-round. They knew the kids got a lot of use out of the one that was there and wanted to replace it. This one is fully accessible as it is ground level so kids of all limitations or abilities can make use of it and enjoy the structure.

Brad thanked George, Councilmen Clark & Overbey for all their work on this project.

11. ACTION ITEMS

Brad asked if there were any action items to be presented to the Board and there were none.

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

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

Rebecca Meadows of Prairie Creek inquired if there was any way to get the Board to reconsider the fee increases which were voted on at the secret December meeting. Brad clarified it was not a secret meeting and notification was posted according to the rules. He stated the Board voted and if she or anyone else wanted to present ideas or options to the Board they could do so at a future meeting.

Meeting was adjourned by Brad Marshall, President.

*** Next Park Board meeting is currently scheduled for March 21, 2023 at 6 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium.**



811 E. Centennial Avenue
Muncie, IN. 47303
(765) 747-4858
cityofmuncie.com/parks-department-muncie.htm
muncieparks@cityofmuncie.com
Superintendent: Carl Malone

Muncie Park & Recreation Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 21, 2023
City Hall Auditorium

- (1) Call to Order
- (2) Pledge of Allegiance
- (3) Roll Call
- (4) Approval of the minutes from (January 2023) Park Board Meeting.
- (5) Superintendent Report – Carl Malone
- (6) Parks Programming & Park Event Approval – George Foley
- (7) Prairie Creek Report – Dustin Clark
- (8) Prairie Creek Rules Review and Votes
- (9) Old Business
 - Skatepark – Westside Park
 - Pickleball Court – Halteman Park
 - Memory Spiral – Open House August 26th – Heekin Park
 - Recreation Grant Updates
- (10) New Business
 - Playground Structure Morningside Park
- (11) Action Items
- (12) Public Input – (3) minutes limit – Please state your name and address

Remember to please call the Park Office or the Park Board President (Brad Marshall) if you have an item that needs to be placed on the agenda.

*** Next Park Board Meeting – Tuesday, March 21, 2023 (6:00 p.m.) - City Hall Auditorium**



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Superintendent Report

Tuesday, February 21, 2023

PARK STAFF

Muncie Parks and Recreation staff have been busy working on flower beds at the entrances of the different parks.

PARK PROJECTS

- Muncie Parks have continued talks with the Outdoor Court Specialist discussing the scope of work on (2) Pickleball Courts and possible a 3rd court being added at Halteman Park. The timeline to start work on the pickleball court will be early spring with completion early summer.
- McCulloch Park playground structure presentation will be held, March 15th, 2023 by Midstates Recreation. The location is Roy Buley Center at noon. Presenter will be Wendy Mink, Recreation Consultant from Midstates Recreation
- McCulloch Park/Gainbridge Baseball Field projects for the foul line and lights have started and should be completed by spring.

If the Parks Board would 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



Wednesday
MARCH 15th

Time:
12:00pm-1:00pm

at the
Buley Center

PLAYGROUND STRUCTURE PRESENTATION FOR MCCULLOCH PARK

Invitation to all Residents of Whitely Community

Join Muncie Parks and Recreation and invited guest Wendy Mink of Midstates Recreation as we share information with the Whitely Community about a new playground structure, surfacing and an ADA ramp for McCulloch Park.

For more info contact the
Park Office:
765-747-4858





MUNCIE

**FORWARD VISIONS INC. &
MUNCIE PARKS & RECREATION**

Presents:

RHYTHM & BLUES

IN THE COMMONS
CANON COMMONS DOWNTOWN MUNCIE

**OPENING ACT:
TEMICA KEYS**



**HEADLINE BAND:
DOWN STROKE BAND**



**THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2023
SHOW STARTS AT 6PM**

- > **FREE TO THE PUBLIC**
- > **FOOD VENDORS**
- > **AN EVENT FOR ALL AGES**

FORWARD VISIONS WILL GIVE AWAY
(2) MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS OF \$1,000
TO YOUTHS WHO HAVE AN INTEREST
IN MUSIC

SPONSORED BY:



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
WWW.FORWARDVISIONS.ORG | WWW.MUNCIEHOMECOMINGFESTIVAL.COM



LEGEND

Total Hardscape Area:	10,225 ft ²
Skatepark Footprint:	9,100 ft ²
1	Quarter Pipe
2	Seat Wall
3	Mini Ramp Extension & Step Up
4	Down Rail / Bump to Bar
5	Flatrail Combo Box
6	Long Out Hubba with Curve
7	Quarter Pipe and Rollers
8	Hubba
9	Curb Ledge
10	Manual Pad
11	Flow Bowl
12	Mini Ramp with Varying Pockets
13	Curved Kong Wall
14	Curved Extension Ledge
15	Bike Parking (3)
16	Shade Shelter with Seating
17	Stormwater Recharge Basin



MUNCIE SKATEPARK
 SITE DESIGN CONCEPT | JANUARY 12, 2023



Park Board Meeting Public Input Sign In Sheet

Date: 2/21/2023

Name (Please Print)

Address

1. Rebecca Meadows - 205 S Stonegate Dr - Muncie
2. Kyle Koger
3. Troy Ingram
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____