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Superintendent: Carl Malone

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

**Tuesday, May 21, 2024**  
**City Hall Auditorium**

- (1) Call to Order
- (2) Pledge of Allegiance
- (3) Roll Call
- (4) Approval of the minutes from (April 2024) Park Board Meeting
- (5) Flatland Resources – Dave Heilman
- (6) Superintendent Report – Carl Malone
- (7) Prairie Creek Report
- (8) Friends of Prairie Creek
- (9) Old Business
  - Prairie Creek Vote (Parks Board)
- (10) New Business
- (11) Action Items
  
- (12) Public Input – (3) minutes limit – Please state your name and address.

**\* Next Park Board Meeting – Tuesday, June 18, 2024 (6:00 p.m.) - City Hall Auditorium**



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## Superintendent Report

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

### **Muncie Parks Department**

We have finished installing (3) new playground structures at Cowing, Gilbert and McCulloch Park. We have installed (2) new metal blue shelters at McCulloch Park. Staff has been with mowing, pruning, weed eating and stump grinding in several parks. The staff has assisted with (2) days of mowing Prairie Creek.

### **Tuhey Pool**

We are excited and ready for the pool opening on Memorial Day weekend. We have been busy with pre-opening and trouble-shooting the pumps and valves in the pool pit. The Health department was on site Tuesday, May 21 for opening approval. Tuhey splash pad is ready for summer use.

### **Riverview Park Update**

George and I met with Whitely Community Council last week to discuss concerns regarding Riverview Park. The main topic of discussion was moving the swing set 30 feet back from the existing location providing seating, fencing around the pickle ball court and shelter.

### **Splash Pads Update**

We are currently waiting on several bleeder valves to be shipped to our office. Vortex was having problems locating parts. The bleeders was been shipped out today. We are hoping to have Halteman, Cooley, Riverview splash pads up and going this week. Thomas Park splash pad will open once panel board arrives.

### **Muncie YMCA**

The Tuhey contract (memorandum of understanding) for the Muncie YMCA and our legal council is completed and security contract with Legacy Security.

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



**Carl Malone**  
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## PROGRAM REPORT

- NFL Flag Football was a success this summer at Ball Corp Park. We put together eight teams for the league this summer with 100 kids playing consistently every week. Our last day was Tuesday, June 11, 2024. Before we started the games on June 11, we had teams take pictures with our 2024 sponsors, which enabled us to purchase FREE uniforms for all the Youth that signed up. Thank you to our 2024 sponsors: Future Choices, The Law Office of Carman L. Malone, Plant Studio Landscape, NAACP Muncie Branch, Delk McNally LLP and Jasmine Long Bail Bonding.
- Muncie Parks and Recreation Softball Camp happened Monday – Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> at Gainbridge Baseball Field. The softball camp had 35 girls sign up for the softball camp. We verified that 23 girls attended the camp consistently. The young ladies learned the following skills from Whitney Vance-Reed, Head Coach for Muncie Central Softball and (2) members of her coaching staff
  - Batting skills like stance improvement, hit and runs, pull hitting, bunting and hitting for power
  - Pitching skills that include pitching motions, release points and communication between pitcher and catcher
  - Fielding skills for catching pop-flies and groundballs, performing relay throws and turning double plays
  - Base-running skills that include stealing, pickles and tagging up
- Muncie Parks and Recreation Basketball Camp was a big hit at Heekin Park, Monday-Wednesday (June 10-12). Our maximum number was to sign up 60 Youth and we had 60 Youth (Boys & Girls) attend all three days. Crew Life facilitated the basketball with six Purdue coaches and did an excellent job teaching the kids the fundamentals of basketball and discipline. Muncie Parks and Recreation plan to host another basketball camp early July.
- Muncie Teen Internship Program will start our 3<sup>rd</sup> week this Wednesday at Northside Middle School. We have 100 Youth participating in the program. We have two groups focusing on Parks. The paint group are painting our bathrooms at McCulloch, Heekin and Westside Park. Our second group is working with Eco-Rehab to build more picnic tables, benches and build two shelters (1 for Cowing and 1 for Heekin Park by the MLK Walkathon). We have other groups working with Habitat for Humanity, YMCA, YWCA, Tuhey Pool, IU Health, Second Harvest and Muncie Community Schools. After this week, we have three weeks left for the



**Carl Malone**  
Superintendent  
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program.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Black Music Month Celebration
- Muncie Black Expo
- Youth Basketball Tournament
- Quarterback and Receiver Camp
- Youth Baseball Camp



# Muncie Park & Recreation Board Meeting

May 21, 2024 6 p.m.

City Hall Auditorium

**1. CALL TO ORDER-** Shannon Powers called meeting to order at 6:00p.m.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – All stood for the Pledge

**3. ROLL CALL-** Present were Brad Marshall, Shannon Powers, Mark Ervin and James Lutton. Chandra Parks was absent.

## **4. APPROVAL OF APRIL BOARD MINUTES**

James motioned for the approval of the March minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Shannon.

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

## **5. Flatland Resources – Dave Heilman**

Dave came to present updates on several projects to the Board.

**Walk of Fame (Heekin Park)** – Dave introduced Susan Fisher and Ed McNeary of the MLK Dream Team to discuss the project. They received a grant from the Zeigler Foundation earlier this year to do some upgrades in and around the Walk of Fame at Heekin Park. Flatland has been hired to explore what those improvements could be. Right now they are looking at a concrete slab to be used as a gathering space. We're looking at some seating options and a sign by the entrance on Memorial to help raise awareness. That would be Phase I. For future phases and the way we are trying to honor local Civil Rights Heroes. One thing they will need that he believes comes through the Board is an MOU for the Zeigler Fund to be used for those upgrades to take place since it is Parks property. They can start working on getting that document ready to go so The MLK Dream Team can sign it and then the Board can sign it. Dave asked if the Board wanted them to provide a draft and Brad replied it would be great if they could provide a draft to the legal as a good place to start and they can go from there.

Susan Fisher works for the Muncie Public Library and is also a volunteer with the MLK Dream Team. She and Ed McNeary have served on the Walk a Bank committee since 2003, and the project was finally unveiled in 2011, under the leadership of Mayor Sharon McShirley at the time. It is a project that pays homage to those who made a difference in Muncie, Delaware County, and East Central IN, in the civil rights movement. Memory Spiral, which I don't know if any of you have seen that in Hickam Park, it's fabulous and it's wonderful. And the Ziegler Foundation said maybe you would like to work on some upgrades for your project. And we hadn't really thought about it until they saw the Muncie Memory Spiral. And then we're like, yeah, we need some. We need some, some things added to this. But it always has been and remains a project of the MLK Dream Team, which is a local nonprofit, the City of Muncie and Muncie Public Library. Mr. McNeary added he was by the park the other day and he thinks this is going to add something to the city of Muncie and Delaware County. And we thank you for cooperating with us to make this project go. Thank you. I just think it's once everything is done, I think it's going to be very impressive for all of us in the city of Muncie. As Susan was saying, the MLK Dream Team, we really didn't realize it that this was going to go out and it's going to be this, this big. But we like, we would like to thank the Ziegler family for helping us, especially money, monetary standpoint. And I just think it's going to be good for the whole city.

**Tillpond** – The project is moving along as the city got a Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant for it. An RFP will be going out soon to prospective consultants and contractors but we are still in the preliminary phase. The hope is that constructions would be able to occur next year but he didn't have any more information about it. Brad added the board has talked about that a few times. It's still preliminary phases. Essentially there would have been some conceptual that we submitted with the grant get that approval. It is federal money and funds there. So it's a slow process, but I think plus I was helping certainly on the front end here to help facilitate that.

**Prairie Creek Phase 3** – The recreational trail which is part of Phase Three. So going back to the Prairie Creek Master plan from many years ago, the goal was to connect to the Cardinal Greenway up around to the North Shore campgrounds. Two phases have been built to date. Both of those were about 10 and eight years respectively. The city applied for and received grant funding last year to essentially attach to the end of phase two and then connect up to the Beach House. It's about a mile of trail and just last week the city received their grant agreement paperwork from the state. So they are also putting together a request for proposal for that project as well. We've will also be designed build. So the hope again is to be able to build that one next year.

Brad interjected he did receive some questions on that project regarding the scope or is it just a trail, materials, anticipated materials, the trail or are any other amenities included? Dave replied there will be at least one trail head, and he thinks it's usually five or six parking stalls with one of those being ADA compliant. It will have typical amenities, trash cans, benches to sit on, etcetera. The material will be the same as the other two phases. So it's an ADA compliant stone. He believes there is 10 FS or 12FS stone that we place on, on a bed of #73 stone and that compacts well. You can use wheelchairs on it, bikes, and etcetera. And it follows all the ADA compliance rules. So no more than 2% cross slope as your running slopes can't be greater than 5%. So it's the cheapest way to build a good successful trail while still maintaining the accessibility requirements that the state wants and inevitably the city, and the Parks Department wants as well. Brad stated he assumed there'll be a fair amount of degrading, cut and fill and things to meet those ADA requirements, is that where a lot of the cost comes from in that project. With the other two phases, we were able fortunate enough to do that work and we tried to balance the cut and fill so that we're not hauling material in or off site because that increases the project cost significantly. One of the more expensive parts is there's the lower leg of the lake which juts out to the east. We have to essentially build a bench on that because we can't use the roadway and the existing kind of earthen levee or dam that crosses there. So we have to build a bench and we have to extend the culvert that's there. So there's a decent amount of cost wrapped up in that part of the project.

**Tuhey Park** – There is a little bit of a back story here. There's been a desire in the community to connect Ball State and downtown with the trail, and there have been multiple iterations. There's been lots of community engagement, all states been involved on what this trail looks like and where exactly it goes. There was a plan marching forward and that was the last few years. It was the Muncie Arts and Culture Trail (MAC trail), that was proposed to run down University Ave., east to west. You guys may know that the price for that trail came back at double the engineer's estimate. It was supposed to be run through an N dot program. It was like an 80/20 match that would have would have paid for that trail and that price kind of killed the project on the spot. We got involved with both Muncie Arts and Ball State. I'm trying to figure out a way to make it work with less money and through just the luck of timing The Lily Grant through The Lily Foundation, Ball State applied for some of their visionary projects in the village came about. And part of the request to Lily was money for a trail. Now it wouldn't be as pretty as the proposed MAC trail, but it would be a dedicated trail to get you from campus in the village to downtown. So we were engaged with Muncie Arts and Ball State on the exact routing of that trail, where it could go and what it could look like and, and hoping to build some identity into that trail. We engaged with the Riverside neighborhood on the routing, what they prefer, what they didn't prefer, and ultimately

Riverside Ave. was chosen. So starting at Riverside and Dicks, running east to Reserve and South on reserve. Where the Parks Department comes in is Tuhey Pool and Park.

When we talked with the neighborhood and some things we heard through other community members in the public meetings we held last year and earlier this year, was a desire to get the trail network to and through Tuhey Park and then connect to downtown, whether it's via Washington Street or near Washington Street, or whether that trail heads east and connects up with the High Street Bridge and the White River Greenway there. So that prompted questions of there's this desire to get people moving through, to and through the park on their bikes or using the trails, walking. The neighborhood itself has put together kind of a plan, Plant Studio put together for them the amenities they would like. It became apparent that maybe a master plan of some sorts would be good for the park itself. So we have been tasked with putting together a very conceptual plan as to what that what to eat park, if we re-envisioned it, what it could look like. Not the pool itself. We're not proposing moving the pool, but the circulation patterns, creating dedicated spaces for the neighborhood park. Is there room for a community park, these are things we want to explore. So we don't have a plan right now. We're just at the very beginning stages of that. And again, it's going to be very conceptual, but I wanted to bring it to you. And I guess my request of the board is as we engage the community in this and we start looking through ideas of what this conceptual plan could be to the park and pool could be, at the end of what we create would the Parks Department be willing to accept it as a concept plan. To say this is a vision for the future that we would like to explore. We don't have a timeline. We don't have an idea on funding, right now. We believe we can be creative with how this gets implemented in the years in the future. But at the basic level, we would like the Parks Board to be able to say this is something we stand behind and we'd like to pursue it further. So that's what I'm presenting to you right now. And I don't need an answer today unless you want to give one, but I just want to put that on your plate.

Brad stated he would encourage not just Dave, but any organizations out there that are dreaming to come up with ideas to present to this team and the city, for the parks to make it better easier foot traffic, bicycle traffic. Tuhey it sounds like you're on the front end of this, which is good. That neighborhood is passionate and there's people that have strong opinions about that site as we've seen in recent history. So over-communicating, over-expressing what the vision is and getting feedback early would be recommended because that can kill a project entirely really quickly. As people make assumptions before they know all the facts.

Shannon added, we have our next Five Year Master Plan that's coming up. She has been working on the survey which she will send out to all of you, but there's several questions that relate to Tuhey Pool. So we want to also expand this to the wider community as well. Our last Five-Year Master Plan survey, we had over 1400 respondents and people



are very passionate about that park. It's the most widely used park and maybe because it's obviously because of the pool, but also because it's in the center. It's very centrally located in the city. She likes these conceptual ideas, but I always keep going back to where how are we going to fund it? And there is funding out there. She asked if he had ever heard of the ORLP grant as she believed it would be perfect as it's a 50/50 federal grant. She suggested he may want to speak to George Foley as well. We've talked about that grant for that park. We've talked a lot about that park. We had a feasibility study done just this past year on the bathhouse and what it would take to revitalize that. And that's one of the main questions on that survey for that particular park. Do we want to revitalize it? Is that something that people in the community want to do? Dave replied he will reach out to see how this could fit into the Park's Master Plan. Brad stated he thinks it would be great to incorporate that. To get some kind of vision there and to see where we're going to go with that regarding to the park or the trail connector.

**Riverview Park** – he believes everyone is aware of the efforts that have been going on at Riverview. We met on site about a month and a half ago and talked about that site. He wants to provide some updates along with the conversations he's had with Carl, the neighborhood and some of the other city administration about how we're getting that project done. So through those conversations we've had with the neighborhood and with Carl, we kind of put together a Plan of Action for improvements and changes that are needed at Riverview. He believes we've come up with a good list we believe puts us in a direction to get it done and gives people something they're proud of. Carl has already implemented some of those and there's now some fencing that's gone up at the park. We made some changes to the pickleball courts and making changes to the playgrounds as well in terms of moving some of the structures away from the road and the parking to the backside of the designated playground area. We've coordinated with the contractor to move the swing set and mushroom musical instrument away from the road in the next couple of weeks.

He knows some of the neighbors have requested the splash pad be turned on, and Carl's working through some issues with some pieces that are needed to turn all the splash pads on in town. But we're working to do that and also get the designated bathrooms built this summer. He feels pretty good about where we're at. He knows there's been some ups and downs, but it seems like we're headed in the right direction.

Shannon stated when she was up there, she noticed there were still two pickleball courts. One of them has both of the Nets up. One of them has the lines painted. The other one does not have the lines painted. Dave replied there was a determination made to not paint the pickleball court closest to the road and to not use that as a pickleball court and just have one. The subcontractor decided to hang both nets up and it will be taken down. The space where the one court was will now be a gathering space for the basketball players and those playing pickle ball to stand around there. Another

improvement he knows Carl's working with the neighborhood on reinstalling or putting in a new shelter house where the existing one was in the back corner of the park.

James asked if a safety feature would be going on the light pole that is in between the pickleball courts and Dave replied they are looking into trying to find a way to provide essentially padding on it. So it's a little, the issue isn't the pole itself, it's the electrical box. And that is harder to come with. You can't just go to an online store and find padding for that type of structure. So we're trying to think creatively on ways to put padding around those corners and those edges. And we'll also get something around the bottom part of the pole, which is easy to find. You can find those a lot of places online, but it's the box itself that's proving to be a little more tricky. So we're having just to be a little more creative about padding while also allowing access to that box for the company.

Mark asked if that net and the standards from the other are coming out, will the holes be filled. And if the net and the standards are coming out will they be held safe somewhere? If we paid for it, we ought to have it. Dave stated he hadn't talked to Carl about specifically, but he believes Carl would just take those things.

Shannon asked when the blacktop was poured because there were weeds already coming up. She wondered what does that do the blacktop, will it break it and if there was anything we could do to curb it. Dave replied it was poured last fall and he stated using weed killer was one solution if it's a small area. If it is larger, like a two by two square the contractor may have to we can dig those areas out and re-patch them.

James asked if the target date is still July 4<sup>th</sup> and Dave replied that's the target date for the restrooms, everything else should be open before then.

Shannon wondered if they could find some grants to get some help purchasing some playground equipment because that park has a lot of young children that like Merry Go rounds, for example. So that would be something that would be highly utilized, and more age appropriate for the children that are in the daycares that will be utilizing that park on a regular basis.

Brad asked the Board if they had any questions, and there were none.

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

Playground structures are in at all three locations. McCulloch Park, Gilbert Park and Cowing Park. Those three are the places we had the new playgrounds put in. There are two new nice metal blue shelters that have been put in place. One was installed back with the old one. We removed one and then the other one was placed a little closer to the

bathroom area where we'll have some ADA accessibility coming off of the in between the two playgrounds and then closer to the bathroom as well. And that's not completed yet, but that is to be done there at McCulloch. We've also assisted a couple days out at Prairie Creek primarily with some mowing and doing some things Junior asked us to do out there as well.

**Tuhey Pool** - we're excited about opening day which is coming pretty soon on Memorial Day weekend. We've been busy with troubleshooting, and making sure we are making repairs as we go along. We were visited today by the County and they'll be back Thursday just to kind of double check and make sure we get a few areas tightened up for some of the concerns they had. But we've already made those corrections. Those fixtures have already been replaced and tightened up. We think we'll be ready when she comes back on Thursday for the final approval. The small splash pad, we had some issues over the weekend with some possible leaking there in the actual apparatus there in the middle. But I think Buddenbaum got that worked out. So we'll be waiting for the test results to come back and we're pretty sure we'll have both pools up and going.

**Riverview** - One of the things we talked about at our meeting we had with the Whitely Neighborhood Council was the lack of seating. They requested we have seating in and around spots within the park and we talked about fencing around the pickleball court itself. That was something that wasn't in the original plans. We've already gotten the quote in and that project should be happening here within the next day or two. We're starting to fence in the pickleball court for safety as well. We've already provided some fencing for the playground area. As they move the playground back that fencing won't be a problem, and won't be in the way. So that'll stay intact. Another thing we talked about was the concern for the softball/kickball playing field, and if it would be available for the kids at the daycares? We've tilled that recently and we're soon to drag and line it and then have some seating put in for some kickball games by the daycare as they bring the kids out to visit the park.

**Splash Pad Update** - We had some vandalism that took place towards the latter part of last summer. We them in at Thomas Park and Riverview and we have a toolbox that looks like a regular toolbox, and the bleeder valves when we did the winterization all went in that toolbox. That toolbox came up missing. And so it was pretty hard to locate these bleeder valves. We didn't think it would take this long, but we've been on hold for about 3 weeks trying to get our hands on all those valves. We talked to Corey at Vortex and he'll be here tomorrow morning at 9:00 to bring what he had in stock. He doesn't know if Corey got all 40, but knows he was working hard to try to put his hands on as many of those bleeder valves as he could. The plan is to have Halteman, Cooley, Riverview, and Tuhey up and running. Then Thomas is on hold because we're still waiting on the panel board itself. That panel board was damaged when the vandalism took place there at Thomas Park. So we're still waiting for that motherboard to come in.

And once that's in we'll begin to get that installed and get the water turned on there. So Thomas will be the last one for that reason.

**YMCA** - we met with the staff this week and he met with the lawyers to talk a little bit about some issues and concerns they had with the contracts as it relates to security and then some other language. So as I know it to be the, the language the lawyer stated has been corrected and turned in. He asked Mark if he's seen any updates, as he hadn't seen any new e-mail, but we did make the changes that were asked of us by the legal team. So, we don't see that being a problem either.

**Staff** - Our staff has been really busy. Those summer individuals we've hired, and our regular workers, work hard every day. They're working hard to manage expectations as they relate to parks when we talk about beautification. Some of our summer hires are grateful they had the opportunity to come be a part of the City team for the summer. And so we're just trying to be better at what we do every day as we go out and try to make our parks inviting to the to the public.

**Programming** - George sent the Board the information on programming and the only thing that we didn't have on there was soccer. Carl stated he talked to Deputy Mayor Ivy and he wanted him to convey we actually had 217 kids enrolled in the soccer program for the first session. They were very grateful for the preparation of the playing fields. We had to do some reconfiguring as we normally would play in different locations, but we had to move a couple of the soccer fields. Parking has always been a challenge because the church that sits right across their parking used to be available and it's no longer available for parent parking. So we had to use the back part of the fencing to park. We made an opening there where they can park their cars there and then walk through the opening and come right to the soccer field. So they were pretty grateful for that as well. So he just wanted Carl to make sure he shared that with the board.

George has been really, really busy. He's out there today with NFL Flag Football. George and Brandon Hayes, one of our former NFL football players and resident of Muncie, a product of Muncie Central High School has come back to put a lot of time and effort into the NFL Flag Football partnership. They're at Ball Corp Park with those kids today. Purdue University's basketball team will be here in our city soon to provide some basketball camp opportunities for several kids in the community and then we will have girls' softball. Our summer work intern program starts June 5<sup>th</sup> and the kids are looking forward to having another opportunity to earn some money and skill sets as they partner with our summer youth program. So I want to thank the Board, the City of Muncie and all the partners involved to give these kids the opportunity to learn how to become successful workers in our community as it is definitely needed.

Moving on to the concerts, George has been working on some summer concerts and those are before you. He thinks they're going to be at the Canan Common, Heekin Park,

and McCulloch. He has them spread out throughout the city. He's been in conversation with the Police Department to work on the security piece that's needed. We're looking forward to that as well.

There will also be some aquatics lessons at Tuhey. George has had conversations with Miss Shannon in reference to dates and times, as you see before you.

So we think we have a full summer of activities. When you think about where we're compared to four years ago in terms of the parks, park programming, the Park Department and the Board, he think we can be pretty proud of where we are, and the direction the City and the Park Department are headed.

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

## **7. PRAIRIE CREEK REPORT – Tawny Hill, Operations Manager**

We've been really busy as we're opening the beach this Friday. Friday it will be open at 11:00 am. Weekdays it'll be 11 to 6 and 11 to seven on Saturday and Sunday. Carl's team was out to help and they're amazing. She met most of them and thinks they are coming out again to help us get ready for Memorial Day. Shannon, helped her get everybody hired. We have like 9 beach attendants and a lot of new guys have started for maintenance. They're going to go out tomorrow and have all the old wood piers picked up and all that, finish building, and clean up the campground. We did some more work at Indian Hill. We renovated the building, did the siding and they're going to come put it in this week.

There is security now working five days a week and The Friends of Prairie Creek have their meeting coming up on June 14th. The boat launch is open now and their phone is working, so now you can get a hold of the boat launch and the office. It was down all last year, so she made sure that was fixed.

Brad asked if there were any questions for Tawny and James asked if we have somebody going around inspecting the playground equipment at Prairie Creek and Tawny replied she can look into that. James stated he knows in the campground there's a baby swing that's in extremely bad shape. It's got sharp metal that can cause injury. Tawny replied nobody has brought that to her attention, but they can definitely go look at it. She said she's been going myself and looking for trash to clean up. She was stuck in the office for a while and then when she started hearing about things, she went out and realized what she was missing by not being out there. So she spent a lot of time this weekend looking around and made a list of a lot of things that needed to be taken care of. She think some people from the parks also were coming out, if I read the e-mail correct, to help with some of those things.

James stated today he saw somebody weeded the playground at the campground because there were very tall thistles out there. Tawny replied she was pretty upset with about that when she went out to clean up the trash. He added he hasn't driven down to the other one by the beach this weekend. So what kind of shape it is in. Tawny said she has had the staff down there a lot as they have a fishing tournament coming up this weekend that's going to be down there. And then of course the beach is opening. So she's been sending people, but she's also been super busy in the office. She's been trying to make sure they keep an eye on it and will have them check again to make sure.

**Piers and Campsites** - We went through everybody that was on the alternate list and we still have some available. So tomorrow at 9:00 AM, if you guys want to send somebody out, you can get somebody out. We have three more of each and possibly 5 piers. We kept two out in case we messed up any and we took someone's pier in error. We just didn't want to not have something available. We have 4 new ADA spots, so she thinks we're going to go ahead and put 2 into the lottery. So probably filled by and ADA on 30, that might be down for a day. We'll do it when it's not busy, like after Memorial Day. We're going to put the ADA parking so it's compliant with that pier. That will drawing will be live, and we will use the names that were already in the lottery. There will be no names added.

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

## **8. FRIENDS OF PRAIRIE CREEK – Jackie Sciscoe**

The next meeting will be on June 14, 2024 at 7 p.m.

Jackie stated they are working on the survey and she stated they had some questions she emailed to the Brad earlier in the day and asked him to forward it to the Board for review, and if there's anything else they think needs to be added before they send it out She asked what would be the best way to get them out to campsite holders and annual lease holder without burdening Tawny and Brad directed her to contact Richard Ivy who is covering at Prairie Creek. Tawny interjected she would help however she could.

## **9. OLD BUSINESS**

The only old business item on the agenda was the Prairie Creek resolution for docks and campsites that was presented at the last meeting that had our special meeting to review. He knows we're not changing these for this year and these would be going into effect next year. He doesn't think there's urgency on hammering those out today, especially given the technical difficulties and with missing one of the board members. He's personally received some limited feedback, and knows some of the others on the Board have also received some feedback and certainly would be open

to discussion. Due to the technical difficulties for this meeting Brad stated he would consider a motion to table this item until June as he feels it is important for everyone to discuss in the proper forum.

James motioned for the tabling of the Prairie Creek Resolutions until the June meeting. Motion was seconded by Shannon.

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

## **10. NEW BUSINESS**

Brad asked if there were any new items from the Board and there were none.

The Commodore from the Sail Club brought up the subject of fishing off the pier. There's the rule that says you cannot fish off of a pier. The bigger problem we're starting to see is people fishing off of boats within harbor areas. Whether it's our harbor area for the sailboats or for the pontoon boats. Boats are coming into these areas and they're blocking the ability to get in and out of your slip.

They are damaging property in the form of casting onto boats, and breaking the gel coats. We're finding hooks in gear and all over the place. I'm sure that there's probably some cushions with hooks in them. And probably the most important one is the exposure to personal injury. Last summer we had one of our members who had inspected his gear, gone out for a sale, missed one of the hooks in his rigging, and got it embedded in his hand. Now this is on his running rigging which controls his main sail. This gives him power, gives him steerage. He lost that. He couldn't release it, he couldn't get the hook out of his hand. By the time he got in he was pretty in pretty bad shape. One of our members, fortunately was there, and had the right tools to take the hook out of his hand and was able to get some first aid for him. He was very close to needing to go to an emergency room. That's how bad the damage was. If you can imagine getting a hook in your hand and a rope pulling on it with about 100 pounds of pressure, it's pretty severe. You know, this is just one small example of what we're finding. And even as late as today, we had somebody come through, they cast it right into one of the boats, got their hook into his safety net and it was a lot of damage that he had to his boat. So we're asking that the rules include not fishing among boats that are moored. You know the line is getting into the motors, it's getting into the rigging, and cushions. It's just a very dangerous thing to do. When this fellow was out on the water, I mean, he had limited control of his boat, which would lead to a possible collision. So we just want to bring that up as a point of concern.

Brad thanked the Commodore for his concern. He knows we've talked about that a little bit before and the challenge of enforcing as there's two pieces of it is, how do we define

that and what area is that. And then also the enforcement on the water as once it's on the water it is no longer in our jurisdiction. So there's two pieces on how to how to structure that. But I think it's worth looking at again. So you probably don't want any injuries out there and common sense goes a long way. Hopefully we can build some awareness in the fishermen as well to minimize the risk for all of us.

## **11. ACTION ITEMS**

There were no action items.

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

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

There were three names on the Public Input signup sheet but none were present when called.

Ken Hudson addressed the Board about Riverview Park and Prairie Creek. Ken started by saying he was appreciative of the conversations that have been taking place with the Whitely Community Council concerning Riverview Park and the changes that have been taking place. It has taken a very long time to get that park in order and is glad the work is taking place and progress is being made.

Ken also wanted to speak about the feeling of using Prairie Creek. He stated he doesn't come to the meetings often but was encourage to because he had some points he would like to share. Many of the fishers he speaks to, dock holders and non-holders, feel as if changes are being made out there that don't include your regular individual or families that come out to spend time together and fish off the bank. He stated he believes members of the Muncie community who aren't dock holders are being left out of the conversation though they are impacted by the changes as well. He has had a few meetings with Dustin Clark last year. They toured some of the areas and he gave him some suggestions to meet in the middle for some of the issues. For instance, the handicapped pier was moved. He knows the reasons for it, which were good reasons, but it also changed the fishing ecosystem around that space and fishermen were upset about that. My suggestion to him was to take some of the old docks and put them in places that can only be used by people fishing from the bank with no boats allowed and that will help alleviate some of the situations that some people are having. For instance, you can't fish off the dock if you don't own a boat space. The rule was if the dock owner gave you permission to fish off their dock, you could. Now the new rule is the dock owner has to be there with you. He was out there the other day and challenged that. The individual who told him the new rule said let them check on it. So he doesn't know if it was made up or wishful thinking.



The common feeling is that changes are being made that don't include people who don't have a boat, camper, or own \$1,000 worth of equipment. What he'd like to see, honestly, is some decisions being made for people who just want to go out there and fish with their kids on the bank. He really would like to see the bank permit done away with. He doesn't know how much revenue is earned from that, but many of the people he speaks to don't even know they're supposed to have a bank permit, which means they don't even buy it. He thinks that's something to seriously consider. He was told that Prairie Creek is not on a tax roll and that may need to be addressed. I don't know if it's still that way, but I was told that it came off the tax roll under the McShirley administration. He doesn't know why, and is not asking why, but thinks that's something to reconsider. That revenue can be brought in for Prairie Creek and some of the things that are become stumbling blocks or hindrances for regular families who just want to go out and enjoy water that's in their community can just go out and do that without being questioned or feeling as though they have to pay more money. They have fishing license, but have to also buy a permit. And if they don't get an annual permit, they have to buy 1 every single time I go out. If I'm a family of four or a family of six, I have to buy one for everybody. That's \$90.00 for me a year.

Even the new gates that were installed, he would caution the board, and thinks they've already kind of hinted toward this. He would caution the board on making decisions that are meant for private property that affect regular citizens. He gets it. Private property is being damaged and that's an issue. He owns a boat himself and knows that's an issue nobody wants that. You definitely don't want string in your motor and don't want people throwing hooks and lures on your boat, but unfortunately that stuff happens in every piece of water everywhere. That's a challenging place and he gets the concern. God knows no one wants to have a hook in their hand and his sympathy goes out for that gentleman that had that happen and to anybody who has to worry about vandalism on their boats, because I know that was an issue out there. People were stealing boat batteries and folks had to take their batteries in at night and all that kind of stuff that. He was fishing out there one time and somebody drunk was out there just destroying one of the wooden docks, just riding the dock like a pony. He got up and left as he knew the police were going to be there any minute and he didn't want to be there when that clown went to jail. So he know there's a concern but, you don't, you don't penalize 90% of the people because 10% are idiots.

Brad replied that he appreciated Ken's feedback and stated the Board does spend a lot of time on the campers and dock holders and it is good to hear another set of opinions and some feedback. He knows we've got some initiatives in place to highlight some of those items. One of the things that we did last year was open the beach for free swimming. I think that's been a great asset. Tawny added one of the reasons we started to move to the floating piers was to open up that space for bank fishing. She supports the gates because there's just a lack of respect for other people's property out there. There's plenty

of spaces to fish. She does like the idea of maybe a better area because we do get a lot of complaints over there as it's an odd area. She knows that we've had a lot of things stolen, even this year. It's already started. Security has been going out. In the past, we've had these rules but they didn't really mean anything because nobody was enforcing them. So everybody asked constantly why we have them if they were not enforced. She does send security out, but it's mostly to kick people off the docks and to clean up the park. The beach is free so people can come out and enjoy it. She added, if he had any other ideas he could contact her to discuss and they could bring them to the Board.

James asked if there is a plan in place to maintain the shores between the new piers or are they just going to let them grow up because they're already starting to grow out of control pretty quick. Tawny replied she wanted to trim them last year but was told it was part of the restoration. That's why we haven't but she thought it would look better. James added if we're opening up for bank fishing, we need to make it accessible to fish off the bank. Brad added we need to make sure there's a structured plan because if we don't provide places to fish, people are going to find places that are either unsafe or improper and we want to help the city with that. Tawny replied she thought that last year because she wanted to send people out there to trim those up. She went out there fishing with her kids. She added visitors don't have to pay for their kids. Shannon asked if we have more bank fishing area so it's not so close to the campground and James replied it's all around the lake and Ken added you can only access a portion of them as only about 35% of the bank is accessible. He added the campground areas was an excellent area for fishing the whole shoreline and that's why the handicapped pier was important to so many people. From that point you can catch Walleye, so when you start telling anglers they can't go in there because the gate is down that's going to cause problems as they need to be in the deeper water where the fish are. People don't want to break the rules, they just want to fish.

James asked Tawny if they could speak with like the organizers of the fishing tournaments about fishing up close to these boats and just ask them because they're going to be the guys that police it. They're the ones that respect what they're doing, but they're going to police somebody not doing what they're supposed to be doing. And if they're policing themselves on that, then they're probably going to be strict with each other. Maybe just say something to each organizer, because those are the big fishermen out there. Brad added maybe they could work with the Commodore to have some kind of statement that comes with a fishing permit stating we've had incidences and to please be cautious and contact information for the office and who to notify if an accident happens.

Mark asked if we have a fishing organization that people could join and no one could think of one. Marks stated it seems like that would be something because people that fish know what works and what's needed and could have a voice for everybody to help us figure this out. The Commodore added the Sail Club would be happy to participate in

coming up with some of those solutions because we have some ideas he believes would be acceptable. Brad stated that's something we're going to continue to work on, review and develop to come up with something that's good for everybody.

Jackie asked Brad if he could explain the ordinance City Council passed last year regarding leased spaces vs non-leased spaces to help people understand the differences. Brad stated leased spaces are the spots and the piers themselves and that's how the some of the rules are omitted or included in one versus the other. Everybody knows that all the property around the reservoir is owned by the water company and it's partnered with the city and we lease that. Part of that is that the West side is maintained as a natural environment, natural habitats. That's why there's not been development on the West side outside of the limited horse trails and the limited access they've got over there. And then the other half of the agreement references using it for public good for everybody. They allowed us limited access to have the campsites and the docks on the water. He knows we've talked about the gates in the campground area specifically several times. His belief is that when it comes to the gates it should be campground hours. He knows there may be feedback and people think otherwise, but that's his personal belief. And what he would push for is campground hours. And outside of those hours, the gates are closed, which would be no different than any other park that we secure, like Tuhey which is closed with blocking gates. But that's the difference, that there are leased spaces and there are public spaces, but the leased spaces are the docks themselves, the campsites and a shelter if they're having an event.

Ken stated he believes that impacts fisherman as the park hours of 7 am – 11 pm cuts out night fishing for Catfish. Brad added once you're on the water you're under DNR control. But that's something we need to look into. Ken added Crappie fisherman get up before sunrise because that's when Crappie bite is in the first hour of the sun coming up. Brad replied that is the feedback we need to look into those things.

**Halteman Village Neighborhood** – Brad stated he received an event application from the Halteman Village Neighborhood Association. It was sent to George as well but with his other commitments it wasn't present. Halteman Village NHA would like to host an event at Halteman Park on Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, from 9 – 4 pm, and it looks like the actual event will run 11:00 to 3:00 pm. It is a free event to build stronger neighborhood relations among residents and neighborhood partners to promote a sense of unity. They're expecting 100 to 300 in attendance. They've worked with Amy Kessler, the MPD and the police will be engaged and participating in the event. They do have 2 concessions at this time, and possibly a third. They're asking for porta pots near the back of the basketball court and they had this event last year as well.

Carl asked if they were requesting the use of the pickleball courts as well. Brad stated it looks like they want the entire park. He knows last year they had a pickleball

tournament but he doesn't see that noted but that's something we can clarify with their team. Carl stated that was his only question as he didn't want pickleball players to go out there and feel like they're locked out or maybe they just won't come out in the first place. Brad stated at the last event, they had the pickleball tournament in the morning and they had a final in the afternoon. So there was still open courts and open times available. He knows some of the regular players were trying to teach them and expose other people to the game.

Carl added he was in support of bank fishing. He gets a lot of calls about locations for bank fishing and there has been a lot of requests to identify places that people can't go out and fish. He got a phone call this weekend in reference to that and the bank permitting piece as well. Just making sure the whole entire community understands how to go about going out there to fish and not feeling like they will be asked to leave or arrested because you don't have maybe that piece of ID that you need to bank fish. They just really want to go out and fish. Shannon asked Tawny if we can we get some idea what type of revenue is generated from these permits and what that money is used for, maybe for next meeting. Tawny replied she can look into that for sure as she knows it's picked up a lot. Shannon asked if there was signage that says they need to purchase a permit and Tawny stated it is.

**Meeting was adjourned by Brad Marshall, President.**

**\* Next Park Board meeting is currently scheduled for June 18, 2024, at 6 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium.**