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Superintendent: Carl Malone

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

**Tuesday, January 16, 2024**  
**City Hall Auditorium**

- (1) Call to Order
- (2) Pledge of Allegiance
- (3) Roll Call
- (4) Approval of the minutes from (December 2023) Park Board Meeting
- (5) Superintendent Report – Carl Malone
- (6) Parks Programming & Park Event Approval – George Foley
- (7) Prairie Creek Report – Dustin Clark
- (8) Friends of Prairie Creek
- (9) Old Business
- (10) New Business
  - Heekin Park National Registry Application Vote
- (11) Action Items
- (12) Public Input – (3) minutes limit – Please state your name and address.

**\* Next Park Board Meeting – Tuesday, February 20, 2024 (6:00 p.m.) - City Hall Auditorium**



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## Superintendent Report

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

### **Muncie Parks Department**

Muncie Parks Department has been busy preparing for winter snow removal, snow blower tune-up, attaching the snowplow on the truck, equipment inventory and painting all the Cabins at Heekin.

Recreation Insite has completed Kompan Concept Design in Alshire Park. We have (3) concepts to choose. We have no timeline for start-up or completion date. Once we secure funding, we will have a completion date.

### **Riverview Park Update**

This park is close to completion. We need basketball courts lines added, pickleball court still need lining. Restrooms need to be installed and need playground safety barriers installed.

### **Westside Park Skatepark Update**

Completion Timeline: Pending DNR approval.

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

Carl Malone  
Superintendent  
Muncie Parks and Recreation

# Muncie Park & Recreation Board Meeting

January 16, 2024 6 p.m.

City Hall Auditorium

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

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

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

## **4. BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL VOTE**

Election for Board President and Vice President

- James Lutton nominated Brad Marshall for President. Motion was seconded by Chandra Parks. No other nominations presented.

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

- Chandra Parks nominated Dr. Shannon Powers. Motion was seconded by Brad Marshall. No other nominations presented.

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

## **5. 2024 MEETING DATES**

Mark Ervin motioned for the approval of the proposed meeting dates as presented. Motion was seconded by Shannon Powers.

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

## **6. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER BOARD MINUTES-**

Chandra Parks motioned for the approval of the December minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Shannon Powers.

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

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

Staff has been working on snow removal as we have a couple of new locations that have been added to our list that we hadn't had to clear before.

**Aultshire Park** – We met with Melissa of Recreation Insites who went out to do a survey as it is a small neighborhood pocket park. She provided us with three concept ideas for improvements there, which have been provided to the Board. We're in discussion with the Deputy Mayor on how to secure funding and once we do that we can come back before the Board with a timeline for the start-up and completion date.

**Riverview Park** – Construction is moving along. The basketball court is in place and the goals are up. The only thing he didn't see is the lining of the court. There is still some design work left to be done on the pickle ball court, which should be completed with the weather breaks. The playground equipment is in and the Whitely Neighborhood Association has some questions about the safety of it as it is close to the road. As we think about an 8 foot swing, we require 16 feet of clearance both ways and we're not sure if we're going to get it. We've spoken to the Deputy Mayor about possibly putting in some pavers along the front as a buffer. We will be discussing with Pride Mark and Flat Land to see if that is feasible.

**Westside Park** – We are still awaiting DNR approval in order to proceed with construction.

**2024 Budget** – Nikki, George, the Deputy Mayor and I looked at this year's budget to get a handle on where currently are. Once George, Nikki and I sit down to meet, we will bring it before the Board. There are some things we need to purchase and some funds that need to be moved between lines but he thinks it is a doable situation.

Shannon inquired about what is being done at Aultshire. Carl stated it is a small neighborhood park and the playground equipment has had some defects and deficiencies in the slide and playground equipment. We've looked at it and it needs to be replaced. The shelter roof also needs to be replaced. We are planning on removing the



rubber mulch and replacing it with the correct mulch. We will also be doing some work on the basketball court. There aren't a lot of kids using the park right now but as we make improvements we believe that will change.

Brad asked if there were any other questions for Carl. Shannon asked if Riverview Park is ADA compliant. Carl stated he believes it is but will confirm. We've sent some of our staff out to inspect and make sure we are in compliance. They will put a report together for each park and it will be filed in the office. We have also ordered gauges that are used to measure proper spacing. We've had some charges filed against the city for injuries at some of the parks. He was in a meeting last week with the lawyers regarding a suit involving the ADA swing at Tuhey. There are no signs listing it as an ADA swing so we will be adding proper signage at all the parks. Shannon inquired if there is signage up at Riverview and Carl replied we have the sign at the office awaiting install this spring.

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

## **8. PARKS PROGRAMMING/EVENTS – George Foley, Program Director**

There were no events presented for approval.

George presented the Board with a tentative budget for programming. The top section is for the summer intern program which includes the stipend for the interns, pay for the leads, food and the administrator. What's not listed is the costs for the t-shirts for the youth and staff, as that has been donated by an organization for the last and they have stated they would again this year. The bottom section is for all our other sports and programming to include baseball, softball, pickle ball, etc. We would like to do some music at the parks utilizing four of our parks. We would like to do some basketball clinics as well. He and Carl are working on a track and field day for the youth. We will also have our annual National Parks Day at Heekin with games, popcorn and snacks to promote programming. We will also do Trunk O' Treat again and still come in under budget. What's not included are a couple of grants we've been awarded which will cover the stipends for the coaches and referees. We have some money left from the Ball Foundation Grant we were awarded last year that will go to that. We will put out an application online next month for coaches for our sports programs.

George asked if there were any questions from the Board and Shannon asked if they will be city employees or do they need to be vetted through the city. George stated the coaches will be vetted and put in the system as vendors like before. That's also how the leads for the summer mentor program are entered. There were no additional questions.

## **9. PRAIRIE CREEK REPORT – Tawny Hall**

Tawny stated they are currently working on getting the last of the leases out for the piers and campsites by Friday morning.

Tawny presented three events for approval by the Board but also had a representative from the Just Jeepin' event to answer questions about security for the event.

USA Co-Ed Bass Fishing Tournament – June 22, 2024 from 6 am – 4 pm. There will be about 15 boats and roughly 30 people max. They state there will be no vendors and no security.

Brad asked if they held the event before and Tawny wasn't sure but they stated they had.

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

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

Ruble Triathlon – September 29, 2024 from 5 am – 2 pm. They are expecting 300 people and security will be provided by the Delaware County Sheriff's Department. There will be no vendors and no food. They are not requesting any supplies from us. They are asking to use the beach parking lot and to have an additional mowing of the grounds which we are ok with. She added they've never had any issues with them.

Shannon inquired if they were renting shelters and Tawny replied she hadn't spoken with him about it but he stated he would do whatever the Board requested and decided.

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

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

Muncie Light Horse Club – June 7 – 9, 2024 at Indian hills. They are expecting about 100 people. They are requesting the tent, picnic tables & trash cans. This is their annual round up fundraising event.

Shannon asked for clarification of the dates and if they will be renting the tent from us and Tawny responded that's correct. Shannon asked if there will be security and Tawny replied she didn't believe so. Chandra inquired about the time window and Tawny replied it starts the morning of the 7<sup>th</sup> until the afternoon of the 9<sup>th</sup>. Shannon inquired if

they will be sleeping there and Tawny replied they do RV camping. Brad asked if the RV camping was in addition to the event registration and Tawny stated it is. Shannon asked what activities they will be doing and Tawny stated it is an event to raise money for that part of the park. They take care of that part. They are the ones that raised the money to come in and clear it out, to make it safer and easier to ride. They take really good care of Indian Hills. Brad stated it is essentially their summer jamboree fundraiser. Shannon asked if there will be alcohol and Tawny stated there would not be.

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

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

Just Jeepin' – June 8, 2024 from 1 pm – 6 pm at the beach area. They are expecting 40-50 jeeps. There will be no alcohol. Security will be provided by three Alexandria Police officers. Shannon inquired about a rain date and he stated the next day (June 9<sup>th</sup>) would be their rain date. Shannon asked how many officers will Brad asked if they are still raising money for ARF and they responded they are.

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

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

Brad asked if there were any other updates for Prairie Creek and Tawny stated they are working on getting out the leases which are due March 31, 2024. The lottery for camping and piers is up on the website and closes on March 31, 2024. There is not a date picked out for the lottery drawing or switch day yet but they will notify the Board once they do.

Brad said he received some questions about payment of the fees for docks and campsites and Tawny stated they can be paid online. If they want to pay online, they must reach out to the office so they can send an invoice out. Invoices will only be sent once they receive a copy of the signed lease. It can be sent in or sent via email.

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

## **10. OLD BUSINESS –**

There was no old business on the agenda to discuss.

## **12. NEW BUSINESS –**

Heekin Park National Registry – We received the report from Professor Spodek and his class regarding the feasibility of Heekin being approved as a National Registry site. His architecture class completed the application which I have sent to the Board and Parks Admin. He thinks it probably will not be approved but she wanted to see what the Board would like to do. We can vote to see if we want to send the application in regardless and see what happens or if we want to stop it right here, take his professional opinion and not move forward. We can also still apply for the local registry. She doesn't know what that would do for us except give it a distinction. While there is funding with the national program, she isn't sure about local only. If we went the local route, we would have to fill out a local application for Heekin and the committee will have to go before City Council twice for approval. She thinks we should discuss this with Courtney Marsh of Southside Neighborhood Association, MAP Board and Mayor Ridenour.

Chandra asked if we could submit applications for both or if it had to be one or the other and Shannon said it can be both. Chandra stated she thinks we should move forward because all they can do is tell us no. James asked if there was a fee to apply and the application is completed. Brad stated he wonders if we apply, is there a waiting period to reapply. He also stated he feels since we have the application completed, it may be worth getting the feedback from the National Registry. He assumes they will send more than just a no letter and give some feedback on why or what else we need to add in order to get approval. He feels this ties into some of the work Shannon is doing at Tuhey Bathhouse. That's a different project but this may be a good first step in moving forward with Tuhey. Shannon added Professor Spodek suggested we reach out to a colleague of his on the State level and if they want she can forward the email to him to get his feedback and bring it back to our next Board meeting for further discussion. All Board members agreed with that plan as it is another resource. Subject tabled until the next meeting.

Tuhey Bathhouse – Professor Spodek sent an email to Shannon, Carl and George stating he is ready to get started on the feasibility study and has a date he would like to get in there. She has the National Registry application pretty much written up. She is only missing pictures which she can get from the archives of the Ball State Library. All of the language is written up.

Ron Bonham Day – Carl stated he and Dustin have spoken about the event. We don't have all the details set but have set the date at July 6, 2024, which is the Saturday after 4<sup>th</sup> of July. This will go along with all of the City events and fireworks.

## **13. ACTION ITEMS**

There were no action items or events for approval.



**14. PUBLIC INPUT – Please limit time to 3 minutes.**

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

There were no names on the Public Input signup sheet.

Chandra presented a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Shannon.

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

**\* Next Park Board meeting is currently scheduled for February 20, 2024 at 6 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium.**

# Park Board Meeting Public Input Sign In Sheet

Date: 1/16/24

Name (Please Print)

Address

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