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Superintendent: Carl Malone

Muncie Park & Recreation Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 19, 2024
City Hall Auditorium

- (1) Call to Order
- (2) Pledge of Allegiance
- (3) Roll Call
- (4) Approval of the minutes from (February 2024) 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
 - Heekin Park National Register of Historic Places Assessment
- (10) New Business
 - Tuhey Contract with YMCA
 - Security Contract for Tuhey Pool
- (11) Action Items

- (12) Public Input – (3) minutes limit – Please state your name and address.

*** Next Park Board Meeting – Tuesday, April 16, 2024 (6:00 p.m.) - City Hall Auditorium**



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Superintendent Report

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Muncie Parks Department

Game Time Recreation are in town installing (3) new playground structures at Cowing, Gilbert, McCulloch Park. Cowing and Gilbert Park are installed, and McCulloch Park will be installed later this week. The past (2) weeks our staff have been busy spreading mulch at several of our city parks (Thomas, Westside, Heekin, Cooly, McCulloch and Tuhey Park).

I have been interviewing for the past two weeks for our upcoming summer hiring season. Muncie Parks had hired (2) new hired seasonal workers who have started this week.

Riverview Park Update

I met with Whitely Community Council last week to discuss Park plans for fencing for the playground structure and Pickleball Court. Whitely Community Council still have questions and concerns about the timeline for completion for playground location, restroom location, lighting, etc.

Muncie YMCA

- Tuhey Agreement Contraction discussion
- Contract Review for Legacy Security.
- Painting Update

Park Board Discussions

- Mulch Pricing Long Term
- New 5 Year Plan update

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

March 19, 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 Shannon Powers, Mark Ervin, James Lutton and Chandra Parks. Brad Marshall was a late arrival.

4. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY BOARD MINUTES

James motioned for the approval of the February minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Mark.

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

5. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Carl Malone, Superintendent

Staff has been busy working on removal of rubber mulch from our playground areas in six parks and replacing it with safety mulch. They have completed mulching at Thomas and Cooley, while the first playground at McCulloch is partially completed. There is a little bit more to do there.

The new playground equipment has been installed at Cowing, Westside and Gilbert Parks and is in the process of being completed at McCulloch Park. Our team has been working on getting the mulching completed in those areas. Mulching at Heekin playground by the cabins is complete and we still have some mulching to do at the one behind the fire station. It takes time and takes money, but we are moving in the right direction as it relates to mulching and having some safety layers in all of our parks. One thing I noticed while doing inspections of the majority of our parks, including Westside, is the mulch was very low and there are a lot of kids out there. There are a lot of parents

out there with their kids and the protective layer of mulch needs to be there for them. That's what our staff has been busy doing and will be doing for another week or so.

We should be done with mulching in the next week and be ready to begin mowing and pruning and all the good stuff that's association with beautification of our parks.

Seasonal Hiring - We have started our seasonal hiring. We have had 6 interview and have hired 2 individuals so far. Nikki is still setting up interviews and scheduling processing. Hopefully we will have a team of seasonal workers to help us with some of the projects and things we've got going on in our parks.

Riverview Park – I've had some discussion with the Whitely Neighborhood Association as it relates to the development and the timeline of the Riverview project. I talked with Flatland who is the actual manager and design company and met him onsite to talk about some of the concerns the Whitely Neighborhood Association had. We talked about what the Parks Department can do and some of the things we talked about was making sure we have safety devices in place, in and around the playground area, pickleball and basketball courts. I've talked to the Deputy Mayor as well about those particular things as it relates to the Parks Department.

We have Mr. Frank Scott who wanted to talk to the Board about some of the association's concerns. I will let him address the Board then finish my report after. Mr. Scott, President of the Whitely Neighborhood Association, stated he first wanted to say he appreciates everything that's happening in the parks. It's very impressive. It's more work than he's seen done in years and he's very excited about that. Unfortunately, the neighborhood is a little disappointed at the progress made at Riverview, though they understand the challenges there with it being in a flood plain, the restrictions and changes that had to be made. However, for a long time we weren't kept in the loop. We kept asking questions and couldn't get anything back, so we appreciate Mr. Malone started coming to the meetings and helped us understand some of the things that were going on. But as other parks are getting finished and developed, it seems like Riverview was just sitting there. Nothing was happening and no information was given. FlatLand was giving us a weekly report and then all of a sudden they stopped and for some months we didn't hear anything. The person that was supposed to be over it never communicated with us, so we reached out to Mr. Malone and he started giving us some information. So our biggest concern is it's been going on a couple of years of the park being out of commission. It wasn't used regularly but it was used. There are things that were being done at the park that are not going on now. We have four daycares and three of them are very concerned about getting children down there. We have several

churches that have been inspired based on what we were told was going to happen asking when they will be able to use the park. And even senior citizens waiting to go down there and sit by the river. So all of this is coming in and for a long time we haven't gotten any information as far as when it will be completed. So we would appreciate anything in the way of a timeline, updates and/or changes. We know safety is very important and the playground was positioned there for a reason and it can't be changed. But if we're going to put safety there, what is it going to look like? A lot of times they come back and ask us what we think about something, but why ask us what we think about a decision that's already been made. Ask us before the decision and then we can tell you what we think. But once the decision is made, there's no point in asking us what we think about it. So a little more communication and maybe involvement and engagement with the neighborhood would be a lot better. You'd be surprised how easy it is to get along if we would just talk about some things before they happen. If you could do anything in the way of information about the timeline it would be nice. We know Flatland is doing the project but anything we could get to look at would be good as now this is really frustrating.

Julius Anderson of the Whitely neighborhood stated he was one of the people involved from the beginning and unfortunately didn't bring the original prints with him. He has been following it pretty closely as we are entering our third year and I must say it's a big disappointment to the community that we're not open. He inquired if the bathhouse is in the budget yet and George replied he believes it is for next year. Julius stated he is disappointed because members of the neighborhood were coming into town for Back to Muncie and it wasn't complete. We had a lot of hype and he feels the air has been let out and taken away from them. The biggest thing is communication as they've never had the opportunity have consistency of leadership from the City to our community. There's been a fundamental breakdown there. Mr. Malone has stepped in lately but Dustin has been the Chief Operations Officer over the project but he hasn't been meeting with us. And that's key because when he meets with us, then we can iron some things out. Just to bring a couple of things to your attention, as we looked, surveyed and then looked at what went in to the plans, that's not what we have. Yes, we have a pickleball court, but if you hit the ball you can run right into a pole. The design is just not right. It wouldn't surprise me if somebody actually got seriously injured. You're going back and forth and you have a steel pole right in your line. We're going into our third year now and at the end of the summer during the campaign season, our Mayor came and did a photo op with some of the kids from the neighborhood. They came and turned on the water for that but look at Halteman Village and the surrounding areas that have received funding from the city, they are all open and we're the only one not open. Mr. Scott talked about how the community has poured into it in terms of the daycare centers, and we're still not open after three years. As we look around Anderson, and I know we can't compare ourselves to them, they have fencing all around, they have lights, they are looking good.

Once again the main complaint is the lack of communication. We need to work together. Mr. Malone is doing what he can. He's invited the groups to our meetings several times. If you look at the water park, there is standing water after it rains, that means something isn't right, something isn't level. Sooner or later when the water freezes it's going to crack wide open and the park will deteriorate before its time. I know you can only do so much. Again, it's not a complaint, just want to bring attention to it. We had our meeting last Monday and were told the guys from FlatLand would be there but nobody showed up. We were sitting there waiting for an update and nobody showed. So we're going into our third year and have been put on the back seat. It's a slap in the face. At least send a message. I appreciate you listening to this longwinded talk. We're grateful for what has taken place so far. We see the potential and the kids are waiting to be a part of something bigger than themselves. So if we could speed it up just a little bit. The bathhouse is on next year's budget from what I understand. But if they turn the water on this year, and the kids are going out there, where are they going to change? Where are they going to use the restroom? They put the cart before the horse and we're still not on the same because of the lack of communication.

Chandra asked Mr. Malone if we've made any type of payment to them. Did we pay them before they finished. What does that look like for us, that relationship with us, the city and Flatland? How is that contract written? Have they gotten full payment or not? Carl replied he didn't know. We're just trying to improve the communication so we can get to the point we can talk about the rendering, payments and things of that nature. I thought they would be able to come tonight and give the Board some time and information about the design. I did speak with them yesterday and they were aware of the meeting but there is no representative here tonight from Flatland. I don't want to speak for them but will try to answer all the questions the Board may have and I can take them back and try to see what kind of communication we can get from that.

James asked what is preventing the park from opening? What is holding us up? Carl replied he met with Dave of Flatland at the park and they still had some safety concerns about the playground structure. They don't want a bunch of kids out there without having the safety barriers in place. Same thing with the pickleball and basketball courts. They are wide open and also the issue with the pole on the court. There's some water runoff that has to be routed to the river. The panel for the power source for the splash pad is in a temporary cage and they have to do some slab work to get that enclosed. There's just some things Flatland has to sign-off on with the city for the park to open and be ready to go. James asked if Carl could request Flatland be at our next meeting and Carl stated he would.

Shannon added Flatland was here in December and said at Riverview, PrideMark was working on the foundation of the bathhouse. She inquired if that foundation been

started and Carl replied no work has been done on the bathhouse and changing room. He doesn't know the timeline on that project. Shannon asked if the splash pad is operational and Carl replied it is. She asked, so the children are using the splash pad but not allowed to use the bathhouse. Carl stated we haven't turned the water on yet but turned it on last year toward the latter part of the summer as a trial run to make sure we had the water running. We had some issues troubleshooting it before so we didn't have it on for a short time but it's operational. Shannon asked if it was safe for them to be on the splash pad and running around all these underdeveloped areas. Carl stated you don't want to run into the playground as it's not complete. There's no mulch or anything of that nature in the playground site, and there's no fencing around it. I've just gotten some quotes from the fencing company to begin construction there. So, we have the numbers and it's just a matter of the company getting back to us and saying when they're ready to start. That could possibly start tomorrow. I've met with them out there twice, so they do have the dimensions and know what we want to put in place for our safety barrier. Fencing in the playground area is our priority and to also fence along the tennis, pickleball and basketball courts, and then put in some concrete barriers around the playground. Then add regular parking bumpers for the third piece of safety. Shannon asked if the idea is for the park to be opened in phases or is the fencing for the playground to keep people off the structure. Carl stated we will not be able to open the park until those are in, he wouldn't feel safe having kids down there without those safety barriers in place. Shannon asked if the park is entirely closed, even the splash pad until every amenity is completed. Carl replied it is for now as far as he knows unless someone else deems it to be safe enough to have kids out there. He knows with the daycares out there, the major concern is safety for those kids that would be playing there. That's one of the biggest concerns that was shared at the Whitely Neighborhood meeting due to the location of where the playground is. We thought we might be able to move it, but Dave from Flatland did state it is there based on the permitting by the State. Chandra asked what was the last work they did on the playground? Carl stated it was this last summer when the splash pad was put in. They started some construction on the playground, pickleball and basketball courts but they gave no indication of a timeline or completion date. Shannon asked if PrideMark is doing the construction and Carl stated they are and FlatLand is managing the construction as far as the operational parts within the park itself.

Mark requested to have someone from FlatLand at the next meeting with a comprehensive timeline for everything to present publicly. When it's going to be done. Why is this the timeline? What's going on? We know there were delays with the permitting, but permitting is resolved now. They owe us answers as to when the job's going to be finished because there's no other legal reason why it can't be done. Chandra asked if there was any way we can get a copy of the contract, and Shannon added plus the design work. She stated if there's blatant design errors where they're going to be

injuries, like a pole, that needs to be resolved before the park is open. Carl replied he would follow up with FlatLand the next day regarding the concerns from the Park Board members and the community. He states he has been in conversation with Deputy Mayor Ivy and he's been at the Whitley meetings. He's also been down to look at the site itself and I know he has some concerns as well. Carl stated he thought FlatLands would be here tonight so the Board could talk to them directly and get some questions answered. Mark said if they have a phone number, we'll be here for a while if Carl can reach out to them to come as this is a serious situation. It appears that things have not gone the way they should and we need them to explain why. He doesn't want to wait another month to figure this out.

James asked if we could plan not to start any new projects until we complete this one and Carl stated that should be a topic of discussion. James believes it might light a fire under somebody. Carl we can add that to the conversation ASAP. Figure out what direction we need to go and try to figure out a timeline. Carl stated safety and a timeline seem to be the two things he has heard the most about at the Whitley Neighborhood Association meetings. Shannon added communication as well, and Mark added he understands the frustration from the Neighborhood Association because he doesn't have a clue what's going on there and our assumption is it's going well until we learn it's not. And these are pretty serious problems.

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

TUHEY SECURITY – Carl stated a copy of the contract for security at Tuhey had been sent over for review by George. The CEO of Legacy Security, Mr. Robert Scaife, is here if the Board had any questions for him. Carl stated the City was satisfied with their service last year. In previous years we had several calls and were running the police a little bit and they might not have the manpower to get there. So having security on site reduced a lot of incidents. We had about two calls last year because we had security on site and were able to prevent a lot of issues from happening, such as riots. We never want that to happen, but when you're dealing with teenagers and you're dealing with people from all across the community. Those things can happen real fast and quick in a pool area. Having security in place to help diffuse and de-escalate some potential is always in the back of our mind. Having security in place is definitely a plus.

Shannon stated she believes there are 81 days but the contract states 101 days, so that needs to be adjusted and asked if it is for one security guard per day. George stated if we take the weekend of Memorial Day until Labor Day it counts up to 101 days. Shannon added in August we're only open that first week until Muncie Community Schools go back in session and then we're only open on the weekend so she thinks it's only 11 days in August.

Carl stated the document can be fine-tuned and come back before the Board before we open, he just wanted the Board to have it. We have several weeks before we open and we have time to do some tweaking if need be.

Carl asked if The Board had any questions and there were none.

Riverview Park – Additional Speaker

Carl circled back to Riverview Parks as Mrs. Janie McCullum was present to speak. Mrs. McCullum is the Director of Precious Starts Development Center which is down the street from the park. She asked the Board to take some time out and drive by the park. She stated the swing set for the children is from here to that sign (pointing to the city emblem on the Board's podium and asked if that was an accident. She inquired why the swing set was so close to the parking lot as it is dangerous. Anybody that has small children or deals with them knows how quickly they can get away from you, and that's too close. She implored the Board to drive by the park and see for themselves but she believed they would be disappointed. Shannon asked if this was in the original design and Mrs. Janie stated she wasn't sure. But with the state regulations she knows you can't have anything close to or even within six feet of the playground equipment. And when you're dealing with cars and kids, and we're talking about the small toddler swings, you know if you take one out and somebody's pulling in, it's scary.

Shannon asked if that's what Carl was talking about in regards to fencing and will the fencing separate that. Carl replied it is. Mrs. Janie added we're also talking about Riverview Road and you know how people swoop going around that curve. It's dangerous and people will not bring their kids there because of that reason. Mrs. Janie asked the Board to drive by and see the layout for themselves.

Mark stated he thinks that's a good request. He stated assuming we're not going to have a representative here until the next meeting, he wondered if maybe in the next two week or so we could arrange a time for the Parks Board to meet with FlatLand and concerned members of the neighborhood to walk through the site. We could see how it's going to function as a park since it's going to be a place where kids are going to be going, traffic goes by very fast and we need it to be safe. It can be during the lunch hour or after work since it is staying light longer. It would be very beneficial for him as he is having a hard time visualizing what he's hearing. He wants to see it and actually be able to address the concerns right to FlatLand and say these are serious problems that need to be fixed. And then we have to figure out, legally, what's going to be done to fix them. Mrs. Janie stated she appreciates it and is sure the families will too.

Chandra sked Mr. Scott if that was one of his concerns he mentioned in regards to the plans being decided and then brought to them. Mr. Scott replied the original design didn't have it there but because of the floodplain and the way things had to go, they even changed the configuration of the splash pad. It couldn't be round, so they changed it. They even changed the location for the drain. They made these changes without our input, so we were never able to ask questions like are they going to put something there so a car can't come through there. There's a kind of stone barrier there now but we don't want a big old rock, can't it be made decorative? Could it be made safe? Those kinds of questions could have been asked had we known it had to be changed. We understand the reason for the changes but change but maybe being a part of the process, we could have avoided some of this. Chandra asked if there has been any discussion amongst the association of how they would like to see the park design for the safety in the most efficient way for the community. Mr. Scott stated not since the playground was put in.

Shannon asked if Mr. Scott felt they were trying to squeeze too many amenities into the park and he replied he didn't, it's just the way it is now configured due to the floodplain. If you take anything out, there won't be anything left because of the changes. He just believes the design couldn't been a little bit better if they had spoken to one of the daycare providers in regards to the little kids but those discussions never happened. So now we have to do it after the fact and see if there's a way to make it safe. He stated he wasn't saying it's impossible to make it safe but maybe it could have been avoided if we had done it from the beginning. And he knows that wasn't the Boards decision, it was the designer but they're the ones paying them.

Chandra said it they can come together like Mark suggested that might be something he could bring to the association to see what could be there and then we can share that. Shannon stated the Board would be in contact with him with a few nights or days they could meet there. Mr. Scott replied in the affirmative and thanked the Board.

Carl addressed Brad who had just walked in stating he didn't want to put him on the spot but mentioned they had had some conversation about Riverview and he didn't know if Brad was able to reach someone from FlatLand to talk about some of the main points. Brad replied he had not, though he spoke with Carl late last week and he apologized for that as he had been on vacation and had a long day at work but he did follow the meeting online and caught bits and pieces of it. He inquired when is the next Whitely meeting as he assumed Carl would be there but he wanted to be there as well. Mr. Scott replied it's the second Monday at 6 pm at Union. Brad stated he definitely thinks they can get some answers before that meeting and get a better idea on where we're going.

Carl asked if there were any other questions, and Shannon asked how many seasonal employees were being hired this year and Carl replied we are trying to bring in 6 which is in line with previous years. She then asked in regards to the mulch levels being low and him being worried about them biodegrading and refilling them, with inflation and everything, is there a huge increase year after year or does the pricing stay steady. Carl replied it increases, so they are going to put some rubber mats down under the playground structure to save the height fall at our playground sites. We're in the process of ordering them to put out as that will help keep the mulch in place and keep the fall depth the same and keep our kids safe. We won't lose as much due to kids kicking it as they play and run or from the weather. Mulch is not cheap. He knows they've talked about maybe looking at the five-year plan and trying to put that pricing in there to see if it's economically better to go with rubber surfacing. He knows it is initially expensive at the start but long term it may be the better option. Many parks around the state are going in that direction. He asked if anyone else had any questions and there were none.

YMCA – Carl stated now that Brad was here he wanted to make sure everyone had the contract for Tuhey and the YMCA to review, so there could be some discussion amongst the Board and then they could communicate with him and George with the talking points so they can discuss it with the Y.

Brad added he spoke at length with some people from the Y earlier today and he has also spoken with Shannon as well. The contract is very similar to last year with some minor changes. One thing they did well was breaking down some of the software and data for clients from last year to streamline or optimize their staffing of the pool. He thinks that's an improvement. One thing they clarified is this is contract is essentially a not to exceed number. So this would be for full staffing all days the pool is open. So any weather delays, any closings of the pool would reduce these numbers. They believe there is a typo on the last page, page 8, essentially from possible days of operation down, that should not be on the page it was a copy and paste error. One thing that drove out of this and the section they've added to the contract versus last year is the special events and non-public reservations. He thinks we have an opportunity there as well to clarify that as the Parks Department on how we're billing and what our expectations are for special events. Whether it be after-hours reservations, or a bus or car load of people that show up in excess of a set number, be that 10 or 25. How we manage and plan staff for those events. They did indicate there were a few incidences last year where they had more people show us than they expected and that creates a safety concern for the staff. So luckily, the network and relationship we've built with the YMCA, they were able to call in resources from downtown or the Yorktown branch to help cover those. That is one of their concerns and why they've added that into the contract. And that is how they've noted as well, that could increase or add cost to have additional staffing to cover those things. He

stated he didn't know if he could shake that all out today. That may be further discussion here through the year, how we establish group rates, how reservations are made, how notifications to management are made if someone is bringing a daycare with 25 kids. Is 24 hours' notice enough so they can have proper staffing?

The other detail that is not in this contract that was in the 2023 contract is the morning and evening swims. The reason they left it out is since it is primarily a YMCA or Cardinal Swim Club function and they are absorbing or a pass-through essentially for that cost, so it's not a direct cost to the Parks Department. It becomes a pass-through that the YMCA independently absorbs.

We discussed some concerns we had last year about additional staffing for additional swimmers and the flip side of that. If we've got fewer swimmers or inclement weather, how do we work through releasing guards for the day or managing staff to help reduce costs? They want to do that and understand it's in both of our interest but that may be something we need to define regarding what are the triggers to reduce staff in those occurrences where there's less swimmers in the pool. Carl added from the conversation he and George had with the YMCA today, we thought it was an opportunity to visit the pool on some of those days so we could look at the weather out or amount of people at the pool and make that decision. If we decide to close the pool early or open it late we need to notify City Hall and Michelle Owens, Communications Director. So we can make those decisions on site and we can make it together so if we need to have people clock out earlier based on weather, we can do that as well. There's only a few times throughout the summer that we'll have that issue.

Brad asked if any of the Board had questions about the contract. He added he and Shannon have talked about this several times. When Carl was talking about security earlier, that is spelled out in the contract that it is the Park's responsibility and the YMCA doesn't manage or control that. The YMCA contract states 81 days of operation, so we will have to figure that out so both contracts match one way or the other. He believes the contract has gone to legal but may not have been fully reviewed yet. So we need to make sure it gets approved after going through the full process. Mark stated he would make sure it gets reviewed.

James asked on the YMCA agreement do the members of the Y gain free admission to the pool all year. Brad stated it is to the pool and Prairie Creek based on the way it is structured. James asked what is the purpose of that? Brad stated as part of the agreement there members gain access in exchange for them handling the managerial portion at no fee. That's a concern he had when he talked to them as it's not spelled out very clear and it doesn't capture in detail the other things they are providing. James asked what value are we getting because he doesn't think it's fair because

underprivileged kids that can't afford to go there don't get in free, so why should someone who can afford a Y membership get through the gates for free. It is a city pool not a YMCA pool. Brad said he understands that and that's something we need to make clear and hear why. What discount we are providing for them and why we're doing that or what that agreement is. In past contracts, I think the 2022 did include some compensation, some thresholds, min/max numbers and that was removed in the 2023 contract and is not in the 2024 contract. James asked if the contract would come back to the Board before approval and Brad replied that is probably one of the main discussions we need to have. He doesn't believe officially we have to approve or disapprove it but we should either recommend or not recommend that Carl and the City approve it. He doesn't believe there is any legal precedent that we have to because it is a contract with the City and YMCA, that's managed by the Parks. Talking to the YMCA today, they couldn't be here tonight, but said they are open to coming either next month or having a special meeting to specifically review the contract. The one thing they did ask was if we believed we would come to some agreement to let them know so they can begin staffing and having lifeguards ready. Whether it be this agreement or some form of it, they just wanted to have an idea if we are moving forward or not doing it at all, so they can staff appropriately. James made a motion that if we are not able to review this before they approve it and they can't explain why their people get in for free, we strike that from the agreement.

George stated he would like to comment on things before the Board does that. In regards to why the members don't pay, the Y does not charge us a management fee for running the pool, they do some maintenance on the pool for us and they're not charging us to use their software that gives us good data on who's coming in to the pool and it can break it down by ages, race and stuff like that. There's a lot they do comp us and there's a lot of kids who have Y memberships that are under scholarship as far as economically, so that does help a lot of inner city kids as far as getting into Tuhey for free. He would like them to take that into consideration if they vote tonight or any other day. Brad stated that came up on the phone call today with the YMCA as there are things they're providing that aren't captured or detailed on here that need to be. Some of the check-in software, some of the security features that come with it. They've got ways to run predator or background checks through the software. They get flagged when a registered offender comes into the pool. They haven't used that to the fullest but it's an option for us. They adjusted the hours of lifeguarding and based on that you'll see the lifeguard line item is less than last year based on using their data. He does think it needs to be clear why they think it's valid and how that benefits us. Shannon stated on page two they have asked for security services for cash deposits. She asked if they had a chance to talk to them about if they wanted an escort because it was in the contract last year. George replied they did talk about it as previous managers requested it as well because they are moving a lot of money from the site, and you never know what could happen. Shannon

asked if that's what we're going to do. Are we going to hire security? George stated they told them we would talk to the Board about it as that's a Board decision.

Brad stated he had not reviewed the security contracts yet and doesn't know what all is included in there. So, he doesn't know if that's something that we could roll into that or how we can structure that. Is it required every time? Can we get some more details on what they are asking for?

Shannon added one of the issues the Controller's office had last year was with the credit card payments. They stated it was very hard or frustrating to figure out when things were paid, and when there's processing fees added and suggested we could maybe have somebody from the Y side communicating with our Controller's office. Carl replied he was at their office a few days ago and had a conversation with Clares and Craig. Clares is the one who does a lot of the day-to-day billing for the City and the Y in the summer program. She expressed some concerns, and we are setting up a meeting with all of us and the Y, to work that out. They had to do the same thing with Prairie Creek. That's the communication piece that's so very important.

Shannon asked if the Y is providing the daily operations of the pool, do you think it would be more advantageous for them to control if we are closing for the day? Carl replied he thinks because it's owned by the city, the Mayor and his administration would always want to make that decision and not find out after the fact. It's always been run by the City and they've subcontracted it out to other entities in the past. These last four years the responsibility has fallen back into the city's lap.

Shannon stated her last question is about the programming except for the language in the contract about them running recreation programs. Carl stated he and George had a conversation about that as well as far as what that programming will look like. Will it be the same as 2023 or will we have something different. Those are conversations he, the executive from the Y and George can work out and then come back before the Board to answer those questions.

Brad stated he thinks with some of the questions the Board has on this contract and the items that we reviewed earlier with Riverview Parks, he thinks there is justification to have an additional meeting for those two topics. He thinks the first or second week of April would be an appropriate time unless anybody had an objection. We'll get with the Board and Nikki to try and schedule a meeting to have some answers and updates on the contract and Riverview.

Carl asked Shannon if she had any update on the painting obligation of the pool from Cardinal Swim. Are they still willing to do it or do we need to go in a different direction.

Shannon stated she called them yesterday but haven't heard back from the President. They are interested in renting from us again. Carl added he just doesn't want to wait around like we did last year and then we weren't able to do it because of weather. So if it's something that we need to be ready and make sure we have enough time to get it done.

Five-Year Plan – Carl said he saw the email from Shannon regarding the five-year plan and he did talk to Mr. Strange as well who said he'd be willing to help us again. Just reach out to him. He added he, George and Nikki have talked a little bit about it and he is looking forward to putting our heads together to work on this second five-year plan. Shannon added maybe this spring we could work on forming a community committee. She knows George has already thought about that and some possible committee members for strategic planning and to help us create some questions for our community survey that's needed in the plan. She added today we got information from the DNR on the steps we need to do, what needs to be included. She thinks she emailed Carl about it. It's not much different than the previous plan format.

Playground Installations – Carl reported the new playground equipment is in at most sites and is very colorful. He doesn't know if the Board has had a chance to get out and look at some of the sites. We are putting in a couple of shelters. We still need to put one up at Cowing as we've put one up at McCulloch that once painted will mimic the same color of the playground structure along with some benches and things of that nature. He thinks it's going to be a lot of fun and is really going to bring the area where the shelter is into the playground. It's going to look really nice once it's complete.

At Cowing Park we're not done with the basketball court or tennis court areas yet. We've got to paint and put the pickleball courts in. Once that color comes into play, the basketball goes will go up. The shelter will go up. He recently told the Mayor we still have work to do at Cowing but the final product should be done in about a month and a half or two months for all four of those parks.

Thomas Park – Carl wanted to discuss the vandalism at Thomas Park involving the main panel box for the splash pad. The main brain that runs the splash pad was damaged and needs to be replaced. We're trying to figure out a different location to put the panel box as we can't put it in the same place because anyone can get to it. We're looking at maybe inside the fence in the other building there but he's not an engineer or an installer of that particular splash pad. Vortex is the company that put those in and I think they partnered with FlatLand on those specs, so we'll have to communicate with them and see what we can do.

Brad asked what the cost of that replacement board will be and Carl replied it's about \$4,000 and then we will have to pay about another \$4,500 to have it installed. Shannon asked if it was \$8,500 total and Carl confirmed the total unless they can get it cheaper from FlatLand or a local vendor. Shannon asked if there was a warranty to replace it. Carl said not in this case. If we had damaged it during use but not due to vandalism. The other buildings we have are concrete, like at Halteman. Even when they destroy the building door, they don't go over and destroy the panel box. The one at Cooley is also inside a concrete structure with the doors locked, so it's put away, and we're soon to have one at Riverview. The one at Thomas was inside an old wood bathroom. They just kicked the door in and damaged the panel.

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

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

There were no events presented for approval.

George presented the Board flyers for programming that is already in place for spring and summer.

Volunteer Work – This past Saturday we had a group of youth through the Muncie Youth Leadership Program through Schafer come out to do some work at McCulloch Park. Mitch Isaac pointed them in our direction as they wanted to do some volunteer work. They brought about 20 youth to McCulloch Park this past Saturday and they painted our shelter on the top of the hill and started putting mulch into our playground structure that's already up. They did a great job in the four hours they worked. I want to thank Mitch Isaac and the Muncie Youth Leadership Group for coming out and doing some volunteer work. We've also received some calls from Central regarding some youth that want to do some volunteer work. I'm working with Superintendent Malone on some projects that we can have them do as volunteers.

Muncie Teen Internship Program – We will begin conducting interviews next week as it is Spring Break for most schools. We'll be calling parents and the teens to start scheduling interviews. I'm going to push them out for about two or three weeks because we have quite a few applications and we want to interview everybody that applied. We are only hiring one hundred youth this time and I spoke with Superintendent Malone and Deputy Mayor Ivy about doing some mentorship for about 20 middle school kids. We're currently working out the specifics for that and will keep you in the loop.

NFL Flag Football – We have 100 youth that have signed up for our program. We've reached our maximum number and have 10 complete teams signed up. We're still taking applications in case anyone drops out, we can pull someone from the waitlist. We have sponsors so the kids don't have to pay anything for their uniforms. Once again the kids will get a free NFL uniform with different team logos. I want to thank the community for investing in the youth as far as flag football. It will start in May. It will be the second and third week of May, taking a week off for Memorial Day and then finish the other two weeks the first two weeks of June. They will play at Ball Corp Park.

National Parks Day – Vendor registration is going well for this event. Food vendors just have to pay the \$25 fee and must be registered with the Health Department. Everyone else we're allowing to come out and set up for free. It's a great family day and once again we would like to invite the Board to come join us on May 4th for National Parks Day at Heekin Park.

Summer Concert Series – I brought up before that we wanted to do four concerts at four different parks this year and we have two of them scheduled. The first will be on Saturday, June 29th at McCulloch Park and that will be a collaboration with Forward Visions for Black Music Month. We have the band solidified and we have a gentleman coming out of Georgia named Frank B. Sacks and two local bands, Remedy Band and On The One and the second concert will be July 20, 2024 at Heekin Park. That headlining band will be Be On It and there's a drummer from Muncie. The Band has performed with Jennifer Hudson and at the NBA All-Star on Sunday and that will be great for them to come to Muncie and perform. There is also a young man named Marquis McClendon who is from Muncie and has a free program for middle school and high school students to teach them about music, the sound board, how to compose music and everything like that.

Sanitation Department – I wanted to thank Jason Donati, Superintendent of Muncie Sanitation and their whole department. They let us use their Bobcat which really helped our staff put mulch in the new playground structures which Superintendent Malone previously talked about. I just wanted to shout them out for allowing us to use that equipment so we could work a little faster.

George asked if there were any questions for him and there were none.

7. PRAIRIE CREEK REPORT – Tawny Hall

Leases – Our leases are going to be due at the end of the month on March 31st. You can still put in the lottery, just go to City of Muncie, search lottery. It'll ask for like your name, phone number, and address. We'll do that live. We don't have a date yet, but we'll

get that soon and we'll post it to our page. I want to remind everybody that the leases for campsites start April 1st, for just campsites, boats are May 1st. There's been a little bit of confusion about that. People wanting to get on their boats for the solar eclipse, but the piers just won't be in yet.

Solar Eclipse – The event is going to be the 8th from noon to 6. Totality is at 3:09 pm. And you can get on your boats for the 8th from noon to 6 pm. You can go to Eclipse Muncie to get more information on that and book a site if you want to. We'll have learning opportunities for kids, food vendors, bounce houses, a lot of safety. We met with the police today to go over that plan. We had like seven officers there today going over that. And we'll have a MITS bus loop.

The main office will be closed next week from the 26th – 29th (Tuesday – Friday) as we do some remodeling but the boat launch will be open. We will post that to our page tomorrow.

ATV Trails – The ATV trails will be closed as well. We don't have the exact date yet but we're going to clear that out like we did the horse trails to make it safer. We've had a lot of complaints about people not wanting to come out there because I was overgrown. It hasn't been cut in a while, so before the 8th it will be closed for two days. Once we get the dates we will post them. The trails will be closed on the 8th for the Eclipse as we don't want a bunch of people going back there and hiding out.

Dock Switch Day or Lottery – We still don't have those dates yet. I will get with Dustin and come up with a day and get that information to you as well. Brad asked if it was roughly mid-April last year and Tawny replied yes but she believe it will be the end of April or beginning of May at the latest. They usually do the dock switch day a week before so it gives us time to see which docks are available and once we get that information we'll know what we have going into the lottery.

Easter Egg Hunt – Tawny spoke with Jackie from The Friends of Prairie Creek and they are collecting candy for their Easter Egg Hunt. They are still in need of candy. You can drop it off at the office or you can get it to Jackie. They will be taking donations until March 29th.

Friends of Prairie Creek – They will be having their first meeting on Friday, April 12th at 7 p.m. Jackie wanted us to remind everybody that the meetings are for campsite and dock leaseholders only.

Tawny has three events for Board approval.

Indiana Walleye Anglers Association – June 23, 2024 from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. and they are expecting 20 people. They aren't asking for any special area to be used. They just set up a little table.

Brad 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.

Indiana Walleye Anglers Association – April 21, 2024 from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. and they are expecting 20 people. They aren't asking for any special area to be used. They just set up a little table.

Brad 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.

World Vision Walk – May 19, 2024 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and they are expecting 150 people. We do have a triathlon the same day that is going to have about 150 people. They have been working together with Mr. Ruble in case it does get approved. She gave me a paper to show where it's going to be. They will have Selma police. They will not have any food or vendors. It is a walk to raise money for clean water and they've done it for nine years. Dan has spoken at the events before the last couple of years. They are asking to have access to the bathrooms.

Brad clarified that the Ruble Triathlon has previously been approved. So if there are any conflicts or issues, the Ruble event holds precedence and she'd need to defer her event.

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.

Brad asked if Tawny could clarify how the gates are going to work on April 8th. Tawny stated just for the event, we are going to have somebody at the campground with a list of people that are allowed in, daily and seasonal campers. If you are a leaseholder, the person working the gate will allow you to come in. They'll open it for you.

Parking for the event will be paid parking. That's how the gates will be handled. If you are a leaseholder, you'll be able to get in but if you're having family and friends over you'll need to come up and let them in as it's going to be blocked off. We don't want too many people getting in there. We're going by state guidelines on how many people are allowed at the sites, but I don't have that number with me but can post it. We don't want people having parties at the site or having like 30 people at one site in multiple locations because we can't control that.

We are trying to get the key fobs set up by then. We found out they came out and put a timer on them. We did not know they had attached a timer and we haven't been taught how to use them. We do plan to get over there and figure out how to use those timers. If we are able to do that then you'll be able to use the key fob as well. We do plan on having people there to ensure everybody is able to get in and we're not letting tons of people overcrowd that area.

James asked if they are handing out the fobs when people are paying their leases and Tawny stated they do have them available for pick up. They are open seven days a week from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. and each site will get two fobs.

Brad asked about the price of parking for the eclipse event and Tawny stated she believes it is \$25. Parking will be at the beach. We will allow it in the boat area at no charge for those who have their boat that day. Once it's full, it's full and we're going to turn people away. If you have an annual launch or daily launch, you can get in over there by the beach. We're going to open the gates to the beach, so people can walk down there after they've parked, and we will have plenty spots around the park to view the eclipse. Down by the boaters' beach, there's going to be a lot of area for them to walk around and watch once they've paid to park. At South Shore we're going to have some things set up and vendors are going to be down there and the beach and main office.

8. FRIENDS OF PRAIRIE CREEK –

No representative was present. Information regarding upcoming events and meetings was given by Tawny during the Prairie Creek report.

9. OLD BUSINESS

Heekin Park National Registry – Shannon reported she would first like to give an update on the Tuhey Bathhouse Feasibility Study. Mr. Jonathan Spodek's BSU Architectural class wrote up a study to see if the park would be eligible for the Park National Registry. They filled out the entire application, took all of the pictures and he determined that it isn't at that status yet, and probably is not eligible. He suggested she contact the

Director of Preservation Services with the DNR, which she did. They emailed her last week and reiterated what Jonathan Spodeck said. However, the library at Heekin Park is on the national register and while the park may not be eligible there's some information that nobody's been able to obtain. There's four points of information. For example, there's no information on plantings and circulation patterns of the park. Also, exactly when the cabins were built and it seems like they were moved at some point or reconstructed, and that's not clear. So, if we had some clarification or something they could look at. The other piece was there's no historical landscape plans or developmental plans for the landscape. The National Park Service mentions in 1914 there was a statement in the nominations some plan ideas but that couldn't be accurate because the National Park Service was actually founded in 1916, so that reference is probably incorrect because that park was actually part of the New Deal and funding for that was around 1934. So, Heekin was probably created or developed at the same time as Tuhey bathhouse because that money was New Deal money as well.

So the process as of right now is do we want to do more research to be able to answer these questions for possibly submitting an application or do we want to leave it at this time. Chandra said the little bit right there was pretty interesting to know and if it's not accurate and we can get more information out of it to help with the future, why not do the research?

Brad stated it sounds like there's a lot of unanswered questions there. He doesn't know if there's a history society or if we've got some history gurus in the community. That's certainly not his expertise but he thinks there's value in at least preserving that information in some form, be it going toward the national registry or just the park's information as a whole. He thinks it's valuable. Shannon asked if there were any names or organizations that she should reach out to, and Chandra said Teresa Jeter at Ball State might be a resource. Her class helped out Southside Neighborhood Association get a lot of information and they might be able to do some research that could help. Carl added the County might be a resource as well as the cabins originally came from the fairgrounds.

10. NEW BUSINESS

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

11. ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

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

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

There were three names on the Public Input signup sheet.

Frank Scott – previously spoke and has left.

Melvin Kelly – Brothers to Brothers, President and Founder. They are having a cookout/community gathering and he presented a flyer to the Board. Their goal is to bridge the gap between the young and old. There's a big breakdown in relationships, especially with African American men. Our goal is to reach young men from 13 to 18 by teaching life skills, work ethics, job training, community involvement and self-appreciation. We believe that the kids we're trying to get won't go to the Boys and Girls Club, they won't go to the Y, so we're trying to create some things to make them come to us. In doing so, we're going to have a cookout with a DJ. It's going to be on the 23rd of this month from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. we're going to have hot dogs and little things like that just to bring awareness to our program. The city and community have been very helpful, and we just believe the young men we're trying to get, they won't come to us. We've got to go get them. So, this is just where we're trying to reach out to get them to come. Weather permitting, we're going to have bouncy houses. We're going to have snacks.

We're still going to have a cookout regardless of how the weather is. They can come inside the building. But the main thing we're trying to do is to get them to come and see that we have some things for them. It's really just a way to let them know that they're safe and that they'll be protected. We're just gonna have a good time but mainly it's just trying to get information out about what we're trying to do.

Chandra asked how long their organization has been around and Mr. Kelly stated they've been doing this for five years. They purchased the building from a tax sale, we refurbished it and now we've been open for about three months. We have computers, a TV and gaming system. We're partnering with other organizations to help them. We're working with Marquiese McClendon's music program, Ball State is going to help us with their cultural development at Ball State, is going to come in and help us with mentoring. And we have a lot of people that are really interested in helping our young people because this age group is kind of being left out and ignored, yet they are the future. They can come down and talk to someone that may have experienced the same things as them. Shannon asked if they are familiar with our mentor and internship programs because these are the types of youth we're trying to reach. Mr. Kelly stated he didn't but would be glad to set up a partnership with you as it takes the whole village. It's not going to be one group able to do it but if we network together and help one or two people, we've done something. We won't get them all, but we'll get some. Everybody needs to feel wanted and appreciated, and sometimes our children aren't, because we're not

building relationships with them, you can't tell a child to pull up his pants or to stop acting a certain way and you don't even know his name. So we're trying to build some relationships with these young men and then we can effectively change some of them.

Brad asked if they were asking for anything today as this is an event at their facility. Mr. Kelley stated they weren't asking for anything, they're just making the Board aware. In the future we will be coming back but for now we're just trying to get the word out to let people know to come. He invited everyone out and invited them to bring your young men with you so they can see what we're doing. Brad asked what the capacity for the building is and Mr. Kelly replied it holds 49. We need to get people to come inside because the outside doesn't reflect what it looks like inside. We have our computers, our PlayStation, our TV and lounge area if they want to come in and talk to somebody. We're going to have our computers set up for them to do their homework. We're also going to have chess tournaments which we are developing now. We're trying to have an engagement with their fathers and mothers to see what these young men want instead of telling them what we think is best for them.

He stated Carl and George have been amazing, very helpful and have encouraged him a lot. The community is very involved. Brad asked if he had a digital version of the flyer and if George could send it to all of our applicants for the internship program. Brad added he hopes they get a hundred to show up and the event is so large they have to hold it in a park next time. Shannon asked if they are a 501 (c)(3) and he stated they are.

Joanna Darda, Gilbert Neighborhood Association - We are so excited, and so happy with our new playground. We've been working with Carl and George for several years now. I've been in my little neighborhood for about six or seven years, and I remember we had a ton of safety problems in our park. Our equipment was run down. We had litter everywhere. I live right across from the park, so I would pick up beer cans, beer bottles, all sorts of crazy stuff. She just wanted to express her appreciation. We have a solar light to keep our park safe, we have trash cans now, and we have this amazing playground. Our neighborhood has really small lots. Nobody has backyards to play in or anything like that, so it's going to be a really nice, safe place for our kids to play this summer, and we really appreciate it. Chandra and Shannon thanked her for the positive feedback.

Carl added that that's a small neighborhood park. There really were some safety concerns from the Mayor's Office. As we talk about Gilbert Park, there was a liquor store that was open all the time. The hotel was right there as well. So there were a lot of unwanted people visiting that park and the kids couldn't have a safe place. We had a conversation with the neighborhood association. We had a conversation with the Muncie Police Department and the Mayor to talk about removing those elements from that park. And so those were some of the first things that we did. And then it's a very

small park, so it's not a whole lot there. But we're going to try to make it as safe and playful as possible. So we think we're going in the right direction. The playground is there, we've installed lights there. We're going to move a couple of signs, put up a different kind of sign, and maybe some new park benches in and around that particular small pocket park.

So I just wanted to say that it has come a long way from where it was. So it was definitely a safety concern.

Brad add we talked a little bit earlier about the vandalism there in the park and we kind of quantified it a little bit tonight and that's one that keeps coming up and I don't have a solution. We've talked about it a couple times and it's frustrating. I don't know how else to put it. It just makes me so mad that we're seeing stuff tore up, damaged and broken and so I guess my challenge is to the community that if you've got ideas, if we've got a way to fix this, we've got to do it. Because it's costing us money. It's building a pattern for these kids. This time they tore up the splash pad. Next time they're breaking into a house. Next time they're shooting somebody. I mean, it builds a pattern and a habit, and we've got to fix this problem. And I don't know how to do it.

George added he believes we have to continue doing programming. That's what he and Carl keep talking about increasing the use of the parks. That's one thing and then there is an article I do want to share with the rest of the board. I'll email it to you, that I got from Heather Williams from the MAP Board and it's what they're doing in Philadelphia. They're putting these groups together. It's kind of complicated, but they're kind of monitoring the park, being security for the park in their neighborhoods. And so I'll share that article with you. I think it's something we can look at and try to put together here in Muncie.

Shannon added we are a passionate group, and we obviously love Muncie a lot. With that, I think we'll be able to get this board together and schedule a time with leadership to meet within the next two weeks at Riverview Park to review that.

Meeting was adjourned by Shannon Powers, Vice-President.

*** Next Park Board meeting is currently scheduled for April 16, 2024, at 6 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium.**



Thank you Carl!

Your order number is **145099**

An email will be sent containing information about your purchase. If you have any questions about your purchase, email us at customerservice@sportsunlimited.com or call us at 610-825-6368.

Your account has been created.

Order Summary

2 Items



2 x First Team Heavy Duty Single Fixed Basketball Rim - 5 x 5 and 4 x 5 Mount \$332.00

Subtotal	\$332.00
Discount	-\$10.00
Shipping	\$31.05
Tax	\$0.00

Total (USD) **\$353.05**

Park Board Meeting Public Input Sign In Sheet

Date: 3/19/24

Name (Please Print)

Address

- | Name (Please Print) | Address |
|---------------------|-------------|
| 1. Frank Scott | Riverview |
| 2. Melvin Kelly | B2B |
| 3. Joanna Darda | Gilbert NHA |
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