

Muncie Park & Recreation Board Meeting

December 19, 2023 6 p.m.

City Hall Auditorium

- 1. CALL TO ORDER-** Brad Marshall called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m.
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – All stood for the Pledge.
- 3. ROLL CALL-** Present were Brad Marshall, Shannon Powers, Mark Ervin, James Lutton and Chandra Parks.

The Board took a moment of silence in honor of Board Secretary Nikki Eckerson and her family who suffered a death in the family this week.

- 4. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER BOARD MINUTES-** Vote was taken by all Board members present. Motion carries. Motion approved by all members present.

5. TUHEY BATH HOUSE PROPOSAL – Shannon Powers & Jonathan Spodek

Shannon has been working on getting historic status for the Tuhey Bath House. Jonathan Spodek was present to speak about the work they have done so far. Shannon stated they have received a grant from Indiana Landmarks, a non-profit organization to do a feasibility study on the bath house. The goal is two-fold. 1) is to acquire national and local historical landmark status and 2) we have a contract to do a feasibility study that would help us preserve the bath house and also to transform it back to its natural beauty and also take it into the next twenty to thirty years of using that space as a rental for different organizations that want to rent it out for private parties.

Mr. Spodek stated he is on faculty at Ball State, however is presenting the proposal as part of his consulting work he does outside of them. He has done a lot of collaborations over the years here in Muncie, with Neil Horsman who is an architect based in Indianapolis. Mr. Spodek met Shannon at the end of October for a walk through of the building. He also did some digging and found the drawings from the last renovation which was done in 1981. We were asked to put together a proposal for a feasibility study for reuse of the building and returning it, particularly the exterior to the historical appearance that was altered in 1981. He states most of the interior has been gutted but

to reuse it in a similar capacity as the lodges in Heekin and McCulloch Parks. That would include looking at options to make it accessible and put in kitchens and bathrooms. Right now, it's just a lot of plumbing in there, and it's in pretty bad shape. A lot of work was done to close in the building, the closing of the windows and put in ventilation and things that would have been needed when it was used as a bath house. What our proposal includes for the total cost of \$6500, flat fee to go back and do some more specific site verification of conditions. Develop some concept designs of how the building could be reused as well as how the exterior can be restored to its historic appearance. Do what we call a preliminary building assessment, which is not going into details of specs, but just to understand the scope of what needs to be done in order to bring the building back into a useful purpose and cost estimates. And we've also got in there several meetings that we to have with stakeholders both at the beginning as we sort of start the project at sort of an intermediate level when we have some concept ideas to share and then a presentation at the end.

Brad asked if there were any questions for Mr. Spodek. There were none. Shannon added this is the first step in a long process. But once we have the National Landmark preservation status and the local status, we will be eligible for more grants and can pursue them along with perhaps we could ask the mayor to put in some money in a future budget to restore that facility and capital campaigns. So yeah, this is the first step in seeing if it's feasible and the money is already allocated through the grant.

Brad asked the amount of the grant and Shannon replied it is \$6,500. Brad stated so it would be the entirety of the grant. He stated he saw there were some non-included items or some adders there. One noted in addition to the base hourly projection, but I didn't see a base hourly projection in there. Jonathan replied, that's for any additional services you wanted us to do above and beyond the scope of the services there outlined on the first page. And that's a flat fee of \$100.00 an hour. We also don't have any engineering or fees included. Brad added it also speaks about design revisions beyond the estimated time allotted in the project complete design phase, but he didn't see an estimated time allotted. Jonathan replied our goal is that if we can get approval before the first of the year, we would be able to start by February 1st and it would be completed within 60 days. Brad added the other thing he saw noted is travel beyond 50 miles and he sees the office is in Indianapolis. Jonathan replied the office is, but he is here in Muncie. That's sort of our standard language in case we get asked to go out. For example you're pursuing National Register listing. If for some reason you wanted me to be part of that and meet with the folks down at the Division of Historic Preservation Archaeology for the state who manages that program, and that would bring me down to Indianapolis. But I live here in Delaware County.

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

Shannon stated this is something she would like to bring to vote if possible. Mark made the motion to approve the feasibility study as proposed. Shannon seconded the motion.

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

Brad stated to Jonathan he assumed he would work with Shannon, Carl and George on anything moving forward related to the study. Shannon added they need a signature on the grant if he is comfortable with doing that and Brad stated he would sign on behalf of the Board. Jonathan stated George was with them during the walk through and gave some ideas on what they envision. There'll be a time to sit down and anybody who wants to be involved in that conversation as we get sort of get started to make sure that that we give some options and proposals for what you want to use that building for. Brad stated if you're targeting February 1st, it's probably appropriate to have you on the February 20th agenda to get an update of where you're at. Shannon added we'll be sure to you invite Riverside Normal City Neighborhood Association to those meetings as well.

6. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Carl Malone, Superintendent

We just wanted to highlight a few things that we have worked on the last couple, two weeks and then we want to get ready for 2024. We have a lot of things planned for, for 2024. I was before the board at our last board meeting, I talked about receiving some training for our splash pads from Vortex, individuals that that were able to come in town and really go through everything that we didn't know about was glad that we were able to get some hands-on training with some of our staff. George was there, I was there and then we had two other park employees along with the Vortex staff people. We had a lot of questions that got answered and then we were able to go out and actually winterize Thomas Park and Riverview. And we also have Corey's contact numbers if we need to call for any questions that the staff may have. We were glad to get some hands-on training with the Vortex people.

Next, our bathrooms have continued to be vandalized there at Heekin Park. We're having unsafe situations there. People are putting themselves inside the restrooms and locking the doors, not letting staff members come in. We are having to sometimes call the police for assistance. We've talked about it as the conditions sometimes can be unsafe due to paraphernalia, trash, urine, you name it all over the restrooms there at Heekin. We decided that we would go ahead and make a change in how we keep the doors open 24 hours and just keep them open when we have rentals and then once the rentals are not in place then we will secure the doors there at Heekin. We think this is the right way to go. Those bathrooms are heated and so they invite people in to stay in those restrooms throughout the course of the night and that creates a problem. If someone is in there, and someone that has rented a cabin goes in to use the restroom

they can encounter a situation. So, we want to try to minimize that as much as possible. If the board has any questions or concerns, I'd be willing to entertain a conversation.

Shannon inquired if keeping them locked is keeping people out of them and Carl replied yes. Carl reiterated that would just be for during the hours we aren't using them for the public. Our other restrooms are locked during the winter months as they don't have heat. Westside, McCullough and Cooley are locked. The only one that's currently unlocked is Heekin.

Brad added one of the things we continue to talk about is vandalism in the parks, especially around the bathrooms and we talked a little bit out of the meeting here about the park convention you guys went to. Was there anything that came out of that? I know you mentioned that other parks are seeing the same things. Is there a solution or has anybody had luck solving these issues? Carl stated they all had different angles they were taking. Some had Park Rangers that police and secure the park and have boots on ground types of security measures. Others have tried to secure the doors at certain times of the day. They've tried that and then others have just kept the doors open until the park closes at 11:00 and they close down the restrooms at that time. Our parks close at 11 but our restrooms stay open. So there again that's that inviting piece and things are changing in our community. Mental health issues are on the rise and you know you encounter someone that's having a mental health meltdown in one of those restrooms at night we could really be facing some other situations that we really don't want to have to encounter. For me it's more of a safety concern as I've encountered individuals myself. There was a knife situation one time. I went in and there was a guy that had a knife and pulled it out. I don't know if he just reacted because I came in but the fact that there has been times that that be the case, so is.

Chandra asked if Heekin Park had cameras and Carl stated at one time it did, but they were vandalized as well. Cables were cut and things of that nature. We are currently looking at another way to maybe remount the cameras in our park systems, maybe up higher. Right now we're in the brainstorming session, just kind of talking a little bit about what we can use at our parks. Unfortunately, that's kind of where we are with cameras there, they're definitely needed and help if someone gets hurt on the playground. The lawyers were talking about that. We have footage at our playground structures, in our parks to help with that type of situation as well and also with identifying troublemakers and people that come to the park for reasons other than what we want the park to be for.

Brad stated hopefully some changes here at Heekin Park will get us through the winter, but really task you and George and this board to kind of brainstorm and think of how do we make some changes there and improve our security? And a challenge to the public

too. We're open to ideas. Come to meetings, give George or Carl a call. Call any of us on the Board. We're open to ideas. George added they have better security systems, but we have what our budget can afford. We will talk to Sonitrol to see about other systems we may be able to get. The problem also is the height you can put them. You can only come at a certain height there and they find a way to tear them down. So that's the problem we've been having at our most vandalized parks.

We're going to have a challenge to try to provide as many programs as we can to try to reach as many kids that we can during the summer. That will hopefully allow us to have more conversations with parents as we talk about the big problem that we have with handguns in our community and how to prevent those from coming to our parks.

I don't know if you guys saw the news last night and this morning but there was a first-grade kid that went to school with a handgun in the backpack and it fell out in the school hallway. So just as easy as it can happen at the school, it could happen at one of our parks. We're hoping that programming will allow us to have more conversations and more engagement with some of the parents and maybe we can talk and figure something out. Right now, I think we're just in the talking stages. The Mayor, the Police Department, Probation Department, prosecutors, community at large and schools, we're all trying to come together with resources to figure out how do we keep everybody safe. Our parks are places where we want to invite individuals to come daily and at the same time, we want to make sure they're safe. The last thing we want to have happen is one of those incidents take place in one of our parks. It's definitely high on my list of concerns for 2024 as we try to invite people to our parks and the goal is to try to have as many activities as possible this year that would invite people to our parks.

Brad asked if there were any other questions for Carl.

Chandra asked would it be appropriate to maybe pull in some of the schools, and Ball State College to maybe do a brainstorm essay. To have some of these geniuses out here kind of help brainstorm the vandalism issue, write an essay and get a reward essay, something to get some out-of-the-box ideas? Carl replied at this time we are probably going to need to continue to have conversations and maybe we can get to a point where we can get a handle on it because playground stuff is expensive, and you know we and The City of Muncie have put a lot of money in our parks. Cooley Park being the very first project that we did, and they really went into the bathrooms and did some damage there and we can't keep them locked up forever. I mean at some point in time we have to open them back up. We have the splash pad and the changing room and so it's a concern, but don't have an answer at this point in time. Chandra stated she's just thinking of getting community engagement, especially since we don't know who's doing what. But if the young people are involved and we're picking their brains, maybe we can make a contest

out of it. Have an essay written where they just throw some ideas out there. Maybe they can think of things we're not thinking of. Carl added the MAP Board is very supportive of all the Neighborhood Association groups and George is part of that that board and committee and it may be a matter of just pulling everybody together and saying hey, let's try and see what happens.

George added he thinks the more activities we have in the park, the less vandalism we have. There are some parks where we do have program activities going on and those parks don't have any vandalism at all. So that's something we can work on is to have some more activities. The Mayor is already working on putting new playground equipment in different parks and we will have more kids out at those parks because there's new structures. So that's a good idea to do studies. He added he can talk with the MAP Board, our committee, about coming up with some studies as well.

Shannon added she thinks we need more year-round programming as well and not just for K through 6th grade, but it should be targeting high school students. She thinks the City's recreation department should be a center for year-round programming. We could run them at churches. I mean we've had these conversations before. There's also Accutech. I mean there's all sorts of places that we could partner with where we could have year-round programming and it doesn't have to be sports related. We could do not just physical activity, but it could be singing, acting, movie making, whatever youth are interested in to get them. Carl added they have had conversations with some other groups. They had a meeting earlier and he thinks in some of the survey paperwork activities, having things for our young kids to do year-round, like Shannon said, it's something I think everybody's going to try to put their hand around it and see what we are offering. What is Muncie really doing with our time and our young people? There seems to be a disconnect and yet we still have a lot of things going on and so we want to try to capitalize as much as we can and then try to fix what we can as well. I think right now it's going to take all of us. It's going to take the entire city school system, churches and everybody working together to try to do a better job. We definitely can do better than what we currently have right now and that's in place and what we have in place is not real effective to put it that way.

Chandra asked what the department needs from the Board and how they can support the department moving forward as he and George do a lot. Carl replied, he and George had a conversation about reviewing where we are right now in the current five-year plan. What can we do better to move forward for the next five-year plan? How does it look as we go forward trying to reach out into the communities that we do have and see what's open, what hours are open. So, to have a board that's supportive of trying to reach out and do a better job in reaching our young people. And what he's heard from people is they want more activities. George and I have talked about that we feel like we're doing a lot but then people feel like we're not doing enough. So in a lot of it is

event type stuff they want at Heekin Park. For example, that park has always been a park that had several events all summer long and then the last couple years we haven't had anything there at all. I think a lot of that comes from that and it is centered around safety and making sure we have public safety in place. He has talked to some individuals about that and we're going to try to do a little something this year that we haven't done with as far as Parks and that's being there weekly with some park activities versus event type stuff. And just try to see what else we can do in those hours that teenagers are out and about. You know parks close at 7:00, 8:00, 9:00 o'clock at night. Kids are still out and about throughout the nights, you know 9/10, 11:00 or whatever. Maybe there's a building where kids can do some stuff. I just think our teenagers are sitting idle and now that handgun has become an option for them. And they've gotten pretty much connected to that piece of firearm. And that seems to be their recreation and activity. They're constantly going into the juvie system, getting pulled over and when the car gets pulled over, there's a handgun or two in the car. So, it's one big cycle. So, we're just going to try to do a better job in reaching our young people and we think we can do that through Parks and Rec.

Brad thanked Carl and stated he and George have certainly done a lot. We came through an odd time there with COVID and had a high focus on public safety. And we're just trying to figure out how to navigate this new normal we're in. But he thinks it needs to continue to be at the forefront of our minds here, safety and engagement and keep moving forward on the path we're on.

RIVERSIDE PARK UPDATE – Dustin Clark

Brad asked for an update as he believes things have been turned over to the contractors and they are still in the building process and things are kind of idle through the winter and he presumes into the spring.

Dustin stated to reiterate what President Marshall said, for Riverview Park, the splash pad and the final construction has been turned over to PrideMark. Anybody who has been out there in recent days has seen that the playground equipment has been installed. They've seen that the beginning of the foundation for the flush toilet restroom, which is a massive upgrade from what was originally proposed, has already begun. The bridge crossing is already in and the splash pad was operational before the end of summer. So, they are continuing to work through that process. He stated he knows Flatland was out there earlier this week. So, between Flatland and Pridemark, he thinks they're trying to button up everything prior to the end of the year, but all of that is within their realm right now.

WESTSIDE PARK UPDATE

Brad stated the last thing on Carl's report is Westside Park and he actually saw and heard some questions even today on that as well.

Carl stated maybe Brad heard something that he hadn't, but to his knowledge they are still in the permitting phase. He had a conversation with Deputy Mayor and that's kind of where we were at with it. I don't know if anything's happened over the last 10 days or so, but the timeline for permitting is still what's holding the process up at Westside.

Brad stated that's the last understanding he had as well was awaiting DNR permitting because being in the floodway. He has not heard any updates and assumes that's where we're still at today.

Shannon asked how long we have been waiting for DNR's answer or permit? Has it been a year? Carl stated it hasn't been quite a year. It's around seven or eight months. She then asked is there a possibility that they may say this project cannot go on? Carl replied that hasn't been conveyed to him. He knows it took a while for Riverside to get their approval as well. It took months and that's what the community was concerned about and why they kept asking questions about the delay. It seems it's just the nature of their business as they as they do their work.

Brad added it is similar to our pond at Tillotson as it was 6-8 months longer than we expected as well. The government, especially the state and federal aren't known for their speedy service. Maybe we can follow up with Hunger who is still leading that and see if we can get any updates. Shannon asked if this is normally how it is with getting a permit and Brad stated they go through their process and it is what it is sometimes, be it staffing, be it workload, be it prioritizing, be it a number of things. But he has not heard any negative feedback yet, which is normally a good sign, but he's not heard about any movement either. Shannon stated her concern is the funding as we've got Community Foundation funding and then we have ARP money. She wonders if we are now outside of that time frame? Brad replied he doesn't think so yet to the best of my knowledge. But that's probably worth looking into and circling back so maybe we can get that on the agenda here for early spring. Maybe we can get either Hunger or Flatland as they have done some work on that as well. Shannon asked if she should reach out as she was part of that grant to Community Foundation to see if we are still within the timeline for the funds. Brad replied he didn't think we need to until we have an updated timeline because right now it's kind of like we don't know. We don't even know what to ask for. If by chance we are outside of the timeline, we wouldn't know to ask for two months more or 12 months more. I think we need some more details before we approach them and ask for more time. Carl added he thinks we need to get everybody in the room, board members and engineers included, and just have that conversation. He thinks that needs to happen often as it would answer a lot of questions and put everybody on the same

page. Brad thinks we could give Community Foundation a quick status advisory letting them know we're working as quickly as we can. It's in the head hands of the permitting people and we just wanted to let them know so when they report back to their board, they'd be able just say it's still a go as far as we know. Shannon stated she would shoot them an email.

7. RIVERSIDE NORMAL CITY NHA – Heather Williams, Jen Erickson & Beth Messner

Heather is not going to be able to join us tonight, so you have the pleasure of talking to me and Jen Erickson. My name is Beth Messner and I'm the treasurer of the Riverside Normal City Neighborhood Association. This is my colleague Jen Erickson, who is the secretary. And then we also have Dawn Marie Oberly here who is a member of the Neighborhood Association as well.

We're here basically to provide you with a little bit of an update of some of our activities and to give you some feedback from some of our neighborhood residents as we've been working on planning for our own future. I'm very excited to hear about the approval of the feasibility study for Tuhey Park for that restoration project. And actually, it's Tuhey Park we're here to talk about specifically. Our Neighborhood Association has been very active over the last several years working in collaboration with the Parks Department and our residents to focus their attention on our parks. We are blessed to have two parks in our neighborhood, Tuhey and Emerson Dog Park. And through our collaborative efforts with Mr. Foley, other members of the Park Department and our Neighborhood Association, we've been able to see a number of upgrades made within our local parks. Specifically, we spent a lot of time working on Emerson Park for the last several years. We've worked with Ball State University's facilities, individuals, our Neighborhood Association and the United Way Day of Action to make a number of upgrades to Emerson Park, including upgrades like park benches, picnic tables and sunshades. And our neighborhood is very excited about the work that's been going on there. And we've started shifting our attention to Tuhey. One of the things that we have been doing with some of our ARP money in addition to helping with some of those upgrades is working with Plant Studio Landscaping to come up with a kind of vision of what the neighborhood would like to have happen with Tuhey Park. Heather and I have met with Mr. Foley to talk about some of our ideas, some of the concerns that we have with the park. And as the Parks Board and the Parks Department move forward with planning for Tuhey in the future, we'd like to make sure that some of our ideas, things that the neighborhood residents have forwarded to us are considered as part of that process. We also in addition to using some of our ARP money to work with Plant Studio to come up with just kind of a rendition of some of our design ideas and are also in the process of having conversations with Flatland resources as well on the bike trail or bike lane

project. And so we have some ideas about how that bike lane project could move forward in collaboration with some development with Tuhey Park. I want to go ahead and turn it over to Jen who can talk to you a little bit about some of our ideas.

Jen stated she wanted to reiterate a little bit of what Beth was saying. This is not an official plan, but we did do a community charette. We invited neighbors to come talk about what they'd like to see in Tuhey Park and then Plant Studio Landscape put that together here. You can see that one idea was to have a basketball court or a pickle ball court, you know, some sort of a destination for adults or teenagers or something like that also to put some more trees in, especially because we would want to buffer those homes that are along Meeks and Tuhey so that they're not hearing people playing super late at night or things like that. Those residents have expressed some trepidation about the noise coming from that, but definitely more shade structures at Tuhey, walking paths that people can walk around. And I think especially with the renovation of the bathhouse that would be really exciting to bring some of these other things in to make it a much larger destination.

And so just to state that we're happy to answer questions about this, but we also are here to state that we want to work with you. We would love to work with you to help get the residents together to provide feedback. We don't know if we would need to get a different plan drawn up with that bike path coming in because it's at a different phase right now. I don't think they're ready to get to the phase of the bike path that connects Ball State to downtown yet, but one of the plans has it going around or through Tuhey, so some of that might need to be addressed. But also, we've really enjoyed working with Mr. Foley and Mr. Malone, we've only met and talked about Emerson Dog Park. Part of our ARP funds for example, are to put in a dog paw washing station and a water fountain for dogs. And like really quickly after we met with you all they got that line in and it's ready to go. We were just waiting for our funds to come in and now we can put that paw washing station in in the spring. But we're just here out of good faith to say that we've already done some work with you all. We really appreciate that. I also did that class with the parks, if anybody remembers that was super fun with my students and we just want to say that we're here to offer help and assistance and if there's something that we can do to help you all get Tuhey to be a better place, and we would love to do that.

Shannon stated with this design it looks like there's the removal of Tuhey towers, the playground Tuhey towers. Jen replied she didn't think their plan wanted the towers taken down and they might be the little blue triangle on the plan. Beth added one of the other things you might notice is that we have designated some ARP funding to provide historical markers for Tuhey and Emerson. And so obviously we're trying to invest to help with that renovation of the bathhouse and to invest in the park as well.

Brad asked if there were any from the board and there were none. He added the City and Parks have adopted some signing standards, so be sure to work with Carl and George when we move forward. He added this is great to see the neighborhood engaging, being a positive influence and the design on the parks. As we mentioned earlier Carl and George have a lot on their plate already and the more we can grassroots and draw this up neighborhood levels is wonderful. Beth added they weren't quite sure where you were in terms of master planning, but we wanted to make sure that we brought you some of the residents' concerns and the residents' ideas as you move toward working on a master plan.

Brad stated he saw it noted they had about \$85,000 for ARP and you've allocated roughly \$18,000 for parks. Are you looking at more for the parks or are you guys adventuring in other projects or what are you dreaming up? Beth replied at this point in time, our ARP money extends out a couple of years. We have a number of programming things we're working on like the \$2.00 Tour of the Village and helping co-sponsor events with Holy Trinity Church. We also are doing massive tree planting in our neighborhood. And so, we've invested a lot of funds into hiring people to help us with that tree planting rather than going out with the shovels and augers ourselves. We have designated some very specific activities over the course of the next couple of years. Jen added one of the big ones at Tuhey Park that we came up with is the idea of Total Eclipse of the Park to happen in the 2024. We will designate an area for the neighborhood for that eclipse that will hopefully come through Muncie, and we can all see and programming and things like that.

Brad added the plan is great and Plant Studio looks like they've done good work here this is certainly an elaborate and expensive plan but it's a great dream and that's where we're going to start. Beth added one of the things that the plan does speak to is the programming concerns that Mr. Foley and Mr. Malone have talked about by providing additional structures for families to gather, by providing additional facilities like basketball courts, a pickle ball court, whether that comes to fruition or not but just the idea of providing extra facilities provides an attraction to the park that we hope will bring more families in, making the park more walkable with walking trails, making it more aesthetically pleasing with more trees and plantings that was part of our attempt.

Shannon added we had applied for the LWCF grant and this is very similar to our plan except for the courts and some of the shade structures. Very similar to the trail and what we attempted to get funding for. She encouraged them to keep their eyes out for grants that we could collaborate on to help support these changes for the future. Beth added there are a few minor things, for instance, like moving the port-a-potties away from the picnic table, shade structure area. Those are the kinds of things that might be able to be moved on without that kind of funding. Brad stated he thinks that's where it starts. You

guys have already done a lot of great work, but getting small wins and gaining momentum and then that really shows you guys got skin in the game and you're interested in that gets the snowball rolling. Gets more people involved and more engagement. Jen interjected she appreciates they mentioned inviting our Neighborhood Association if there are future meetings on the Bath House, or if you were to have a meeting about Tuhey specifically and you could let us know, we'd be happy to come and contribute and talk about collaborating as much as we can. Beth added they would love to be able to use that as our neighborhood gathering place and so we are very much interested in investing in the future of the bathhouse.

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

There's a lot to discuss but we will present it at our next board meeting in January. But I just want to talk a little bit about the Muncie Teen internship program. I've been in negotiations with some companies where we want to do this program year-round, just not in the summer. We know our budget doesn't allow us to hire or have the kids work year-round, but Shannon and myself, have been working on some funding sources. The probation office is going to step in with some funding to help us. He will have more information about those funding sources, where they come from and the amounts they'll be. He added with those funding sources, we're hoping to hire a coordinator to help him with programming. That funding wouldn't come from our parks budget but will come from the funding sources and a couple of grants that we'll bring up later. So, Carl and I will have some help with doing more programming in the parks and help with the interns during the year-round program. But we have been in negotiations with a lot of organizations that want to hire some of the kids for the year-round program and some of them will be helping with sponsorship to pay stipends to those youth. One of them is Northwest Bank, they're going to be a sponsor and they will be hiring a few of our kids. Thrive Credit Union has agreed to hire some kids. We're figuring out with IU Health Ball Memorial how many kids they can hire. We met with Muncie Sanitation Department, and they love the program and want to be a part of it next year. We also have Eco Rehab, who we partnered with last summer. Moving forward with the year-round program, they'll hire as many kids as they can. We want to build some shade structures in some of the parks. The four parks that we're going to focus on at the beginning of the year will be Aultshire, Cowing, Heekin and Ball Corp. They said they'd be able to build 4 shade structures during the semester and then the year round and hopefully we can with those students. They'll also help with some improvements in our parks. We have Habitat for Humanity on board along with the Horizon Convention Center and the YWCA. I have a few more that hopefully I'll be able to announce during the first meeting of the year. Shannon and I will be presenting those funding sources at our next meeting as well. He added they will probably need to meet with Mark and the legal team about specifics. We're putting that all in place to present to legal. He has been busy in the winter months

as it hasn't really slowed down for him. As Carl stated, we're trying to take away a bit of the free time of our youth. And we think some programs like this will hopefully curb some trouble, hopefully stop some vandalism and some of the kids will be invested in the park and working in the parks. We hope with this structure that we're putting together that this can help the community as a whole. I have other programming to present in January next year, but I wanted to update everybody on the internship program. George asked if there were any questions from the board and there were none.

There were no events presented for approval.

9. PRAIRIE CREEK REPORT – Dustin Clark

Dustin stated they just wrapped their last major event of the year, which was our first event for the Cook Family Education Center, the Prairie Creek Christmas event. We had hoped to get about 50 participants to come out and visit the Education Center but turns out we had more than 150, so about three times what we had hoped for. I would say a pretty roaring success. Tawny is a brainchild and should receive most of the accolades for that. There was community engagement. We had businesses and not-for-profits represented there. We had volunteers, games, prizes, cookies, hot cocoa, donated prizes for the kids to take home and keep forever prizes for the parents and then Santa read *The Night Before Christmas* and then went through kids Christmas lists and letters to Santa. He thinks it was a very well received event overall and then the Friends of Prairie Creek meeting was right after which encourages that's what that facility is for. It isn't just for recreation; it can be for many things.

The next biggest thing is all of the floating piers have been moved to their winter location. They are still in the water but are now anchored away from shore. The crew and Junior are working diligently as there are approximately 140 individual docks still to go by the end of the week. We hope that will be 40 leaving us about 100 left to do. Some of those are going to be the more difficult ones, but they are working on the tougher ones first. This would put us ahead of schedule, which is the whole goal of this project, to both build revenue and then free up our guys more throughout the year to be able to do other projects.

So we are encouraged with that. The previous year was the first installation, we acquired 12 floating Piers with 10 on each side for a total of 20 between then and now we have added, we're going to add nine additional piers for the coming 2024 season. So those will go into effect and again that will be additional revenue and we have already taken possession of those. So once we complete our winter workload, we will begin constructing those inside the buildings during winter. So come spring, we'll be able to roll those out even further. So not quite two-thirds, but we are working towards that

three-year goal, which is now really realistically a four year goal, but we are moving towards that. So every year we will see additional revenue and then a reduction in workload.

Shannon asked if the total number of piers we have is 29. Dustin replied 12 from the previous and 9 now. And then we've got some drone footage about where the old piers are, so that we have updated maps for everybody and then coming open and in the spring and then the new ones will also go into the to the new locations based on that drone footage. So that's kind of exciting to see.

The other thing that I would want to address right off is this is the end of our fiscal year. And since we don't receive tax dollars, you serve as our fiscal body as just as in years past, we want to take money out of our cash account and we want to put it in our general fund account so that we zero out the year and end the year on even terms. He thinks Tawny emailed the proposed budget amendment to Brad for the Board. He reviewed some things just for the record. Our 2023 budget was constructed in 2022, same thing for this year as our 2023 budget is based on the previous year's numbers. So we never factor in additional revenue that we will make. We always base it on if that revenue didn't show up. With that in mind, we had expected to make around \$776,000. That was our approved budget via this Board. We ended up making close to \$945,000 and with that we're going to be asking to move funds. We've known that we were going to receive that about \$145,000. So we've been spending accordingly to do some infrastructure improvements, bath house improvements, upgrades to health and safety equipment, metal roofing, sanitary improvements, sewage line improvements, equipment maintenance, park trail improvements. And then we did note that although we had intended to, we did not feel comfortable purchasing vehicles. So we didn't actually receive any new vehicles in 2023. So no new money went to anybody's new vehicle, but that's the majority of where the revenue went. So that kind of gives a breakdown of what we would like to do and we would just ask the Board to approve and vote on moving \$144,788.73 from our cash balance to our general fund balance so that Craig Wright, our City Controller will even out our year. We do have some internal line items that we are going to move ourselves. If you guys are familiar with budget performance reports, anything beginning with particular numbers 401, 402, or 403, they can be moved inside those line items. So if I have unspent amount in stamps, I could then use that money to purchase office supplies. It's under the same category. So if I underspend in one, I can balance it out at the end of the year. We are going to do that with several columns, but in general the amount that we would like to move is the \$144,788.73 from cash to our general fund to end out the year.

Brad asked if there were any questions for Dustin about moving these monies from one account line to the other. James asked if the transfer is going to pay for the upgrades on the shower house. Dustin replied they've already been paid for, so all of the

improvements we have already. So we accumulated this money. However, the budget only reflects what you guys approved in 2023. So we thought we were going to spend about \$700,000. We received the ability to increase rates so that we knew we were bringing in more money. Knowing that we were now bringing in closer to \$900,000 we spent \$900,000. Now I want to take the additional revenue that we knew we made that's in our cash account and move it to our general fund account. So money that we made went into our savings account. Now I want to take it out of savings and put it in our checking account so that we can finish paying bills.

Brad asked if there were any more questions and there were none. Motion to approve the transfer was made by James and seconded by Shannon.

Vote was taken by all Board members present to approve all listed dates. Motion carries. Motion approved by all members present.

Brad asked Dustin if they were not anticipating or forecasting revenue from the new docks in the 2024 budget and Dustin stated that was correct. Brad asked if they had chosen the supplier for the new nine docks and decided where they will go or if it was still in the works. Tawny replied Junior went over it and chose as he knows more in that area. There will be three going in on North Shore and the rest are going to go south of the beach. Brad stated he assumes when we send out renewals this year, pricing will match and be appropriate for the dock they're actually going to be receiving or how do they plan to handle that. Tawny stated they've already started on that. Dustin added they aren't counting on those funds because we already approved our budget, so the budget will remain the same, but yes, those invoices will go out with an updated amount from \$500 to the \$625 for those nine piers that are affected. Brad stated that's the forewarning and the notice for those that will be affected, that we've talked about it. We know that it's coming. Tawny added she did notify the Friends of Prairie Creek as well.

Shannon inquired if they plan on buying any additional piers in this next phase in 2024 and Dustin replied they do plan on buying if not the remainder, another quarter percent for the 2025 season. Shannon asked how many is that and Dustin stated at minimum nine but hopefully twelve. She then asked about the security gates going on the front of the piers. Dustin stated they did test gates this year and had some positive feedback. So we are going to purchase those gates and then as we install them come springtime, the twelve original, the ADA dock south of the beach, and then the ones on Windsurf beach will all receive gates. Shannon then asked if that will change the dock fees and Dustin replied he does not anticipate a change. They are not requesting nor asking to entertain any price increase for seasonal camping. We're not asking for any price increase for seasonal leaseholders. We are not asking to increase fees on anything other than a couple things that we had previously discussed which includes the daily launch fee. And with the daily launch, we would obviously adjust the annual launch fee and then large

event and small event. So those were ones that we had left off the previous price increase and now would be the time to kind of come back and revisit those. This is an open discussion. Currently cost \$10 for daily launch. We would like to make that \$15. It currently costs \$100 for an annual launch permit and we would like to make that \$150. So then, so if you come out 10 times a year, you've paid for your annual pass, which is the same ratio that it is now. We feel that's pretty competitive with the area especially for the size of our reservoir. Although we want to encourage as much local use, we do get some out of area use and those tend to be our more aggressive boaters and they tend to cause the most damage. So we aren't that concerned about alienating or reducing the number of wakeboard boaters or stuff like that. We do want to keep it reasonable for the fishermen. The fishermen are going to buy a pass for \$1.50 and they're going to come out every Wednesday for 60 weeks. I mean they're out there all the time. So for them it's still pretty reasonable, but for the average boater it's only \$15.

Brad asked if there were any additional questions or discussion on daily or annual launch fees and there were none. Mark put forth a motion for approval of the fee increase and it was seconded by Chandra.

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

Event fees for Prairie Creek

Currently the fee is \$25, whether they're profiting tens of thousands of dollars or whether they're coming out to have a BBQ. If you guys have looked at any of the comparables around, even the local churches charge \$300 - \$400.00 for a half day rental. Some local individuals have small businesses where they rent out their barns for weddings at \$2,000 a day and they are booked for the season. We feel that \$25 is quite reasonable to get all the amenities that Prairie Creek has. We are proposing that fee go up to a minimum of \$100 for a small event. What we would like to consider a small event we would put into 9517 D the rules and ordinances is that it not exceed the carrying capacity of the rental shelter. So if you wanted to have an event, you would rent a shelter and pay the \$100 fee. Your small event fee could not exceed the carrying capacity. So if you rented a shelter and the carrying capacity of that shelter was 50 people, you can't have 300 people at your event. You would need to rent additional shelters or you would need to be a large event and then that would be a different price structure and then anything exceeding the carrying capacity of a rental structure will be \$200 today, not including the price of the shelters.

And then one thing that we discussed is George and Carl, have equipment they rent that is not freely gifted so they would need to coordinate rentals for events with them. Same thing as I think it was brought up earlier, the Port-a-potties, we would no longer provide

those for free. That would be at the expense of the large event fee. And then we also would like to introduce a \$50 damage deposit. We base this on two hours of cleaning and two hours of maintenance. That would help offset cleaning fees after an event as somebody has to go in there and clean restrooms, put back toilet paper and kind of tidy up the place and pick up some of the trash and carry out all the stuff that they left. So we wanted to bring that in, but we want to reserve the right, especially at our facility as we have lots of non-traditional places to rent. Meaning that people pull in the grass a lot, so Junior spends a lot of time fixing ruts where people drive through or park or get stuck or chain their dog to a tree and you know ruins the tree or whatever. So we want to reserve the right to submit an invoice if it exceeds the \$50 damage deposit. And this again is open for discussion. We are not tied to an amount and we are not tied to any verbiage yet, but we do want to bring this before you to get your input on how you guys want to proceed. So that come January, Tawny and the staff can get out a lease with all the rules and fees in a timely manner. So everybody sees it for the whole year.

Brad asked if there was any discussion on the event fees and those pieces there, and there were none. He then asked where would a multi-day event fall in those fees. Would that be a daily rate or is that for the event entirely yes? Dustin stated it would. He stated one example of that might be the Jeep event. One example might be that concert. It's like a Friday, Saturday and Sunday. So that's a three day event. It seems improper to pay one fee for them to be able to monopolize it for a majority of a summer weekend. So when they take over that area it won't be in use for anybody else. When Ironman comes in, they pay \$25 or in some cases less, and they take over a section of the park for weeks at a time. This would encourage other triathlons, other entities. If you want to come in and set up on a Thursday, great, pay the fee. If you're going to monopolize it, you know Friday, Saturday, and Sunday and not come back and clean up till Monday, great. Not a problem. You would just pay the additional fee and we are open, yes.

Mark stated he was confused with the terminology small versus large in my brain. I can't make that compute. To me, small means a small number, large means a large number. So comparing it with capacity, explain to me again how that works. Dustin replied if we were assessing a fee, if we were bringing it up a special event application towards you, it would say large event or small event and would have their fee. A small event might be somebody renting a shelter and then the area outside it at the beach. The carrying capacity of one of the shelters might only be 50 people. So if you tell me your event is going to have 500 people, a 50 person shelter is not accommodating to your event. You would need to rent the space in between and or the other shelter and or the beach house to make an equivalent for restrooms, space everything. So if Iron Man came and said they just wanted to rent one shelter, their whole event is not going to fit in one shelter. They would have to take over multiple shelters. If somebody wants to come and have a concert and that's just a one day event and it's just a band that might be feasible. If it's a

three day concert series and they are expecting a couple thousand people, then no. They would need to do a large event fee and then rent the beach house shelter, the South shelter, the no name shelter or the rock shelter to spread the care and capacity out so that we would meet something more akin to the Indiana Department of Health code of so many people per so many facilities and stuff. Carrying capacity is part of that equation. So we would like to bring the event size closer to the carrying capacity of a structure.

Mark asked if the structures have restrooms or if some of them are just a roof or some. Dustin responded some are just a roof, but they still have carrying capacities. Mark then asked if with a large event, would it make more sense to just tie it to the the number of people participating and Dustin replied they would be fine with that. They just don't think a small event should be greater than the number of a shelter. Maybe a better example would be the lodge. The Community Center at the North Shore Campground has a community building and it holds 60 people. You could rent that facility for \$100. If you told me you were going to have 300 people, then that facility wouldn't work. You would have to rent an additional facility with that to spread those people out so that you had the appropriate number of people for your event.

Shannon asked if they would get charged an event fee, plus shelter fees and if there was a list for them to see the shelter costs and Dustin stated yes to both. Mark asked if it was based on the application or the actual attendance. Because if someone advertises, for instance a concert, and says we're going to have 50 people and 400 show up, how do we handle that? Because it seems like they should be paying for 400, not for 50. Dustin replied he thinks the reasonable accommodation is to start with the event application. So whatever they write on there is what we would hold them to. And then if they ever want to return or like all this was great, we're going to come back. Well, we noticed that last year you only paid for a small event, yet you had 400 people show up. It took Junior three days to clean the place up and Donna had to work overtime two nights so if you're going to rent it again, we're going to ask that you adjust that. Mark stated that accountability is important because anyone can put anything on an application and we don't know but if there's a past history we adjust. He can easily see an event like a rock concert saying we're going to have 1,000 and you have 5000 show up. Tawny interjected they've kind of already addressed this. Like over the summer they had people who weren't even paying for the event fees and then coming and setting up like three tents and taking up the area. Chandra stated even if you did with invoice for the damage deposit, in a situation like that with that many people, you have the right to invoice them for the extra space to handle them.

Dustin stated the application they have now is still rudimentary, although it's vastly improved. But as we continue to move towards that digital system, that system isn't

cheap, but it does have the capability. If they rent their shelter through the system, we can notate it at the day of their event, the night of their event, after their event, if their credit card is on file, we can charge them additionally. That is the ultimate goal of that system is to get away from the old paper system and have it be done online and then keep a record of accountability. We can inform them we noticed that this event came up and it was flagged last year said that there was, you know, a damaged window or something, so before your event is approved this year, why don't you explain what happened and then we can go from there.

Shannon stated for the participants and the consumers it might help them if like a small event is quantified so it says 30 or less. Brad added that's what he's struggling with or trying to think of. What would be a small event versus Johnny's birthday party? So Johnny's birthday party wouldn't be an event per se and asked if they've had any events we've hosted out there in recent history that would fall into the small category? Dustin asked why wouldn't Johnny's birthday party be an event? If they put on an event, if they serve food, if they have concessions or drinks. Brad asked what is simply a shelter rental and Dustin replied a shelter rental is the shelter and the adjacent grill. That would be the carrying capacity of the shelter. If somebody was going to have, as I think Tawny pointed out we had several people they came out and set up ten 20 by 20 tents, and had a 2 wheel BBQ grill truck pull up for a family get together. Maybe not a birthday party, but a family gathering that was an event that took 26 bags of trash to clean up and was an event even though it wasn't a public party, it was still outside resources and additional pressure on the facility and the staff to clean and maintain and get ready for.

Chandra added we should probably put a number on this where the capacity is small and large. Dustin replied he would be fine with 50 because that's probably the lowest shelter number that we have. And then that way, if you're going to rent just a shelter, OK, great, you're great. If you're going to put on an event, it's going to be more than 50 people. If you're going to have more than 50 people show up, then it's probably an event anyway. Mark stated that's helpful to him. If it's fifty or less, it's a small event. This is what we pay. If it's 300, then that's a large event and this is what they pay. Comparing the facility to the numbers where I'm having a hard time getting my brain wrapped around it. Brad stated the one he's still struggling with here is he doesn't want to get in a position where they have to approve every birthday party that's at a shelter. He doesn't want that to come before the Board. Dustin stated he didn't think they needed to finish it tonight and Brad stated they need to talk about that a little more but it sounds like we're all kind of landed with 50 for a small versus large event. The other thing that this seems to tie out to that isn't always the case as we talked about the rental space per se. But maybe it's an event that's not using a structured space that they want to be at the beach or in the general area or a run and their meet in the parking lot or and then maybe that's where those numbers come into play. The other one that I might be open for some

discussion is on the multi day event because once you if you exceed your first day, could we do 1/2 day option that if they would need to come in Friday afternoon, we're not charging them for a full day, we charge first day and then half day increments after that out by noon. But I'm not tied to that, but open for discussion. Shannon asked how would that work for the staff? Dustin replied if you did a half day rental, we have probably already lost the next days. So by noon families have already set in for the day. So if a family is still there and they rented it a half a day, the following day to come in and clean up and they don't get there until 11:00 because they got to be out by noon and they're still cleaning up. Other families have already set up their grills, their blankets, their picnic areas for the day and we've probably already lost that. We also don't have the carrying capacity currently. We're still trying to increase park security, so additional park labor staff to do janitorial or stuff like that probably is not the next thing on our wheelhouse. Probably the next staff increase would be park security and that wouldn't be their job either. So a half day to us would still be a day fee.

Brad asked if there were any other questions on event fees and there were none. He stated he didn't know if they were ready for a vote on it tonight and we'll keep it on the agenda for next month.

Event approval: The Catfish Pirates/Amvets Post 12 does an annual fishing tournament. We've never had any problems with them in the past. There's going to be about 200-300 people on May 25th, from 2:00 to 7:00. They give out like gifts and stuff, like fishing pools and they have a dinner. They fish all through the night for 12 hours. It's from 8:00 PM to 8:00 AM the next morning. It's to raise awareness and money for our veterans. They'll provide security and they're asking for 20 to 25 tables, which they usually get every year. Shannon asked if they would be providing the tables for free and Dustin replied they have provided everything for free in the past.

Brad stated he wanted to talk about the auxiliary item fees. He would like to adopt the same fee structure at Prairie Creek for the additional items as we've adopted for the rest of the parks.

Shannon put forth a motion for approval of the adoption of the auxiliary fee rates and it was seconded by Chandra.

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

Brad stated for this event we'll be operating under the old event fee structure still, but notify them that auxiliary items will be at the fees we've adopted. I don't have that sheet in front of me, so I don't know all those and Nikki can get those are there in the past

minutes. Brad asked if there were any other questions on the Catfish event and there were none.

Shannon put forth a motion for approval of Catfish Pirates/Amvet Post 12 Tournament and it was seconded by Chandra.

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

Muncie Light Horse Club came in and cleared out the horse trails. Those look really good. They cleared them about 6 feet all the way through, so you're not going to get whacked with branches when you go in there now and it's easier to maintain. They said it will help for the next five years to make it a lot easier on him to help maintain. Approximately 5 miles of trails, both sides 6 feet on either side with a forestry cutter and it was paid for through a grant. They did come in and work with Tawny and myself. They do have a new board president. A retiring firefighter seems to be taking that role and has had real good communication with us.

Indian Hill Campground is an equine campground which isn't even open, just a regular campers. It is intended solely for equestrian use. It has been getting continual misuse, to put it lightly. So we have gone ahead and installed a gate. You can come by the office and get a key. If you have a permit, it can be opened up. The camping season is essentially over, so it's not open to daily traffic. We have had to have some conversations and have some people removed as they continue to try to drive out and around the gate to do things in there that they're not supposed to do. But that area is now being secured and we will continue to work on that. We also have the addition of an Iron Ranger, which is the same thing that we have at the boat launch, just the metal pole that you write your little name and number on and for your boat sticker and you put your money in the envelope and you put it in the pole. And then at the end of the week we come clean it out. We're putting that in there to gain additional revenues from people that use the facility that may not feel inclined to drive to the other side to come pay their daily writing permit. But if there are any questions, we did secure that area with a security gate. Things continue to happen over there because it is secluded and has been known to be open to the public even though it's not intended for that purpose. So there is a gate, it's 24 foot wide on 6 foot 6 wheeled gate entrance. We do continue to plan to make some improvements. Tawny has been working on improving the information board over there. We do have plans to bring that place into health code compliance. We're working on the well house and then additional facilities over there. But we did feel that after this last couple events that it was time to secure that place. So for the first time, at least in my knowledge, that place now has a security gate, so it is no

longer directly accessible without either a daily horse permit or an annual permit, or if you're part of the horse club where you would have access.

Brad asked if there were any other questions for Dustin about Prairie Creek and there were none.

10. URBAN FORESTRY GRANT OVERVIEW – Dustin Clark

Brad asked if there were any changes or updates regarding the grant. Dustin stated he, Delaney Fritch, the City Engineer and Michelle Owen have all had some discussions about how to proceed forward on. The original request was for about \$3.6 million. We were awarded \$2 million. To acquire that \$2,000,000 some adjustments obviously have to be made. We still need to meet the federal guidelines. Part of that is reducing the budget, which we got tremendous help from Adam Leach and Delaney Fritch, who have been working on focusing in on the parameters that were set forth by the forestry grant.

Now that we have that more into compliance, the narrative is being rewritten. We have approximately 35 to 40 days to button up that new narrative with new budgetary numbers. Once that happens, we can resubmit that they have a new staff member. So we'll resubmit that to the individual that granted it to begin with and then they will review it. And then they thought that within at least 90 days we would be able to start proceeding. So we do anticipate by springtime having that money available to the city. We can't incur any expenditures until then. They were very adamant about that until we get that narrative revised and submitted which we are currently working on.

Brad asked if other questions for Dustin and there were none.

11. FRIENDS OF PRAIRIE CREEK RESPONSE –

No representative from Friends of Prairie Creek was present. Tawny stated she went to their last meeting they didn't really have anything new. We went over their events for next year and she's going to mail out their events with our papers because we're going to work together.

Dustin stated that Jackie and a couple of the main members did attend the event and we made sure they were honored and got some recognition and they also helped donate for the event. So that was that was very welcome. Tawny added they've been a lot of help to her, so she's going to continue to work with them and listen to them.

Brad stated he is glad to hear that that's going well. He knows the Board and Friends of Prairie Creek haven't always been on the same page, but he feels like we're growing together and working through some items and have a good foundation here leading into next year. So hopes to see that continue.

12. OLD BUSINESS –

Cabin pricing update from last month. Brad stated if we've got any questions, he thinks George and Carl can probably answer them. If not he would be open for discussion if there any questions concerns. If not he would entertain a motion to approve the cabin and shelter pricing as presented at last month's meeting.

Shannon motioned for the approval of the cabin and shelter price increases as presented which was seconded by James.

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

13. NEW BUSINESS –

Brad stated we have the five year master plan coming up as many of us, a few of us were involved in the first plan there. We're I think roughly halfway through, maybe a little more than that. He would have to go back to my notes to when we adopted that officially. Shannon stated it was in 2021.

Carl added he's peeked through it a couple times. I've talked to George about it to see kind of where we are and kind of measure a little bit as we've got some new board members. So we just wanted to have a chance to go through it before we start brainstorming about the new one and have some conversation about where we're at.

Brad stated he thinks that's one we can keep on the agenda as an open item. He knows this last plan we did was primarily Board and staff driven. One of the things he'd like to see is maybe to get more community engagement if there's some public individuals that would like to be involved in that as well as engage with neighborhood associations.

Carl added Industry Neighborhood is up. There's a new one in the Thomas Park Neighborhood, Avondale Neighborhood Association is think they just got a new president and a new organization. So getting more feedback of course with some of the other neighborhoods as well and all that information would be good to go into the new plan of course.

Shannon added the DNR would like a mid, 2 1/2 year status report. And that's why she requested that we assemble a midterm review committee. It's more of a practice that helps us kind of formally assess where we're at, what we've accomplished, what we haven't, what we need to kind of shift into gear and get prioritized. That was on our high

priority list and it also helps us for long term planning with some of these other types of, you know, project ideas that are coming our way from community voices.

Carl added in the original it stated there was a need for the Program Coordinator. We had to focus on getting a Program Director which was George. So that coordinator's job role fell on George and some of the summer workers. And so I think we've done the work and we've demonstrated the need. Now I think it's just a matter of putting things together and being able to maybe get that person in if it's through a grant or however. But the fact that we are growing and we are moving forward in that direction with programming that coordinator spot is definitely needed.

Brad stated we can keep that item on the agenda as well, evaluate that in January and maybe be able to get a committee here early spring and really get an evaluation of that plan together.

He added the other new item that didn't make the agenda, I actually just got an e-mail this afternoon. We received the fully executed state grant agreement for the LWCF project. So I know last month we talked about had it been approved. All that documentation is in now. What that documentation now allows us to do is to start submit reimbursement towards the grant amount. So we continue to move on that project. I know there's been some preliminary work done, but we should be able to see some more progress and see that that grow hopefully. That's probably another one we need to get on the agenda for an update is that pond and the progress there and where they're at and the developing schedule for that as we've been approved now.

14. ACTION ITEMS

Brad inquired if there were any other action items from the board and there were none.

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

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

No names were listed on the public input list to speak and no one requested time to speak.

Carl wanted to go on record to the talk about the programming team which consists of George, Nikki and himself. It's been a joy to see these guys bounce back from things that happened in the public's eye and to get clarified that things were fine and for them to have the attitude that they had returning back to the department. The guys all missed

them and I surely missed their help as well. But they've had a good attitude since they returned and it just shows their dedication. It shows George's dedication to his role and Nikki's dedication to her role which makes for a good team. We appreciate the Board and all of what you guys do and I think the team that we have between the Board and our office, and the city of Muncie as a whole, I just really think we're going in the right direction. And Shannon I want to thank your role at Tuhey's and the grants that you and George converse about and then reach out and apply for. I just think we're going in the right direction.

Brad stated they appreciate all the staff's hard work. Carl, George, and Nikki are the cornerstone there and then we've got all the boots on the ground with the guys doing the work every day. We really appreciate them. And our partner and sister with Prairie Creek, the role Tawny stepped into, I know that was where big shoes to fill and I think she's growing into them well. So I'm excited to see her have a long, long, long career with us out there.

Meeting was adjourned by Brad Marshall, President.

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

Park Board Meeting Public Input Sign In Sheet

Date: 12/19/2023

Name (Please Print)

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