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Superintendent: Carl Malone

Muncie Park & Recreation Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 18, 2024
City Hall Auditorium

- (1) Call to Order
- (2) Pledge of Allegiance
- (3) Roll Call
- (4) Approval of the minutes from (May 2024) Park Board Meeting
- (5) Superintendent Report – Carl Malone
- (6) Prairie Creek Report
- (7) Parks Programming & Approval of Events – George Foley
- (8) Friends of Prairie Creek
- (9) Old Business
 - Prairie Creek Vote (Parks Board)
- (10) New Business
 - Bench Dedication (Canon Commons) for Pat Norris
- (11) Action Items
- (12) Public Input – (3) minutes limit – Please state your name and address.

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



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Superintendent Report

Tuesday, June 18, 2024

Muncie Parks Department

Muncie Parks staff were busy this month providing beautification efforts at several of our Parks. Two rain gardens has been removed at McCulloch Park. Bushes, trees and weeds were removed at Riverview Park. The staff has started working on Thomas park tree lines and Jack's Park.

Riverview Park Update

Superintendent Malone met with Whitley Community Council at their monthly meeting about concerns regarding the Riverview Project. We have opened Riverview playground zone to the community. Mulch was installed on the playground structure. Speaking with CRG regarding timeline opening. Splash Pad is working at Riverview. Pickle ball court is available, but we are still waiting on fencing to be installed.

Tuhey Pool

We opened the pool on Memorial Day weekend. The public pool is facilitated by the YMCA Muncie. We have identified some minor concerns such as minors under 13 years old being dropped off with no adult supervision, when to engage with City police and incident follow up. The YMCA will print and put signs around the pool about age requirements.

Splash Pads Update

Thomas Park still waiting on parts to arrive from vandalism. We will have to relocate the panel box location and replace the HVD, panel box and secured panel.

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



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PROGRAM REPORT

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



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program.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

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



Muncie Park & Recreation Board Meeting

June 18, 2024 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 and Chandra Parks. James Lutton was absent.

4. **APPROVAL OF MAY BOARD MINUTES**

Shannon motioned for the approval of the March 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. **Special Presentations** –

Brad announced there were two groups present that have had recent events at the park, and wanted to provide some feedback on those events. So we'll start with Julius Anderson and his group, Men Leading Men.

Men Leading Men – Julius Anderson stated he wanted to give a little history and a thank you to the Board. Three years ago we came before you to ask for permission to use McCulloch Park and you said yes. The following year we came back again, and you said yes. Now this was the third year we came to you, and God has blessed us. We have worked out a deal with the Muncie Community Schools, and therefore, we won't need to use the park this year. Of course, you know, some of our men are coming from throughout Central Indiana. Some of them are up in age, in their 80's, and they were getting a little cold. So we were able to work out a deal with MCS. But just in case it falls through, we want to say thank you for all you have done, and for believing in us, and giving us that opportunity.

Cornelius Dollison added, we definitely want to thank Mr. Malone and his team for all the accommodating assistance they give us for our meeting there in the park. All our needs were met and we just thank him and thank you guys for your help to us trying to bring men together. We're trying to build strong men with leadership skills to help our community grow. So thank you.

Rich Taylor stated they had a card from the Men Leading Men Ministry he'd like to read. This is from the Men Leading Men Ministry Steering Committee, which consists of Mr. Julius Anderson, who is here with us, Mr. Frank Bodlin, who many of you may know, Mr. Cornelius Dollison, who's also very well known. Mr. Patrick Jax, Mr. Rashan Jeffers, Mr. Denny Macca, Mr. Jerry Musick, Mr. Tim Springer, Mr. Clark Tudor, who is here with us, and myself, Mr. Rich Taylor. So I'd like to read this. This is to Mr. Brad Marshall, Ms. Shannon Powers, Mr. Mark Irvin, Mr. Chandra Parks, and Mr. James Lutton, who is not here. Thank you Parks and Recreation Board for your support of calling men to pray at McCulloch Park.

Brad thanked them for all they are doing in the community and added he knows they said the event will not be in the park this year and asked where the event is going to be and how do people get in contact with you if they want to get involved. Mr. Taylor replied they would leave their card with their contact information. He believes the event will be held the first Saturday of October which is the 5th. He added they would appreciate any support the Board could give them as this Saturday will be their day of planning, so they'll have more information and can come back to report updates. Brad said that would be great and thanked them.

Delaware County Jeep Club – The hosts were present to thank the Board for their help on the event. They shared they had their first event and had 123 cars, and raised \$3,800 dollars for the Canine for Delaware & Muncie. Delaware County Canine, Muncie Canine and Eaton Canine all come out and did a demonstration for about a hundred people. They did awesome with explaining what the dogs do, and how the dogs, and they gave a very good demonstration. So I think the crowd really liked that. So we also want to thank the Friends of Prairie Creek. They came over and supported us. Muncie Sail Boat Club, they did their thing, and we got a lot of feedback that people liked that. Junior from Prairie Creek, really helped out setting some stuff up out there and all that at the beach area. We want to thank you guys and thank them. We also want to go ahead and set up for next year because that was a good thing. We wanted to do June 7th of next year. We had about 20 vendors, four food vendors, four different swap meet vendors. I would say it was almost 400 people, maybe just a little bit more, and we had no incident whatsoever just to give you a piece of your mind. So everybody was very calm, very friendly. It went off without a hitch. You couldn't have asked for a better day. We also played corn hole.

We all met back and we have already put a thing online asking for feedback, what we can do better, what they want to do different next year, so that way we can go ahead and start planning that for next year. So I can say June 7th is what we're thinking, from 12 to 4, in a different location. I talked to Junior and we're thinking since we had so many people it might be best to move it by the launch area where they did the ATV's since they don't never use that anymore. I haven't seen people fly model aircrafts out there in a long time. So if we had that, you can almost probably put 800 to 1,000 cars in that area and we'd be out of everybody's way. And that grass would be a perfect incentive because a lot of these cars, they didn't really like the gravel, so we put them in the grass out there, so it would just be a compromise. So it just works out very well and we can keep this going for the future. We would have plenty of room and people know right where it's at. Once again, thank you and we appreciate you. We don't yet have an organization that we plan on donating to next year but would like to use a local nonprofit. We haven't decided yet but put a public plea out on our page to see who the public would like the funds to be donated to.

Brad inquired if they'd already filled out their paperwork and they had not. Brad stated he talked to a couple of people that were out there, and it sounded like it was a wonderful event. He stated if the board would like to, he would like to at least reserve that date for them, and get that on the calendar pending the formal paperwork and getting everything done.

Chandra motioned for the approval of the day being reserved for the event pending the submission of a completed form and supporting documents. Motion was seconded by Mark.

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

6. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Carl Malone, Superintendent

We've been working on beautification within the parks and that's really been going pretty good. We've been able to get quite a bit of stuff done with the small amount of staff that we do have. And we've been really busy having two rain gardens removed from McCulloch Park. I don't know if you guys ride through there behind the fire station, but the disc golf people sent me a text thanking the Parks Department on the efforts that have been done to remove all of that. Now when you drive through there, you just kind of sense you can breathe. Before you never knew what was going to come out of those two sides if you were out walking throughout the day. You just didn't know what was in there as far as animals and things of that nature. So all of that's out of there. We'll continue to maintain it, keep it up. And then we have a third one, right there off MLK, behind the Buley Center across the street in the park, right there in that area. It's real eye-catching, so that's going to be the third one that we have removed. Besides that,

we've been hitting parks that we feel like tree trimming is a need. And then pruning, and then removing any other weeds and things like that through our parks.

We've gotten some feedback from people. They really like the effort we're making to continue to make the parks better and inviting. So we started on the back side of Thomas Park by the baseball diamond and the basketball court and we're just going to work our way around and throughout the park.

We will then move on to Jack's Park. If you've been through there you see what's growing up along the fence line. Every year it kind of grows up thick right behind CVS, in that area there so that's the eyesore before you get to the park you see that. So that's our next project that we'll be working on.

Riverview, well, we had a lot of conversations with a lot of people, and the Whitely Neighborhood Association. I met with them, talked a little bit about their concerns, their timelines, some of the same questions we've had since you guys met out there. I went back with a little bit of information, but they weren't totally satisfied. We decided we were going to go ahead and move forward and try to open the park up as kids were out of school, the weather has been hot, they want things to do, and the daycare people were hungry to use that park. I was there today, one of the residents that lived right by the Basketball court informed me that the park was pretty packed yesterday. The pickleball court is heavily used, along with the basketball court, and of course the splash pad got turned on yesterday evening about 2 o'clock so that was a big hit for all the daycare kids. They have plans to use that park with some adults involved with kickball along with some daycares, so I look forward to seeing a lot of activity there.

We still have got a little bit more work to do. We still have the bathrooms as there's been a change since the last time you guys were there talking about it. They were going to make those portable, accessible restrooms. But I think they've changed it due to pricing. And I think they're just going to try to build up with cinder block and build it up. I don't know when that's going to be. Adam Leach, City Engineer is the go to person from the city. I had been in contact with Dave from Flatlands because he was the lead person when I got involved and so I actually talked to him today about why we decided to go ahead and open up the playground and swing set. We just felt like the park needed to be opened up as it has been closed long enough. Just want to make sure all the board members know because last time you guys were out, we had closed it all. But we have opened it up and we're just going to continue to keep it open, and keep moving forward with some projects. If they decide they want to make some changes, maybe we can get to a point where that's down the road, but the park is open and it's being heavily used by the people in the neighborhood.

Shannon asked if the swing set was still going to be moved and Carl replied we're having a discussion about it. Right now it's going to stay as is with the fence being in place. Now

this is just a conversation that I've had with Deputy Mayor Ivy and a few members of the neighborhood association. If we get everybody's opinion, they may still want to move it. But when I talked with the company that was going to do the work, I was informed that it was not going to be moved any time soon. It was going to be closer to school year. But we were thinking that it was going happen in a couple weeks. So I called Travis and asked him myself, and was told that it was not going to happen within the next couple weeks. So we'd have been sitting here waiting, thinking this was going to happen in a couple weeks, and up underneath all along, it wasn't going to happen until closer to the school year. That's what the owner of the company told me. Chandra asked could they give a reason why, and Carl replied, they're busy in terms of their load. They said they're busy with school projects. Now, the communication between our contractors, is where I see the breakdown taking place. I was just out at Storer when they were working on that project and just happened to ask a few questions because they were out there putting the playground in and yet over here at Riverview we're still waiting. And we've been waiting for a couple of years, so I just decided to call myself and then made that decision to open the park up. He said he could have the mulch brought in within two days, so we brought the mulch in and we're just going to continue to move forward and then we have to circle back around and come up with a timeline of date to move it, then we'll discuss it then. Shannon asked if it is a matter of, yes, it will be moved, but of when or maybe or maybe not, and Carl replied we think once the kids get there, the restrooms are in place, kick balls going, they'll feel okay, they'll feel safe. I think a lot of that was it was there, but once the fence went up, the bench markers went up, the pavers was put in place, you see we've got quite a bit of distance to the playground itself.

Now, was it the right location to put it there from the start? You know, I'm trying to go forward, not really trying to go back, and that's what I've told the people, because a lot of questions asked of me are what happened, why, etc. And I spend all day long just going back trying to figure it out and I'm trying to go forward. So if CRG comes in and says they have a window, they said they'll let us know. Otherwise, they're looking at school timeline to do any moving of that play structure.

Brad stated he assumes now it's going to be more work to move it now that the mulch is in place and everything is in there. Carl stated that's what he talked about with me as well. He did share the concerns there, but we'll just cross that bridge when it's time. Brad added, it sounds like Carl is kind of between a rock and a hard place there. It was either wait till fall to move it or put the mulch down and have it accessible for summer. Carl added kids are out in this current location. And like I said, the water will be on for the splash pad. We got some parts in yesterday and are trying to get those individuals from Vortex here in town to come and make sure we're going in the right direction. We finally got that done and got the water on, so hopefully everybody will be happy until we get the next project done, which should be the restrooms and shelter. In the meantime, I'm going before the Whitely Neighborhood Association every month. I'm there trying to

make sure they can ask questions, and then I'm able to give them some kind of direction on timeline or where we are. Hopefully by the time we meet again, we'll have the shelter in place, and I still have got to find out about the restrooms as we don't know when that's going to happen. For now there's benches for seating out there, and they have some permanent seating coming in as well. I think that was in the initial renderings those ones we got right now just temporarily and the daycare wanted one of some one of some things out and I think we're going to put up a 10 x 10 to provide some additional shade. George and I talked about dropping off some portapots out there. We have nothing out there right now, and we were told that people just sometime use areas out there as a restroom right now, and that's what you don't want.

Tuhey Pool - We were able to open the pool on Memorial Day weekend, and that was facilitated by YMCA, and we have identified some minor concerns. I've heard these concerns from people who come to visit our pool. And the one thing that was brought to my attention was they felt there were a lot of kids being dropped off and left unattended or supervised as though it's a daycare center. That can easily happen when it's hot and you're trying to get kids out of the house into a safe place where they have water. So we talked with the team and we had had this conversation a couple years ago with the Mayor's office and has stated then that anyone under the age of 13 needs to be supervised. So we'll make sure they get some signs posted so everybody's aware of that and it gives people time to make adjustments if they have to go back home, they can do that if it's in writing and they can see it.

And that relates to any of the conflicts we have at any of our parks. It's unfortunate, but when you have that many people in one play zone, same thing would be on the basketball court. You have a lot of people and different personalities. You're bound to have some kind of verbal spouts, which can lead to physical. I've heard different stories, just like everybody else in terms of what happened and what not. But our goal is to de-escalate then call city police and have them come and make the arrests and identify those individuals. The system that the Y has in place can also help assist with names and have those individuals removed from the pool as well. I would say about three weeks ago I got a call from an individual that worked for MITS to alert me that he thought people were coming there to have a fight there at Tuhey. So sometimes they're not coming in the pool area, they're at the park, and our staff is inside. The security team is inside. We can alert the city police to maybe do some vigilant ride-arounds, ride-throughs if we see this as an ongoing problem. But to only have one incident in 30 days, is not bad for the amount of people that we serve every day. So that's what I'll say on Tuhey. I rode through there today a couple times just to kind of look around. Nobody was at the playground area and nobody's was over at the shelter. It was completely empty, and I'm going to make it a regular routine to ride through there a couple times and see if I can identify some faces as well.

Chandra inquired about the mini park across the street from it. She noticed a while back it was taped off and wondered if we have any updates on it? Carl replied it's still there, we just re-taped it, we just re-secured it again just the other day because someone had broken it and gotten in. We had a conversation with Heather Williams and their Neighborhood Association about that particular park and that particular playground. We've had it down, it's been down for a while and we were just talking about cost as to what we want to do with it and she is supposed to get back with us and let us know if they want to kick in some funds to replace the equipment or do we want to just remove that structure out there all together. I can follow back up with her and see where they're at but we did meet at Tuhey and talked to discuss. Shannon asked what the problem is, is a part not available and Carl replied parts aren't available since the equipment is old & obsolete. Shannon asked if it's a slide and Carl replied yes. Shannon stated it sounds like regardless it needs to be removed since it's irreplaceable. Carl agreed we should just probably pull it out as that would probably be the right option he thinks and that's what we said to the neighborhood group. I thought they'd circle back around and call a meeting to kind of discuss it a little bit. But then when you take it out do you have the funds to replace it? I think that's the hold up. Or we could just take it out and just let them use the rest of the park kind of like what we've got going on at Riverview. That whole playground structure is old, everything they have in that particular park, but it beats nothing. And if you want to just have a little bit of something open, that's something that can happen too. Shannon interjected since it can't be replaced, just remove it so that nobody gets hurts. Brad asked if it was all the items in that area, or is it one item in particular. Carl replied it's just that curly slide. You've still got a few other items in there that could be used. Brad stated he thinks if we've got a safety concern, we need to address it. And if we aren't able to tape it off and have that respected. Carl added, it's been there long enough. Even the fencing that we have around it. That's really a temporary fix. You're supposed to have so many days after you go with the regular taping and the orange taping. Then when you get to the steel fence, that's still not supposed to be permanent. It's supposed to be until you can decide what you're going to do, remove it or whatever. And we just kind of left it. Chandra suggested, if the neighborhood association isn't sure if they want to Invest in building it back up, maybe we revisit them and say let's get the slide out of there for safety purposes. Shannon interjected, it can't be built back up because the part is so old and they don't have a replacement for it. Chandra stated she was discussing for the space in general. In addition to the slide, it has a merry-go-round. Shannon stated in her opinion the slide should be removed because there are no parts for it. Chandra stated she agrees and was saying there's other things that are there if they wanted to park it up. They can decide that but we at least for sure need to get the slide down. Carl stated it sounds good, and he'll follow back up with Heather and let her know what our moves are, what our plans are.

Splash Pad Update - We've had a little bit of vandalism over at Thomas and we're waiting on parks to come in there. And then we've had some troubleshooting issues with Cooley Park. When I was there with the guy from Vortex, we sat there and the water cycled about three times like it's supposed to and then you go over, push the button and the water's fine. Then there's phone calls that we get into the office saying that it's not working. Chris and those guys on our team that doesn't allow our troubleshooting went out today to take another look at it to see if something that we could do on our side. He did call Corey, the subcontractor for Vortex and alerted him that it wasn't functioning properly again. But it did run the way it's supposed to when Corey was here. So I'm assuming he left thinking that everything was all right. But we've gotten calls from other neighbors saying the splash pad is not working. So it works sometimes, sometimes it doesn't work. We've only used the one part for a short period of time and so we're going to try to replace it. I think George had a conversation with him today and they said the warranty ran out, a couple weeks ago or a month ago. So we're trying to get some parts in place and have some backups since we were using that splash pad so much. That's something that we know we turn on and run it all the time. That's quite a bit of use and we don't want to not have the part and have to shut the splash pad down for weeks at a time. We think it's better to get some replacement parts on the shelf, that way we have them and can just replace it.

Shannon asked is it common to have these issues, as it seems like we have a lot of splash pad issues. Is it common nationally to have these issue? Carl replied he didn't know for sure how much use is typical before you start having maintenance issues with them. Or how long they stay in place before you have to worry about upkeep and things of that nature. It just appears to me, when I see them around cities like Indianapolis and Fort Wayne they seem to be up and running all the time but he doesn't know the maintenance timeframe. But that'd be a question that we can ask Lisa of the IPRA to see what she knows. That's what George and I do a lot of times, we just call her and see what kind of issues around the state other people are having with their splash pads. One thing they have is a maintenance person on site in some of the other park systems. We have to call and get a hold of Vortex and they send a subcontractor to look at ours. Shannon asked, we don't have a mechanic and Carl replied not specifically for the splash pads. Our guy is a mechanic and he's hands learning on site when Corey comes down. A lot of other park system have Park maintenance people that work with splash pads and they do all that stuff all the time. So they see stuff all the time, but we are aware that we need to troubleshoot and then just try to just keep the splash pads going. We are trying to get our hands on some extra parts so in case something goes down we can make the fix quicker and keep everything going.

Brad asked if there were any additional questions for Carl. Shannon had one question about Riverview, as in our last meeting we talked about putting padding on that pole behind that southwest corner of the pickleball court. Carl replied he talked with City

Fence about angling the fence as it gets to that corner of the court so the fence would protect the box itself. Instead of having the outside of the box it would angle and the fence would just be there and you wouldn't have the box there all together. That should be happening soon as they came out two weeks ago and took the measurements. They're kind of busy too with their fencing work and so don't always get to you as fast as you like, but they've already come out and taken the measurements, so we're just waiting on them to come in and install.

Shannon asked if there were any plans for that open space or are we just going to leave it? Carl stated, we talked about putting a second shelter in but will let the neighborhood decide. We were out there today Frank and some individuals would like some seating on the black top in that open space and another shade structure but we will have conversations with the neighbors and let them help with that as well. Shannon inquired what about Foursquare or a something for children to play, like Gaga. Carl replied he's sure the daycare kids would like that. I'm sure they would like to utilize that space in such a way and I'll make sure I say something to Frank and those guys since we talk about every day. Nobody's calling but I'm calling people. So the only communication that I get a lot of time is with Frank and the Whitely Neighborhood Association about Riverview and where we are.

Shannon added she thinks the height of that fence for the playground is excellent. It's a protective height, and a quality fence too. She has pictures if anyone wants to see. She wonders if we could in the future as we probably don't have it right now, put fencing up along that black court space, so that balls don't go into the area. Carl replied, he and Richard talked about it, and some of the residents talked about it just the other day. We had conversation about that, just to keep it a little more secure in that area. He thinks that's something that we can put in place. Get that pickleball fencing up, and going and then just say let's just add a couple more pieces of fencing this way, or that way.

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

Brad switched the order and moved on to Parks programming.

7. PARKS PROGRAMMING – George Foley, Programs Director

NFL Flag Football-We started programming in May with NFL Flag football and last Tuesday was our last day. It was a successful season. We were able to have eight teams with about 100 kids. One good thing about it was the parents brought the kids out consistently and everybody had a full team and had fun playing. I noticed there were a lot of dads out there and we recruited some of them to be coaches and they accepted for the four weeks. It was good to see the parents and grandparents out there engaged and having fun playing flag football this year. George thanked our sponsors for their contributions which allowed us to buy the kids their reversible team jerseys and socks.

He thanked Future Choices, The Law Office of Carmen L Malone, Plant Studio Landscape, NAACP, Delk McNally, and Jasmine Long Bail Bonds and stated he reached out to them and they didn't hesitate to sponsor that event. We had their banners out there at Ball Corp for the four weeks advertising their business.

Softball Camp – We had Softball Camp last week at Gainbridge and Muncie Central as there were a couple of baseball games in between, so we switched days as needed. The girls practiced for about two hours out there. We had 35 young ladies that registered, but we had about 23 that were consistent about coming to the camp. Camp was facilitated by Wendy Reed, who is the Muncie Central Softball Coach, and she had two of her staff members out there with her. You can see on the report that I gave you the skills they worked on. The ladies enjoyed themselves. We had kids from the City and some County kids show up, and everybody seemed to have had a good time with the camp.

Basketball Camp - We had our basketball camp last week for three days at Heekin Park. We had 60 kids that came from kindergarten through sixth grade. That was a really big for those three days. The gentleman we used is Raphael Ray Davis who played at Purdue. He bought about six of his coaches from Purdue, women and men. Not only did he teach the kids the game of basketball, he showed them about discipline, and about listening so you can learn the skills. There were a few that had to run laps from the basketball court to the fence and back, and then they started listening so they wouldn't have to run anymore. That's one thing about sport is learning how to be disciplined and wanting to be taught the game. Those three days went great. We're actually going to have them come back for another camp sometime in July, so we're trying to work out the specifics with that.

Summer Youth Internship Program - This week would be the third week of our internship program, which is going really good. We hired over a hundred kids and it's been going really great this year. There are two projects that I'm really excited about: One is the one we did last year where we had some guys that wanted to learn skill trades. They're at Eco Rehab and so they're continuing to build park benches and picnic tables. But this year they're going to build two shelters as well. One of those shelters would go at Cowing Park and the other one will go at Heekin Park by the MLK spiral. They're going to build a shelter for that because people walk that spiral all the time and then they're going to also build more things for the parks. They're doing a lot of building and there are 25 young men that are out there doing that. One of the kids that's been in our program for a while, Jason Handy decided to make him the shift leader, so he's kind of bossing everybody around and liking it a lot. They're really having a good time. They're working together and we haven't had any issues out of them. They're actually learning the trade. And that's one of them that we're they're enjoying.

The other project is our paint crew. We're working with Leonski Crosby, who is a local artist. He used to work at Cornerstone, and he's showing our kids and helping them with painting three of our bathrooms. So one of them is McCulloch Park, and if you look out

there, it's already completed. It's very artistic right now. They're now working on the public restroom Heekin Park, and they're going to add a mural onto that wall. The last one they're going to do is at Westside. That one's going to have a nature themed mural wall. Those are two that we're really excited about but we're excited about all of them.

This year we have a groups at Second Harvest, YWCA, IU Health and Habitat for Humanity. The group at Habitat for Humanity are helping to restore a couple of homes on the south side of Muncie. I always get real excited about this one and it's really growing every year. The kids are liking it and we have great staff this year. We'll have a mentor day tomorrow. We know tomorrow is Juneteenth, but we're going to go ahead and proceed to have mentor day and work the rest of the week. We will be off the week of the 4th of July, and then we'll come back and have two more weeks to complete the program.

UPCOMING EVENTS – Black Music Month Celebrations next week at McCulloch Park. Muncie Police will provide security for us, and we're looking forward to that. We're also partnering to do one with Muncie Black Expo, which will be July 20th and 21st at Heekin Park. We're going to conduct a youth basketball tournament at Heekin Park during, and we'll have our July concert inside the softball field. We decided to collaborate with them on that weekend and then we also have police that will be security for that event. We're going to have Grant Street blocked off so kids can run across the street from the park and not worry about vehicles while coming back and forth.

We will have a baseball camp this summer and we're still working on the day for that. I gave you all a couple of flyers for programming, and was is for a partnership with **Girls Coalition** which is inspired by The Girl Scouts. Sharon Abdullah runs girls coalition in this area and Muncie Parks partnered with them for this program. Three volunteers and I are going to use Safety Town for the classes. Our guys have revitalized Safety Town and have had lines painted on. We'll be out there showing some young girls how to ride safely on a bike when they're on the street. We've got the street lights working and the signs are all up. We'll be out there for three weeks on Wednesday from six to seven o'clock, so any girl that is involved in this we'll get a free bike through Girl Coalition. The volunteers will also get a free bike for being out there helping facilitate the program.

Muncie parks along with 3rd & 11 we received notice the NFL saw the pictures that posted for NFL Flag Football and so we were awarded a grant to do a football camp this summer. On that flyer, there's three dates in July that we'll be doing that camp out at Ball Corp. It will be myself, Brandon Hayes, and we will have the help of Jamil Smith. Coach Paul will be out there helping us. It will be a **Quarterback & Receiver Camp**. It will be a skills camp we're going to do for youth in third grade to fifth grade.

It's been a busy summer. I hope I'm making Carl happy this summer with all the programming we're doing at the park and we hope we can continue to grow programming in the parks as we have received a lot of really positive responses about use at the park. I'm happy the direction that we're going with programming, and wanted to thank the board for believing in our vision and always having our back when it comes to programming.

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

EVENT APPROVALS:

Delaware Extension Master Gardener Association - These two are together to just have different dates. The first date that they want to do is on June the 29th from 9 a .m. to noon. The location will be by the memory spiral, but they want to have access to one of the cabins that's close to the memory spiral. So that would be cabin 4 or cabin 5. I believe Nikki's working out that specifics with them. And basically they just want to use the facility so they can do a pre-tour of the memory spiral with everybody and just talk about the garden. They expect about 45 people to attend. They said no security is needed for that. They asked if you could possibly consider the Master Gardener as a vendor since they will be selling tickets to any visitors who haven't yet purchased tickets and the tickets will be \$10 for adults and free for children. They don't need any supplies from us as they will provide their own tables and chairs. The person who was organizing this is Karen Ford.

Brad asked if there were any questions about the Master Partners event, and there were none.

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

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

And then the second one which they want to do will be the same concept.

It'll be July 13th from 9 a .m. to noon.

Brad asked if there were any questions about the Master Partners event, and there were none.

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

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

America's Hometown Band Muncie - They would like to use Westside Park and they have two concert bands that want to perform on the following dates: July the 11th, July the 18th, August the 15th and August the 22nd. It's a free public concert band performance. They're expecting a crowd about 200. They will perhaps have security attached to that, hopefully by Muncie Police. They are still working on the specifics of that, but they will send that information to us. They've been doing this event 36 years without any issues. They've been doing this concert for a long time. They will not have any vendors. Their request from us to use 20 of our wooden stages. They want electrical power connection and they want 65 chairs if we can provide 65 chairs for the event.

Shannon asked are they renting it or are they asking us to give that to them in kind? George replied he will have to ask them. He doesn't even know if we have 65 chairs as we have so many cabin rentals this summer.

Shannon stated she doesn't think this is something that we should just give them for free. She thinks they should rent them, and Brad agreed it should fall under our normal rate structure we've got in place for the wooden stages and chairs. If they're requesting something different, they need to give us reasoning and an explanation of why the request and why it was shown or that, but I think. George added they did give us a copy of their liability insurance.

Brad stated they could probably approve it pending the security but it sounds like they're still working through those details.

Brad asked if there were any other questions or clarifications needed regarding this event and there were none.

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

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

Halteman Neighborhood Party - there was a pickleball tournament that was talked about, but never approved in last month's meeting. Brad stated it is The Halteman Neighborhood Park Party on the 29th, and it truly escaped him as we started talking about another topic and we didn't actually vote on it. He doesn't think we had any concerns. We did talk about a pickleball tournament like they had last year, and the coordinator of that is not going to do it this year. They're going to have a skills demonstration with some of the regular players out there, but they're not doing a formal tournament. They are interested in helping coordinate one with you later in the year, though.

Brad asked if there were any questions regarding their event? Shannon asked what time is it, and Brad replied it is from 11 to 3 pm on the 29th. Shannon inquired, how many people are they expecting, and Brad replied last year they had about 200, and they've coordinated with Amy Kessler of the Muncie Police Department. The Fire plans to be this year as well. There will be a bounce house, a couple of vendors, and then some other events out there as well, and a band concert.

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

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

Brad asked if there were any other events for approval and there were none. The Board thanked George for all the programming going on in the parks.

7. PRAIRIE CREEK REPORT – Tawny Hill, Operations Manager

Brad stated he talked to Richard Ivy this afternoon. He didn't have any immediate needs or concerns out there. They are working on some items for Ron Bonham Days and the 4th of July and continue to work out there.

Also friends of Prairie Creek, I don't see any representation from them from them here today. They did have meeting last week actually for this month. I know Shannon got some minutes for that and we'll make sure to get those distributed. Brad asked Shannon if there were any items of note or anything to bring up. Shannon stated people mentioned security, especially at the gate when you go into the campsites. They asked if somebody could be there. Also, there was a survey that was dispersed to camp site leasers and dock leasers and I haven't gotten the results back yet. One of the questions was would you like that gate to be down and during what hours would you like it to be down? So they would like to get the community's opinions about that. Security is a big concern, one at the gate shack and also trash cans. They said there aren't enough trash receptacles, so people are just throwing their trash on the ground around the park. They were saying that the dumpsters weren't enough and would like trash cans back as well. The bath house, they're concerned about security and safety in there as well. There's been some bad things that have been happening there with alcohol and somebody in the bathroom tried to hurt herself last year. So if they could possibly have some sort of registration of who's going into that area, knowing who's in there, and who's not? Also, Deputy Ivy said the Health Department came out, did their water sampling, and the Mayor's office is very aware of dock debris, and all of that needs to be cleaned up. Shannon stated she's not doing justice to all of these items on this list, as she didn't summarize it.

Brad stated that's fine, and asked if she could send that, and get that distributed to the Board and we can review any open items there. He added, he also received some comments and questions about the trash and the dumpsters. So he think that's something we may need to look at again. I know we went to no toters last year, or the year before, to all dumpsters. And maybe there's something in between that is going to be an appropriate fit for us.

Brad asked if there were any other questions on Prairie Creek or Friends of Prairie Creek discussion. And there were none. He asked if Carl or George, had anything to add. Carl stated he and Richard met at Red Apple with the Hope Group last Tuesday to get some feedback on Ron Bonham day location. He thinks they got some clarity on the bands and locations. And so he thinks right now we're focusing on having it back at the beach site area. It's where the majority of the group thought it would be received well by everybody, not just a few, but by everybody. There's some that wanted it back at the campsite. They liked it there, and thought the group was large enough to where they can receive the music, and then there's other groups that kind of like the open space there at the campsite. Rich has been keeping me posted a little bit on some of the questions and Junior is talking to Rich, and I'm talking to some of the bands, Cooke & Belle specifically. So we're just trying to make everybody somewhat happy about the fact that we are going to have Ron Bonham Day there at the beach this year. They're also starting to have a little bit of conversation about Ironman. That's what I do know about Prairie Creek. Shannon asked when is Ron Bonham Day and Carl replied it will be July the 6th. Shannon asked if the Board had already approved the event and Brad replied it has been approved.

8. FRIENDS OF PRAIRIE CREEK – Jackie Sciscoe

There were no representatives present.

9. OLD BUSINESS

The only old business item on the agenda was the Prairie Creek resolution for docks and campsites that was presented at the last meeting that had our special meeting to review. Brad stated Jim reached out to him today, and he was still working through some of the questions he had. I would be comfortable leaving that on the table for now, unless anybody wants to have a discussion or review that at this time.

Brad added under old business, we've got an IU Action Grant update. Shannon stated, she and Mr. Foley submitted an Indiana University Health Community Impact Grant, and we were invited to submit a full proposal. That's due July 12th. And what the project is, is an expansion of the Mentoring Internship Program, to go from its current size of

six weeks during the summer to a year-round program. This ties into the Department of Education's new diploma requirements. There's two different options now where they're going to require 11th and 12th graders to have an internship experience consisting of 75 hours of an internship experience to graduate. So this proposal will, and the work that we've already been doing for five years is really aligning with the new state standards. We're also adding another component which is a middle school careers and exploration program that will not be ran by the parks department per se. We're also bringing in Ashaki Goodall whose grandparents have lived here their entire lives and are a really well known family. She moved here recently and has worked in education for 30 years doing workforce development. She's worked for the New Jersey Department of Education and so we're now writing this proposal together trying to thread children's experiences with all of these opportunities, extracurricular opportunities, from K through 12. Instead of just these little small little experiences. Seeing how can we thread them more and not lose track of children and offer them more career exploration experience. The City definitely wants to be involved with that process of a youth's educational experience. It's kind of an awesome opportunity that we've already kind of established and the City has supported. So we'll let you know we're going to pitch it in front of the IU Health Board in August. George, Ashaki and I will go in front of them to present. We're also working with the Black Chamber of Delaware County Muncie in Delaware County and the Muncie Chamber of Commerce on this proposal. The Whitely Neighborhood Association has agreed to be the fiduciary agent because you have to go through a 501 (c)(3). So it sounds really complicated right now, but there's a lot of multiple partners to kind of connect and to bring everybody together in one seat to support what could be a very long and prosperous program.

This is a three-year grant. So it gives us a lot of time to collect data and then apply for federal funding. So it's a biggie. It's exciting.

10. NEW BUSINESS

We've got an item here that Carl brought to my attention this week and wanted to bring it before the board and have some discussion on regarding a potential bench dedication.

Carl notified the Board our office received a phone call from a family member that had some stakeholder here in town and they are willing to finance the project if we approval from The City, The Board, and all partners involved to place a bench in honor of the family member. We talked over the phone, Nikki gave me the message, I made a phone call follow -up and then I called Brad. We don't have all the information on this giant person, but I was pretty sure once that information is given, we will probably worthy. We just don't know if that location works because we partner with Downtown Development on Canan Commons but don't know if that's something they will allow to happen. We maintain the park. We do the maintenance part of it. But as far as a marker

being placed there, I don't know. Brad and I had some conversation about it and I told him I would bring it before the Board. The second option she had was Guthrie Park and there are a few benches out there. So, I just wanted to bring this before for you guys. I told her I would bring it before the board. She can send the bio of the person who they would like a bench for and then we can have discussion with The City and see if that's even possible or something that we want to move forward on but she just wanted me to bring before the board and kind of get some clarity on if that's possible. Brad added it's something he's not done enough research on yet. He thinks they just talked earlier this week or late last week, and doesn't know what the legal implications are. He doesn't know of any, at least not from his tenure here on the board if we've done any dedications like that or naming. It's not a naming per se, it's more of a dedication or a memorial and what we want to do there, he wants to make sure that whatever we do is legal. It may lead to structuring some benchmarks or set lines for how does somebody do this in the future? His concern would be if we open it up, if we do we approve one, how do we disapprove another. That would be my exact concern there as we move forward.

Chandra asked about the little pocket park that's off of Madison across from the Cornerstone when we did that dedication. She inquired is that the same or different? Brad replied he thinks it'd be similar to that, and was trying to think of when that was, possibly 2021. Shannon added the issue also is this property is owned by economic development and Brad interject it's a city park. We've got a contract with Downtown Development. They run the events, but it's a city park. Correct. There's a contract and working agreement for them to manage that.

Chandra asked if the space for the statue is ours. Carl replied that's not ours, and he thinks Cornerstone might have it. Brad added Fireman's Park is over there too, but that's a different thing. He thinks it's great that somebody wants to make a donation and support the parks. We just need to make sure that we structure that correctly and will probably take some additional approval besides this Board to do something of that nature. Brad inquired if they had a timeline or what were they looking at? Carl replied he spoke with her today right before the meeting, and told her that he would reach back out once we talked and discussed it. He told her by next month's Board meeting we should have a solid answer. Brad asked that any additional information Carl receives from her about the monetary value of the donation he pass on to the board so we can understand that a little better as well. Shannon inquired if they want to provide the bench, and Carl replied yes, the funding and finance would be strictly from the family. Shannon asked if we could look at other cities to see what's been done before and understand how we can structure that. Brad stated he would take that job on, and do some research this month and pass that along, and then whatever Carl gets in, he can also pass along.

Brad inquired if there was any other new business from the Board or from Carl?

Shannon stated she wanted to mention that she and George were invited to a luncheon yesterday by the Ball Brothers Foundation. They brought together a few different youth serving agencies that provide recreational youth experiences in town. The YMCA was there, The Ross Center, Muncie Sports Commission and us, along with The Community Foundation, George & Francis Ball Foundation and The Ball Brothers Foundation were there at Elm Street Brewery and we just had a nice conversation about describing what all of the programs are doing, where we want to go from here, how and maybe what we're doing right, what are some areas that maybe we can improve upon and from that conversation people brought up it would be neat to see some cross-city kind of competition and then perhaps some programming. There was a discussion that a lot of us are doing introductory skills work and short-term programs, but what can we do to broaden horizons for youth that want to not necessarily join or could afford the wide world of organized team travel? But what can we do to support those kids that want to go and play, have longer seasons, and elevated skill learning. That's something that as a collective, we kind of want to put our heads together. She thinks it was a positive experience. She and George were really grateful for the Ball Brother Foundation for leading that conversation.

Brad thanked her and asked if there were any other action items from the Board, Carl or George?

Carl added he wanted to speak in regards to programming. Sometimes he passes to George feedback he receives that we're not doing enough, but he thinks it's more that we're youth focused driven and so some of the feedback that he hears is the need for more for the young adult, the 18 through 25 group. And a lot of it's around stuff that we've done in the past, which was a lot of basketball tournaments and just a lot of events for that adult age group. He thinks when you get the park behind the whole program, then you hit all targets, including adult programming. He hears a lot about softball, and if we're going to bring softball back to our city parks things like that and then basketball tournaments? So and we are focused. It's only two people, George and himself, and so when you start adding on all the other activities, George does quite a bit with the youth, so he gets kind of offended when you say "ain't nothing going on", but he tries to share what he hears from the community and what they say to him. He's the one that they usually say it to whether I agree with or not, they do share. But he thinks because there's good things happening for the youth, the adults want some of that too. Brad added he thinks that's going to continue to grow. As we've seen every year, George has more and more programs, and he thinks that's going to continue to grow and maybe that's the next phase. Carl interjected the second five year plan talks about Program Coordinator, and even in our first five-year plan we talked about a Director and a Coordinator, so now maybe we can put that in there and hope for a Coordinator.

Brad asked if there were any other event approvals from the board or the general public, and there were none.

11. ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

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

Brad asked for those signed onto the list for Public Input. There were none.

Meeting was adjourned by Brad Marshall, President.

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

Park Board Meeting Public Input Sign In Sheet

Date: 6/18/24

Name (Please Print)

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