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Superintendent: Carl Malone

Muncie Park & Recreation Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 16, 2024
City Hall Auditorium

- (1) Call to Order
- (2) Pledge of Allegiance
- (3) Roll Call
- (4) Approval of the minutes from (June 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
 - IU Health Community Impact Proposal
- (10) New Business
 - 5 Year Master Plan Survey
- (11) Action Items

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

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



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Superintendent Report

Tuesday, July 16, 2024

Muncie Parks Department

Muncie Parks and Recreation staff has been busy continuing with beautification at several parks. The staff removed and completed (4) rain gardens at McCulloch Park. Other parks that the staff has been doing some beautification too are Thomas, Heekin, Riverview and Cowing Park.

Riverview Park Update

Muncie Parks reported at Whitely Community Council park update, i.e. new shelter installed, pickle ball fence is 90% completed, new large grill installed. No timeline on restroom completion yet.

Thomas Park Update

Splash Pad parts arrived last week and installation started on Monday, July 15. As of today, the splash pad is up, running, and available to the public. We still have some minor adjustments to the splash pad. Vandalism is still ongoing problem as it relates to the restroom doors constantly being kicked and destroyed.

Heekin Park

The bathroom in the garage by the basketball court is having some plumbing and renovation being completed. We are referring to running water, drinking foundation water and useable restroom.

McCulloch Park

The McCulloch Park Cabin (**Cabin 6**) update are complete, thanks to Community Development. We are currently renting the cabin again.

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

Carl Malone
Superintendent
Muncie Parks and Recreation

MUNCIE PARKS PROGRAM REPORT

JULY 16, 2024

QUARTERBACK AND RECEIVER FOOTBALL CAMP

Muncie Parks and Recreation partnered with 3rd & 11 Inc., Jamil Smith and Coach Paul to facilitate a quarterback and receiver football camp the past three weeks. The camp was every Tuesday from 6pm-7pm at Ball Corp for Youth in the grades 3rd-5th. Every kid that registered received a free T-Shirt from 3rd & 11 Inc. We had 40 Youth registered and averaged about 30 Youth that participated every Tuesday. Coach Paul facilitated the drills for the quarterbacks and Jamil facilitated the drills for the receivers. The kids that participated enjoyed the camp and learned a lot about being in both positions for football.

BLACK MUSIC MONTH CELEBRATION

Black music month celebration was a success this year on Saturday, June 29th at McCulloch Park in collaboration with Forward Visions, Inc. There was some rain in the beginning, but it cleared up and we had a great crowd come and listen to some great music. We had three bands perform this year. On the One Band performed for 1 ½ hours and so did Remedy Band. Our Main Act Charmin Greene Band performed for 2 hours and put on a great show. We had (6) vendors come and serve food, sell clothes and other items. We had Muncie Police as security and there was no trouble for the event.

WHEEL & BIKE RIDE PROGRAM

Muncie Parks and Recreation has collaborated with Girls Coalition of Indiana to have a bike safety class for 3 weeks at Safety Town at McCulloch. We have met the past 3 Wednesdays from 5:30pm-7:00pm over safety rules when riding a bike on city streets. We covered wearing proper equipment like helmet and knee pads and going over street signs and street lines and what they represent. We had 20 girls participate from elementary to middle school. Each girl that signed up received a free bike, helmet, knee and elbow pads, and bike air pump provided by Girls Coalition of Indiana. My volunteers and I will ride with the girls in the Black Expo Parade this Saturday. We will conduct another class in the fall and will do a class for boys soon.

MUNCIE TEEN INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

We are seeing so much success with the Muncie Teen Internship Program. We hired 105 Youth, and they are doing well with their work performance. Our Eco-Rehab group has finished with Park Benches, Picnic Tables, Cornhole Sets and put together a shelter with

concrete at Heekin Park between the dog park and Walk of Fame Track. They will finish a second shelter this week at Cowing Park. Our Paint crew has painted McCulloch Park, Heekin Park and is finishing Westside Park this week. We have staff working successfully at Muncie Community Schools, YMCA, YWCA, Second Harvest, IU Health Hospital, and Habitat for Humanity. This is our last week of work, and we will have a small celebration on Friday for the staff and Youth. We had a group this past Saturday volunteer at the Iron Man at Prairie Creek. Our mentor days have been the best overall. Our Youth were engaged with each mentor every week. I will share some videos next week with the Park Boards with our Mentors.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- MUSIC IN THE PARKS (HEEKIN PARK – SATURDAY, JULY 20)
- YOUTH BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT (HEEKIN PARK – SATURDAY, JULY 20TH-21ST)
- CAR & BIKE SHOW (HEEKIN PARK – SATURDAY, JULY 20)
- SCHOOL SUPPLY GIVEAWAY (Tuesday, August 6th, McCulloch Park – Cabin 6)



Muncie Park & Recreation Board Meeting

July 16, 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, and Shannon Powers. Mark Ervin, Chandra Parks, and James Lutton were absent.

Brad announced we do not have a quorum tonight, so this meeting will run a little differently. We can't vote on any items up for a vote but we can have informational discussions. So we will continue through the normal agenda, but there will be no items of vote for tonight.

4. APPROVAL OF JUNE BOARD MINUTES

Due to the lack of a quorum the approval was tabled until the next meeting to be held on August 20, 2024.

5. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Carl Malone, Superintendent

Not a whole lot's changed from last month, but there are a few things I'll go over. We've been just busy with the beautification at several parks as is stated there in the report. 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.

Last time we talked it was about the two rain gardens we had removed in McCullough and we ended up completing McCullough with four rain gardens being removed. Now we just have some upkeep maintenance to keep those under control so they don't grow back up.

Other parks that we've been doing some work on are Thomas, Heekin, Riverview, and Cowing Park. I'll talk about those as we get down through the report.

Riverview - Last month I met with the Whitey Neighborhood community and we talked about the things that were getting done and what still needed to be done. As stated here before you the shelter has been completely installed. The pickleball court is about 90% complete and we just installed a large barbecue grill today. There is still no timeline on the restroom completion as of today.

Thomas Park - Parts and things of that nature came in last week for the splash pad. We started the installation Monday, and as of today, the splash pad is up and running, and available to the public. We still have some minor adjustments, and kinks to work out. The biggest problem we still have there at Thomas is the ongoing vandalism that seems to happen at the old restroom. They are kicking the door in and then just kind of hanging out throughout that park. The police have been called several times. Nikki and I were having a conversation today about it. A lot of times, she gets that phone call first for the most part, and then she'll try to get a hold of myself or George to kind of relay the concerns from the public. There were some phone calls that came in with some concerns about kids' safety at the park as it relates to individuals camping out within the Thomas Park area and so hopefully we can continue to communicate and address that issue as we as we get through the remainder of the summer.

We've had some other issues at some of the other parks along the same line, some vandalism, people camping out in the bathrooms, things of that nature.

Heekin Park - We never had the building close to the basketball court up and going. We've always just kind of operated out of it as is but we've gotten some plumbing work done. It now has a running restroom to be utilized by staff and individuals close by the court that may have something to do with a tournament or a large cookout. Drinking water was inoperable for quite some time. We got that fixed and then drinking water, like I said, throughout the park is available as well.

McCulloch Park - We've been having some work done by Community Development at the cabin. It's been about a year project, start to finish. They started with the outside work of the cabin and then recently just completed the inside work. It really looks nice. There's a really nice kitchen with a stainless still sink and countertop, and we furnished it with stainless steel appliances.

We have a leak right outside the cabin to the rear of the building on the back side of the building corner. We've had locators come out and do some locating and then we've had the plumbers come back in and take a look. I don't know exactly the findings but we don't want that water to seep up under the foundation and cause that building to sink there in the corner as a lot of work just went into that building, so we want to try to fix and get that leak fixed as soon as possible.

Brad asked if there were any questions for Carl and Shannon inquired with the Thomas Park bathroom situation being a historical problem, long-term what would be best to do with that bathroom. Would it be to destroy what's there because it's not a functioning bathroom, it doesn't serve a purpose and maybe put porta-pots out for the remainder of the summer. Carl replied our plan is to put some porta-pots down there. That's not ideal for me when we have the splash pad up and going. So we can use porta-pots and things of that nature but I did have the plumbers come out and they brought the cameras and things of that nature. They communicated that it would be a major overhaul to fix and correct that problem. That means having to run all the plumbing from the main to that building and then tear it all out, sounds like that's what's going to have to happen. It's been closed forever for years. It's not been optimal at all. I know the eight years of Harvey's administration, it wasn't open. I was part of the administration doing some part-time programming work and that particular bathroom wasn't open at all. I don't know the exact year that it started having issues, but it's been kind of closed to the public for quite some time. So I really think the tear out might be the way to go. That's what the professionals are telling me.

Brad asked if there were any other questions for Carl and there were none. Brad asked Carl when he thinks he'll make a decision about the Thomas Park bathrooms. Carl replied, we just got the feedback back, and he hasn't had a chance to talk with our City Engineer, Adam Leach. I think that would be the first step, and then see what he suggests to the Mayor. I can then share that with the parking board because I think we should have a timeline on some direction that we're going to go. Brad thanked Carl and stated he assumes that's outside of our plan budget for this year, and Carl replied it is. It's going to be a nice sum of money that we're going to have to try to find or ask for in the 2025 budget.

6. PRAIRIE CREEK REPORT – Tawny Hill, Operations Manager

Brad stated they have had a busy couple of weeks out at Prairie Creek and Tawny replied they just finished their two largest events of the year. Ron Bonham Days and IronMan.

Tawny stated she's gotten some feedback from the Friends of Prairie Creek on things that need to be address that the community had sent to them, some of it still being security. So we are going to address that, especially third party security and our communication with them, how to reach them. So we're going to work with them over the next couple weeks on how we can fix that, maybe look into some new ideas for next year.

The traffic was one issue, of course, with such a large event like that and the amount of people that were out there, traffic is terrible getting out. However, the closing of some of

the areas was asked by the police for traffic control and the police. So we did shut down the north gate in the campground and the north entrance to the beach so that they could control traffic. That way they didn't have staff posted and trying to have two exits at one spot as it would have been impossible to get everybody going out. Somebody would end up hitting each other so that was an issue we will work on getting entrance and exit signs for the campground so that when they are open we can get everybody going one way. As we don't have everybody trying to get in that little spot at the South campground entrance.

There was an incident at Ron Bonham Days that's been asked about a lot involving people in the bathroom. We haven't said it publicly but I want everybody to know that it has been addressed and the people have been blacklisted so they won't have to worry about that safety out there. We are trying to work on the safety. They might not see all of it, but we have addressed some of the things that they have asked about. The people involved in that, have been talked to, and they won't be back, at least this year.

I went over the third party security. I'm trying to add some more to that. We are working on improving the communication, and getting the number for them, as we don't have one central number to reach them and when we call it's always a different person. We're going to talk to them and see maybe if walkie talkies will help us better communicate with them. So our staff can at least get a hold of them or maybe just have one main phone number so we're not trying to reach a different person all the time.

With the complaints about the events, I think most of it was just the amount of people out there. I'll need to talk to more people about that since I am kind of new, and see how to better address having so many people out there. We definitely want to make that enjoyable for everybody. I've met with Richard Ivy and Carl about it as well. Carl helped me a lot for both of these events. So thank you, Carl.

We've met with Joe from the Sailboat Club, and we've met with some fishermen about that pier that we talked about the last couple months, trying to come up with a good location, and some good ideas without having to tear down or mow down the protected areas and also protect people's property on the piers. We've all met, we've come up with some good ideas, but it's still something that we're working on. So I wanted you guys to know that we have met, like we said that we would and we're trying to come up with some ideas on that.

I did have an application, but we will save that for next month when everybody's here. Brad asked is it before our next month meeting, and Tawny replied it's in October.

One of the gates was damaged this past weekend. Somebody had hit the north gate inside the campground. It was around midnight on Saturday. The people took off. There are cameras installed in them, and we tried to get to those but they were not working. I

don't know if it's due to them being hit or what was going on with them. We do have some witnesses we are going reach out to and try and get some of this going. I've received a couple of complaints and this is one of them about police and they're involved out there so we're going to meet with them and try to come up with some kind of agreement or something so we can work together to make it a little more safe. We want somebody to be out there and not have so many people, staff and the community saying we're not really getting a response. And that's both for our security and with the 911 system, but we don't have any control over that. So we want to talk with them and come up with some kind of plan. We don't want people feeling like they're just not being heard, or they're not getting anybody out there to help them.

Shannon inquired Ron Bonham is one of your biggest events out there, right? Tawny replied it is our biggest event. Shannon asked if this was a unique event in terms of the number of people coming to it, and Tawny replied there were a lot more people this year. Shannon inquired is there a director of this event, or who directs this? Is there somebody that's in charge? Like Iron Man has a staff and protocols in place. Does Ron Bonham have that? Tawny stated she doesn't know if there's one person that directs it, as she meets with multiple agencies. We work with EMS and police, but she's not for sure if there's just one person over all of it. Brad interjected that traditionally the Prairie Creek staff has taken care of the coordinating event with assistance from the parks.

Shannon stated she wondered if, since many of our problems and issues happen on weekends, if it would benefit us to have somebody that's on staff during the peak months at the park on Saturday and maybe Sundays until noon or something like that so that people can come and talk to people in the office. Maybe adjusting the days because it's not a nine to five, running a park like this. It is not a Monday through Friday, nine to five job, or seven to three. This is different. It's a unique place with campgrounds. Maybe we could shift people so they will have Monday and half of Tuesday off or something like that so there's more administrative leadership out there when there's all these events going on. Because there doesn't seem to be any administrative coverage. There's nobody in the office. Tawny replied the boat launch open on the weekend, and she is out there a lot, but she does get pulled all over the reservoir during these events. I helped with security, helped at the gate when it became an issue. I went and explained to police we need to have this closed when everybody's leaving, because it's causing an issue with people coming in and out. So I went to that gate, opened it and I was trying to get everybody leaving to come over to my way and go out that way. I did learn a lot from it, but there was increased traffic from last year, so I opened that and used it as an exit and just kept people going.

Shannon added it seems like we need to have more of a presence on regular weekends out there and I'm not saying it be you per se. She also asked if they have an idea of how

much it's going to cost to fix that gate, and Tawny replied they do not know yet. They have been working on that, but I don't have the cost as it just happened.

Shannon added and then you found out that the cameras don't work, right? Tawny stated they don't know if it was an issue because it got hit, or what, but there is a camera inside of there. So we have some witnesses, we hope that that will help, but I'm just starting on this too. So we're hoping that we can get somewhere with some of the witnesses and maybe get a report going that way. Shannon inquired if the police department is involve and Tawny replied they came out, I don't know what all they did with the report. They said there wasn't much they could do because the person was no longer there. We're also having an issue with County and City both coming out. And I've also experienced this when I've made reports, and then them getting a report done or them getting there and being like, we have the wrong people here to handle this. Shannon asked did they mean in terms of policing. So neither of them, County or City wants it as their jurisdiction? Is that what you're saying? It's supposed to be County, but the City will come out a lot. I did a report and then like two days later City came out and said we did this report, but it's got to be county. So that's an issue that we keep running into and that's why we want to sit with them and try and figure out what the problem is there so that we can handle it.

Shannon asked if Tawny or Dustin had a chance to sit with our third -party security company to kind of explain what their job is, what their mission is. Tawny replied she met Sam, and heard about Brooks coming. She did explain to Sam what she needed that day, but I don't know how much Richard sat with him. I'm sure that he did, but me personally, I've only sat with Sam and went over the paperwork. It says a lot of the things that we have been expecting, but he still kind of said that he wasn't so sure and these people they're new to the reservoir. They might have been out there before but they don't know Indian Hill, they don't have a horse, so they don't know Indian Hill. They don't know what windsurf is, they don't know.

Carl interjected he thinks he can give the Board a little insight. He had a conversation with Deputy Mayor, and with Robert Scaife, who owns Legacy Life Security Solutions, LLC, his company allows for the staff to be out there, and also had conversations with a couple other community people and we just talked about the policing in the county and how to better the relationships. Our plan is to get everybody in the room and talk about things that happen or could happen, what just happened out there as well, and then make sure we're on the same page and then come back to the board with some type of a solution to the security. He expects that to happen pretty soon. He thinks the Deputy Mayor will follow back up with a phone call with a time that we all can get in the room.

Shannon asked to confirm the Board will have some answers next month about the broken gate, and that meeting will take place within the month regarding security and

asked if Tawny or Carl could send the Board a summary so we know what some steps are being taken. Shannon added her concern is that the people, our campers, it's unsafe for them with the stuff going on in the bathroom, there's children around it. That's just unsafe. There's a lot of drinking going on, and fast driving through, somebody's going to get hurt and I think our leadership needs to have some more protocols in place as soon as possible.

Brad added, it's definitely something that we've been talking about a lot and we know it needs to be addressed. He asked if there were any other questions for Tawny and there were none. Brad added, on that same security note, anybody out there should be inclined to call 911 if there's an emergency or issues. The security is there to help, but 911 needs to be a source to report it and call those items in. In some situations like if firearms are being used inside the park, which is prohibited. That should be a call to police. It's very dangerous and we don't want to have any time like we don't want to slow down getting the police out there in a situation like that.

7. PARKS PROGRAMMING – George Foley, Programs Director

George stated, it's been a busy summer for programming in the parks.

Quarterback and Receiver Football Camp- We did a quarterback and receiver football camp at Ball Corp. And I missed the last session today to be here. We partnered with Brandon Hayes again, Jamil Smith and Coach Paul. We had about 40 kids sign up for the quarterback and receiver camp ages third grade through fifth grade. It was a really good camp. Coach Paul knows a lot about quarterbacks and football. He showed the kids some really good fundamentals. It was a food turnout, but for me, personally, being that we had two gentlemen there who both played professional football, you'd think it would be like 200 to 300 kids that would come to that three -day camp because it was really some good fundamentals everybody could have learned. We're going to do it again next year and hopefully we'll get more kids signed up for.

Black Music Month Celebrations was held at McCulloch Park on June 29th. The event really went good. We dealt with rain in the early part of the day, but all three bands put on a great show. We had a really good turnout, had some good vendors there. People enjoyed the music, and had a good time at McCulloch Park.

Wheel & Bike Ride Program – We started a new program this summer with Girls Coalition of Indiana called the Wheel & Bike Ride program. We had about 20 girls who were part of Girl Scouts and Girls Coalition. I had some volunteers like Jason Donati and a couple staff members out at Safety Town and taught them about bike safety. This

Saturday we are going to ride with those 20 girls ride with them in the Black Expo Parade so everybody can see those girls that participated in bike safety.

The ones that signed up, Girls Coalition brought them a brand new bike, a helmet, elbow & knee pads, and an air pump for their bike. So they got a bunch of cool things just signing up for that event.

People have reached out on Facebook and the phone stating they would like for us to continue that program, but they would like for us to add boys to it. So that's something I'll talk with Carl about, that we may do down the line. A lot of people were happy to see us revitalize Safety Town at McCulloch Park and use it again.

Summer Youth Internship Program - Muncie Teen Internship Program is going good. This is our last week of the program, and it's been a great six weeks. The one thing that I really like this year is the mentorship. The people that we have had, really come and mentor. They've been really inspiring to our youth in the program, just by talking about their journeys, whether they were an athlete, their professional lives and just growing up and things they dealt with and had to overcome. The youth were really good, engaged, and they even talked to some of the mentors after mentor day, so it's been really good. We've had a lot of visitors come to our mentor days to see how the interaction goes with the mentor and the youth. It's been a great summer.

I sent you some pictures of some of the accomplishments that our young people have been doing especially with EcoRehab. They have built a shelter at Heekin Park which is between the Walk of Fame and the dog park. They even helped lay the cement for it and everything and now they're building the second shelter at Cowing Park that will be done by Friday. They built a cornhole set that we're going to put out in the park. They also built some more park benches so we can put them out in the park. They did a great job.

We had a paint crew that worked with Leonski Crosby. They have already painted McCulloch and Heekin Parks and are now finishing up at Westside Park to brighten up the park bathrooms a little bit so it's going pretty good. We've got kids again this year working at Muncie Community Schools, the YWCA, the YMCA, Second Harvest, IU Health and Habitat for Humanity.

I went to a conference at the YWCA Friday, and there's a young lady, Kahlea Evans, she's just great. She's worked in our program in the past four years, and I've really noticed her growth. She started her own business where she designs shoes and everything. She was the main speaker for the convention at the YWCA. A lot of our young ladies were able to attend that conference and it was good to see her speak because she used to be really shy and in a shell. She came out of the shell, and doesn't mind public speaking anymore. So it feels good because we feel like that's part of the

program and what they've been learning and growing within there. So we're happy to see those results.

UPCOMING EVENTS – Black Expo is this week and we will have lots of activities at Heekin Park. Muncie Police will provide security for us, and we're looking forward to that. We're going to conduct a youth basketball tournament, and a car and bike show this weekend, and we'll have our July concert inside the softball field on Saturday night. We decided to collaborate with them on that weekend and we will also have Muncie 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.

Backpack Giveaway will be on Tuesday, August the 6th at McCulloch Park. We're collaborating with Walmart, the NAACP, and the Delta Sorority. We're going to pass out a hundred backpacks with school supplies. Anybody that has school-aged kids in elementary, please bring them to McCulloch Park August the 6th. We have a hundred backpacks filled with school supplies that we're going to pass out.

Summer's been good for programming And so looking to continue to make it better and, you know, try to move it year round, if possible.

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

EVENT APPROVALS:

Industry Neighborhood Association - Heekin Park, Cabin 3, Saturday, August the 10th. It's a community picnic, something they do every year. They're expecting about 50 people to show up. They won't need security at the event. It's pretty much just going to be the neighborhood there. There won't be any vendors as the Neighborhood Association will provide the food. They're not needing any items through the park for setup.

Brad stated it sounds like we've had that event in the past. He added he would have to go back and review, but he believes we can defer to the Park Superintendent to approve an event, so that's the direction that I'm going to give, is that Carl and George to approve the event. That's the way we'll go.

The caution and warning here is if you have events, to get them in advance of your event to make sure you don't have this happen. Brad asked for information about the second event week go ahead and tell us about that okay it is pretty close to the next meeting okay and if Shannon or he have any questions or concerns they can ask.

Southside Neighborhood Association – Courtney is here today in case there are questions. They're having an event at Cooley Park on August 27 from 3 to 7 p .m. The

purpose of this event is to engage our community to come together and enjoy being together. They're expecting about 150 to 200 people. They are requesting use of the bathroom, if it's in working order. If not, they are requesting two portapots if the restrooms are not available.

Shannon asked if the bathrooms are functioning, and George thinks we have one bathroom that may function. We just need to turn the water on for that. Shannon asked if we approved this event last year, and Brad replied it was a similar event. George answered, yes this is the fourth year.

Brad stated he didn't think he had any questions or concerns at this time. We should have a quorum next month, and can vote on that officially.

8. FRIENDS OF PRAIRIE CREEK – Jackie Sciscoe

We've got some representation here today also received an email with some items on there. Some of them were discussed in the Prairie Creek report, but we'll let them summarize and bring some items here to the board.

First off, not a Friends of Prairie Creek issue, but they said the live stream's down, so I don't know if anybody can fix that. Brad replied he thinks Mark's working on it.

So I did send you and the Prairie Creek Management, results of the survey that we did online. Thanks to Shannon for helping with that and everybody on the Parks Board for reviewing that before we put it out. If you did not get that, let me know. But I'm pretty sure everybody should have received that.

Our next meeting is August 9th. We've not had a meeting since the last time. So that's why I sent you the comments that were on Facebook. Any questions about any of those? They weren't my comments. I was just passing them along. Brad stated it looked like a lot of them were based around security, kind of what we talked about here already.

Our next upcoming event is the Blind Draw Cornhole Tournament on August 17th from 6 to 8 and that'll be at the community building. Shannon asked if there will be alcohol, and what date and time. Jackie replied there will be no alcohol, and it is Saturday August 17th from six to eight p.m.

There were a few other things I have on there but it was stuff that you guys have already brought up, security issues, the gate issue, rules not being enforced and you did mention about people calling the police. I know people have called police and we're just not getting a lot of response out there. Brad interjected he knows that can be a problem. They're busy, but sometimes the squeaky wheel gets the grease. So the more they call, the more that it gets in the system, that there's issues out there. And that's something

then that we; Carl, the Board, and Tawny, can go to them and say, hey, you're getting reports. Like, we need to do something different is what we're doing is not working. Hopefully it doesn't get there and we get it resolved on the front end here. Jackie said she did emphasize the other night because I was out there when the gate incident happened that they needed to get a report to Tawny. Now, whether she got one or not, I don't know, because I know that's what happened last time. They didn't get a police report when there was a more severe incident that happened. And Nathan was there as well, and I think that's what he's going to address.

Jackie asked if the Board had any questions for her and there were none.

My name's Nathan Buck. As far as the gate incident goes, maybe 15 minutes before that, we watched a guy raise the gate so two cars could get in. And I mean, that's not really an issue, but it's kind of like there's another gate that they could open, so that could have damaged the gate as well. But the car that hit it didn't slow down when they turned out on the 560. They blew through the gate, and swerved up on the road. If security was maybe patrolling, they might have caught that.

I wanted to say something about the 4th of July. Obviously, yes, security and all that, but I guess I don't understand like as far as the campsites. All of the people that say we as campers invite, so if 200 campsites, invite six people each, that's a lot of extra people the way it is. And then on top of that, there's common areas on the outside of the main road. I guess people can park there by the docks. So my concern is that maybe next year, we shut the gates at nine o'clock, or shut the roads down that go into where the campers go. That way we don't have people racing through. I mean, I've got an 11 year old. He's pretty smart, but at the same time, there are people going 35-40 mile an hour in there. So that's a concern for me is my kid can get run over because they're coming through where realistically nobody should be driving anyway. Like up on the front, there's roads through there. There's no reason for people that are watching fireworks to fly through there to try to find the fastest exit to get out. So that was a big concern. Security is definitely a concern and the concern of somebody getting hurt. As far as that goes, cross bucks or something to block some of the entrances into where the campers are. People can park out by the docks but we've got to try to tell people not to park in our lots. That's a big issue for me also the brush that's around the water.

I know that's a big issue. I know there's contract disputes, but there's a lot of security issues with boats out there. People can get out on those docks, even if we drive around and try to patrol ourselves. We don't want trash or riff-raff out there. People are coming in stealing things. I mean, we're going to call the police. We're not going to address them directly, but if something could be done about the brush, it doesn't have to be dug up out of the ground. It could be cut off at the ground as long as you're not killing the vegetation. I wouldn't think that would be a problem with the contract. I'm not an expert

on that, but you're not going to have erosion problems if you just trim it back. Yeah, I mean leave it a couple feet tall, it's still going to have the leaves, and it shouldn't die off. Shannon asked if that is where the theft is occurring and Nathan replied it is just behind that. I think a lot of the stuff that you're seeing out there is because you can't see the boats. You really can't. We take cruises on our golf carts when it's dark, and we look out for other people's things. I don't want anybody to steal anything from my friends or the people that are out there. Like I said, I know that's a big contract dispute as far as getting rid of vegetation because it's going to possibly erode, but if we cut it back, what's the difference in cutting the one path to get onto the dock than just cutting it two feet across instead of it being 8-10 feet tall? I don't see where that would be a problem with the contract but I don't know what the contract states. I was told that was an issue with the water company to actually cut foliage or trees out there so that that may be something. He asked can you guys look into that or do you know the answer to that? Brad stated he doesn't know the answer offhand but knows there are limitations on what we can do on the shoreline. Nathan added a lot of it looks like Japanese honeysuckle, which is invasive. So if it's invasive, you wouldn't think that would be an issue like if it's an elm tree or something like that. It's a little different. But I mean, as far as like something that's invasive that's going to take over that whole shore, I mean, you would think they would be a little lenient on it, or there may be some sort of language in the contract that says you can do that.

But I mean, we still could be cut back it's just a whole lot harder to take care of when it is that. Brad asked if he is seeing that on the floating docks or the old wood docks or both, and Nathan replied he's up on 152 so he's up on the front facing the water and pretty much that whole shoreline is starting to just get over grown. I mean if you walk out to the point floating pier it's three feet wide to walk out onto it where it's been somewhat cut back and I don't know if it's just not growing there or if it's cut back in but now it's starting to get to the point where it's eight feet tall or so. I wouldn't see why we couldn't cut it back or somebody could cut it back so if we are driving around and we see a lot of people and know whose boat is where and everything else. If you see three, four or five kids down on a dock, more than likely they shouldn't be down there, especially at night.

Brad interjected, the other piece there on the dock security which kind of slipped through the cracks this year is getting additional gates like on dock 12, on the floating dock. We're looking to add those to all the docks that we installed this year. Nathan asked if there would be a key fob to get on them. Brad stated we are still working through the details of how that is going to be controlled. He didn't know if Tawny had any more details but right now it was just gated and posted and that creates the first row of deterrence. Tawny stated she was going through a lot of people the last couple months so that has been put off but some of the issues that were stopping me from getting the other gates, but I think that has been handled. That was kind of a tester and we were looking at maybe some taller ones, like they have at the sailboat club but we do plan on

using a code. She doesn't know if it'll be on each pier, like each person on that pier will have their own code or if it'll just be one code for everyone on the pier. We're looking at a four-digit code for them to be able to get on the pier.

Nathan added, on the gate issue where it got ran over also, there's lights at that security shed. But there probably needs to be another light on that other side. Shannon asked was it the exit or the north gate? Nathan replied, the north gate's the one they got. He's the one that called the police. He thinks they called the police at 11:41, and I think they showed up about 12:10, or somewhere around in there. It was the city police, and that's a pretty good drive. There might not have even been a county guy that far out. I mean, we got the security guy Brooks but I mean that's a too little too late kind of thing. The gate is expensive and the people that hit it should pay for it or their insurance or something. Like I said something to shut down the interior of the campground for the 4th of July would be beneficial to us as campers. Brad replied, that's something we can look at. It kind of all goes back to the traffic control we talked about. How do we manage traffic, not only the main thoroughfares, but into the campground, the beach area and the Windsurf area and really planning that out so it's as safe as possible.

Shannon asked Nathan where he thought the hot spots are that our security needs to be at night. Nathan replied obviously the entrance gate would be someplace but obviously they can't sit there all day but to patrol. Maybe if there is a party going on could patrol there a little drive past there make your presence known. On the weekends we don't really see a lot of activity, but we were down at Jackie's place when we saw the gate get destroyed. I know Security was over by the shed, so we saw it perfect. I don't know that he could have from where he is at, but I think if there was a light there it would have made it to where he could have seen this happen. We heard the gate break, but I don't know that he would have heard that from where he was. The main road for the most part is where the drag strip occurs. I mean they fly around out there, but definitely on 4th of July they were flying really bad trying to shoot from one gate to the other trying to get out as fast as they could. I saw some people drive through some campsites to go around cars, instead of taking their time. I mean don't come out there if you're in a big hurry to go because there was a whole lot of people, a whole lot of people, especially with the campers having their people there too.

Brad asked if there were any other Friends of Prairie Creek comments, and there were none.

9. OLD BUSINESS

Brad stated we have a couple of items on there, one of which is the IU Health Community Impact Proposal and asked Shannon if she wanted to talk about it or wait

until next month. Shannon stated, she, Mr. Foley, and Ashaki Goodall submitted an Indiana University Health Community Impact Grant, and we were invited to submit a full proposal. It was submitted on June 27th and we're going to present our proposal to IU Health Corporate on August 15th, at the Indianapolis office. It would allow for a year-round expansion of the Teen Mentorship program that will over three years impact over 4,000 middle school and high school students. So, we'll let you know how that goes.

Brad stated, we still have the Prairie Creek Rules to review and solidify the policy we adopted regarding the docks and so that's still under review. He knows Jim had some research he wanted to do and with us not having a quorum he doesn't think we've got any discussion there.

Shannon added, it is time to renew The Five-Year Master Plan Survey. She and George have been tinkering with the survey itself and wanted to kind of pilot the survey with an actual association. Carl has invited us to a meeting just to see how the survey reads, and how the community responds to the survey. She would also like the Board to look at it as well obviously, before we're utilizing it for our five year master plan. She will send it to all board members and then we'll pilot it in a couple of weeks.

10. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

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.

Carl stated he wanted to give a real good shout out to Nikki and George. They go well above and beyond the call daily to answer all the calls from the people in the community. I hear a lot of complaints about parks, a lot of good stuff, a lot of bad stuff, just depends on how you see it. And the programming speaks for itself. We went to get that position put in place and the Board was supportive of that and the City Council was supportive. I think when you look around the city you look at the improvements that's been made it's directly account to the passion that George has for programming to put the city in a better place going forward in our second five -year plan. Brad interjected, George we appreciate your help and Nikki's.

Troy Chester. I come here to ask why the Mayor is spending more money for security for the front door than he is for the parks. I mean, it's an honest question. I mean, I've

heard so much tonight about security issues in all of our parks. Brad replied, that would be a great question for the Mayor or the City Council.

Mr. Chester stated him and his family homeschool, and need those parks. We need them bad. We need them secure. Brad interjected, we only control the parks. Mr. Chester replied, yeah, but there's a lot that the board can do, may do. So they may put security, they may get some officers to patrol the parks and Brad replied that's where we've added additional security out of Prairie Creek this year. Mr. Chester stated there's no additional security within the city parks and we got kids. There's homeless at Thomas Park, and you guys want to put a transition center over there for the homeless. Where do you think those people are going to go? They're going to hang out down there at the park. Brad replied, like I told the folks at Prairie Creek, in my neighborhood I have called the police multiple times for the park. Mr. Chester stated we can't be vigilantes in the neighborhood, and Brad replied absolutely and Mr. Chester stated the police are just not really fast enough you know to catch it you know what's going on. Brad replied the police force and their budget and how they're allocated is out of our control. Mr. Chester stated we just got the splash pad back on and there's no telling how long it's going to be until its vandalized again. I mean is anybody going to prevent it? I mean that's a lot of money we put in there. It's a lot of tax money. Brad replied, that's where we've got to engage these kids through the programs that George are doing. Mr. Chester stated programs are good but we got to have security. Brad replied, if you've got a plan we'd love to hear it, but I don't have one today. Mr. Chester stated, you guys are the ones I come to for the plans, I'm just a guy making the comment. Brad stated he appreciates his comments.

Mr. Chester, stated there's the other question about where's the \$7,000 the BOW issued out for the building of the restrooms. Adam was the one that was given out was supposedly for somebody to watch them build it. Carl asked if that was for Riverview, and Mr. Chester replied, No for Thomas. They issued a \$7,000 check to somebody for that project from the BOW. They approved \$7,000 for something for that park. Brad stated he didn't know anything about that and Mr. Chester replied it was in the BOW meeting and Adam was handed that project I suggest, that's what he took from the video from the meeting. Brad asked and that was for Thomas bathroom, and Mr. Chester replied yes, he believes that was stated in there. Shannon asked if that was this year, and he replied yes, just here recently okay when all this was highlighted. Brad stated that was news to him but he'll look into that.

Carl interjected, he thinks from his knowledge, the restroom that we talked about that's on the dockets is Riverview, the money's for that particular restroom. I'm sure if there was anything at Thomas, I would know. We can look into it, but we haven't had a proposal put together or a pre-proposal or anyone go to Thomas other than J-Bird, our plumbing team, to go take a look. But I do know there's a restroom to be built at

Riverview Park. That's the one that we're currently waiting on. That we've been talking about and working on.

Brad asked if there were any additional items or public input and there were none.

Meeting was adjourned by Brad Marshall, President.

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

Park Board Meeting Public Input Sign In Sheet

Date: 7/16/24

Name (Please Print)

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