



811 E. Centennial Avenue
Muncie, IN. 47303
(765) 747-4858
cityofmuncie.com/parks-department-muncie.htm
muncieparks@muncie.in.gov
Superintendent: Carl Malone

Muncie Park & Recreation Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 18, 2025
City Hall Auditorium

- (1) Call to Order
- (2) Pledge of Allegiance
- (3) Roll Call
- (4) Approval of the minutes from (January 2025) Park Board Meeting
- (5) Board Reorganization
- (6) Superintendent Report – Carl Malone
- (7) Parks Programming & Approval of Events – Nikki Eckerson
- (8) Prairie Creek Report - Tawny Hall
- (9) Friends of Prairie Creek
- (10) Old Business
 - Tillpond Update – Flatland (David Heilman)
 - Prairie Creek Trails Update
 - Prairie Creek EZ Dock Addition Update
- (11) New Business
 - Conflict of Interest Training 2025 (Patty Goddard, HR)
 - YMCA Contract Review
 - Security Pros Surveillance System Proposal
 - NFL Flag Football Summer League Overview (Brandon Hayes)
- (12) Action Items
- (13) Public Input – (3) minutes limit – Please state your name and address.

*** Next Park Board Meeting – Tuesday, March 18, 2025 (6:00 p.m.) - City Hall Auditorium**



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Superintendent: Carl Malone

Superintendent Report

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

Muncie Parks and Recreation Department has been busy clearing snow and preparing for the upcoming season.

Muncie Teen Internship Youth Resource Fair

The Muncie Teen Internship Resource Fair was held February 8th and 9th at Minnetrista Museum Garden Center. The purpose was to provide summer job opportunities and internship partnerships with several employers. On Saturday, February 8th Ball State conducted resume tips to 7th and 8th grade student. Northwest Bank provided Financial Literacy, Rhonda Ward of Muncie Community Schools conducted the Dress for Success session. On Sunday, February 9th EcoRehab conducted the Skilled Trades/Construction session and Carman Malone provided the Entrepreneurship session.

Prairie Creek

Kellie and myself have been spending time at Prairie Creek over the past two weeks discussing a hiring plan, pier installation, equipment and a timeline.

Westside Park

- Skate park is still under construction
- Restrooms sewer back up
- Softball diamond needs work completed (i.e. lights and scoreboard)

Thomas Park

- Water line installation
- Splash pad repairs needed
- Basketball court needs renovation

Heekin Park

- Basketball court needs light installed
- Softball scoreboard needs to be replaced
- Tennis Court needs to be renovated

Parks

- We need cameras installed in several parks

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

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT & RESOURCE FAIR

Muncie Parks and Recreation hosted the 1st Youth Employment and Resource Fair on Saturday, January 4th and Sunday, January 5th at Minnetrista Museum and Gardens. The purpose was to provide summer job opportunities and internship partnerships with several employers.

On both days we took applications for our Muncie Teen Internship Program with the help of volunteers from various organizations and individuals from the community. We would like to extend our thanks to Shannon Powers, Cassandra Woods, Anitra Montgomery, Rudy Jones, and members of Forward Visions for helping the youth sign up for the program. We had 93 youth register for the program over this weekend.

We would also like to thank the NAACP, Ivy Tech, Muncie Sanitation Department, Ball State University, Eco-Rehab, Muncie Library, 3rd & 11, Muncie Area Career Center and Sharan Abdullah of Girls Incorporated for providing our local youth with valuable information regarding their organizations and programming.

We had workshops on Saturday

Resume Building Workshop 10:00 am-2:00 pm (Facilitated by Ball State Writing Lab)

Dress for Success – 12:00 pm-2:00 pm (Facilitated by Rhonda Ward)

Financial Literacy – 12:00 pm-2:00 pm (Facilitated by Northwest Bank)

On Sunday, January 5th, we had two more workshops

Skilled Trade Workshop 1:00 pm – 2 pm (Facilitated by EcoRehab)

Entrepreneurship Workshop – 2:00pm-3:00 pm (Facilitated by Carman Malone)

NATIONAL KIDS TO THE PARK DAY

National Kids to the Park Day will be held on May 17, 2025 at Canan Commons. We are still in the planning stage but it will be a day of fun with games, bouncy houses and music. We are inviting the community and the Board to come out and enjoy the festivities.

Any vendors interested in participating in the event can email us at muncieparks@muncie.in.gov for more information.

NFL FLAG FOOTBALL

Registration for flag football is ongoing and we have already received a great response. We are going to have 120 players in the program. This is our third year partnering with the NFL and 3rd and 11 to offer flag football at Ball Corp. We are accepting applications for the program for youth in K – 6th grades.

Any local businesses or organizations interested in sponsoring a team can email us at muncieparks@muncie.in.gov for more information or call the office.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We will be hosting a second registration weekend at the Walker Event Center on March 8th and 9th from 10 am – 2 pm for the Muncie Teen Internship Program. Youth interested in registering can come out that weekend to sign up. The following week we will begin calling to schedule interviews for the program.

I met with Kristina and Tonia from Walmart South on the 3rd to discuss partnering for a few events this year. We are looking at hosting another Backpack Drive on July 22nd and they would like to do a Coat Drive on November 4th. Both of these events will be held at the McCulloch Cabin from 10 am – 12 pm. For the Coat Drive we would have collection boxes at our office and Walmart South to accept donations of new or gently used winter coats, hats and gloves.

Trunk or Treat – 8th annual Trunk or Treat will be held on Saturday, October 18th from 6 – 8 pm at Heekin Park.

If there are any organizations that would like to participate and partner with us on those two events they can email us at muncieparks@muncie.in.gov or call the office at (765) 747-4858.

Muncie Park & Recreation Board Meeting

February 18, 2025 6 p.m.

City Hall Auditorium

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – All stood for the Pledge

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

4. APPROVAL OF JANUARY BOARD MINUTES-

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

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

5. BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL VOTE

Brad stated there was an oversight last month as we were scheduled to do our Board reorganization. That involves electing our Board president and Board vice president. So, we're going to do that this month to make up for that. We'll entertain nominations for we'll start with President and then move to the Vice-President.

Election for Board President and Vice-President

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

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

Brad thanked the Board and stated he appreciates it. It's been great serving and look forward to continuing to do that for another year.

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

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

Shannon thanked the Board for their support, stating she enjoys her role.

6. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Carl Malone, Superintendent

Before he started with the Superintendent's Report, he stated it's been a privilege working with each of you Board members. I was having a conversation with the Mayor this morning about the direction of the parks, our summer program, things of that nature and my conversation with him was the direction from the Board. I shared I felt we had a good Board that was willing to be hands on when asked or needed and he agreed. I just wanted to say in 2025 I am looking forward to having conversations and direction with the Board as well as we move forward with doing the work of the parks and all the events and things that we got coming up. I think the Board has done an excellent job in providing direction and leadership.

The staff has been busy clearing snow and preparing for the upcoming season. Our equipment is up and going, and I think our salt levels has been pretty steady. It's gotten a little low a little bit, but I think we will be okay. Our team has been taking care of business.

Muncie Teen Internship Youth Resource Fair

The Muncie Teen Internship Resource Fair was last weekend at Minnetrista, very well attended by our community. Board member Shannon Powers was there again being hands on while providing leadership and direction pointing kids in the right direction and helping parents get on the app to register for the program.

apps and get their kids signed up Northwest Bank provided Financial Literacy, Rhonda Ward of Muncie Community Schools conducted the Dress for Success session. On Sunday, February 9th EcoRehab conducted the Skilled Trades/Construction session and Carman Malone provided the Entrepreneurship session.

Prairie Creek

Kellie and myself have been spending time at Prairie Creek over the past two weeks discussing a hiring plan, pier installation, equipment and a timeline. We'll be continuing to have conversation and coming up with some ideas of where we can get things going there. I know the hiring process is a concern and so we talked about that, making sure we meet the timelines on when we need to be out there putting the piers and things back

in place and I think we'll continue to have that dialogue with our HR department as we get the staff and people like that in place.

Westside Park

- Skate park is still under construction as the weather slowed us down
- Restrooms/sewer back up
- Softball diamond needs work completed (i.e. lights and scoreboard). The lights and the scoreboards that was put on hold and so I don't know exactly where we at but as of right now the lights are still out there. I thought we had a plan in place and then things changed. I've had some conversation a little bit with the Sanitation Department to see if they're still on board. I've also made a phone call to a private contractor. He was on vacation down in Florida but as soon as he gets back in town, he was going to go out, take a look and give us a quote to see if he could go ahead and handle that job himself. We've been waiting for quite some time. The scoreboards are still out there. I think it's five. We need three in our parks, and we put two up for backup. And then the lighting, the initial conversation was with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Muncie Community Schools. I think there were so many lights that Muncie Central needed for their actual baseball field. And then we needed eight lights for Westside Park. The hope is that we can still get the lights from out there at the sports complex before they start demolition out there.

Thomas Park

- Water line installation. We met with Jay-Bird about having the locators come out so we can put in a new water line. I think When they put the splash pad in and some work was done there, they capped off the main line going from the main all the way up to the building. So, the building there right now is a system. We don't have running water and so those restrooms are not working and we do have baseball out there during the summer months with Burris and Tom Terrell's traveling baseball program. Tom does a good job on maintaining out there his tradeoff is maintaining that field. He takes a lot of time out his own time to keep it cut keeping mold things of that nature. So, we have talked to the contractor and just soon as the weather breaks we're going to go ahead and look at putting that water line in.
- Splash pad repairs are needed. We identified that last year towards the end of the summer. We've already had conversations with the sales reps, where we purchased the splash pad from. And I think Travis has called to try to get something set up as far as them being able to come out, take a look and troubleshoot to make sure we are getting the right parts. Shannon stated she knows there was some community discussion about algae or mold because of trees and okay do you remember that last summer and asked if anybody remembers that? She added it was minor, but I'm wondering if when you have the sales rep there. They could look at that because I guess it's so flat, it's not

tilted enough for the water to go into the drain to the drain. She also wondered if we could cut back some of the trees that hang over so the sun can be directly on the pad. Carl replied that's something we can definitely look into. We have our Urban Forestry Department and so we can definitely handle that part of it and then when they come out we'll talk a little bit about the draining system there at Thomas as well.

- Basketball court needs renovation, it's old and it just needs to be renovated. How we do it, when we do it, that can be a discussion between the neighborhood association and the parks. But that court has been there for many, many years.

Shannon asked about the bathroom at Thomas. Carl replied the bathroom is coming out and then that's where the new one is going in there at that location. He thinks that's being handled between Community Development and the City Engineer. I think those are the two entities that are dealing with the restrooms at West Side and at Thomas. James asked will that be this year, and Carl replied definitely. It should be happening here real soon actually. We were told '25. I know the neighborhoods have been asking about the timeline. They're all hoping that it's the early part of Spring. I do know it is out for bid. That's what was discussed in the Department Head meeting that the restrooms have been put out for bid. Chandra inquired if we found a solution to the power box, the location or protecting it. Carl replied we moved it and put it inside the fence. We rerouted it from inside that building on the other side of the restroom. Now we've put it over the fence and inside the other building. So right now, it's safe.

Heekin Park

- Basketball court needs lights installed. The neighbors there have really been asking for more lighting. We do have lighting at the baseball diamond and at the horseshoe pit, but they were asking for lights at the basketball court. And we needed to have some discussion about that. As you know, lighting has always been there at the court. And you can look at it a few ways. The more lighting you got, the more people hanging, the more security you're going to need for people just hanging. If it's not an event type, then you just got a crowd of people. And so, the lights were not working. No fault of the parks. There's just old lights and bulbs that burnt out. We didn't have any tournaments or any event going on so the urgency and the need wasn't on our side to replace the lights. But since then, we have had some conversations with the neighborhood association, and they've kind of addressed their concerns about it. We had a quote put in place by Walkers Electric, so we do have that on our radar. That's something that we can have paid out of our budget. The goal is to have those lights put in place there at the main, at the basketball court. That way if kids do want to play when it gets dark, they have the lights there. The safety was a concern last year due to the increase in violence and the handguns we had going on. It just was a safety concern, so we didn't have the lights on. James asked if any of the lights from the sportsplex

could be used at Heekin. Carl replied, it depends if we can get good lighting to work. If those lights work and fit, I'm thinking we may be able to do that as well. I think there was, I want to say there was maybe a set of 20 but I wasn't in that conversation. That was more with Deputy Mayor, the Mayor and the Muncie Community Schools. I think for our department, we just went out, cleaned up the place and got the shelters and stuff removed and we did what we could do from a Park Department standpoint. I can follow up to see if those lights could be used there as well.

- Softball scoreboard needs to be replaced. This is one of the parks where we will replace the scoreboard with one from the sportsplex.
- Tennis Court needs to be renovated. They have been sitting there idle for years. At one point in time, we did have some monies for pickleball courts, but then a lot of people were saying that we don't play enough pickleball in the community, and we already had pickleball courts throughout the city. They thought maybe something else could go in that place. We do not have a tennis court in the Whitely area or industry area at all and that's what that was before. The surfacing is a concern as there are some cracks and things there so we need to get some professional person out or the City Engineer to see what the cost would be to have that tennis court resurfaced and then put back into use. Whether that's a complete tear out or if it can be resurfaced the way it is. Mr. James you might be able to come out and take a look and maybe give me some insight on that as well. But it has been sitting idle for five years and nothing we've done nothing with it.

Parks

- We need cameras installed in several parks. I got a young man that's going to come up and talk here shortly, but I will tell you that the cameras that we have need to be upgraded. There have been times we've gotten phone calls from our police department asking about a particular park, and if we have cameras that were up and working. Our recent call was about the one at Morningside with the Police work that they had there and the cameras there wasn't working. Then I got a call about Heekin, from the police department again, asking about those cameras and they had been cut. The cord had been cut where we had it installed which was probably not the best location. Now we're looking at a different way of having those cameras installed. But for safety for all of us I think it's definitely a good thing to have in place, to have those cameras up and working.

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

8. PARKS PROGRAMMING/EVENTS – Nikki Eckerson, Office Manager

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT & RESOURCE FAIR

As Carl stated we hosted the 1st Youth Employment and Resource Fair on Saturday, February 8th and Sunday, February 9th Minnetrista Museum and Gardens. The purpose was to provide summer job opportunities and internship partnerships with several employers.

On both days we took applications for our Muncie Teen Internship Program with the help of volunteers from various organizations and individuals from the community. We would like to extend our thanks to Shannon Powers, Kassandra Woods, Anitra Montgomery, Rudy Jones, and members of Forward Visions for helping the youth sign up for the program. We had 93 youth register for the program over this weekend.

We would also like to thank the NAACP, Ivy Tech, Muncie Sanitation Department, Ball State University, Eco-Rehab, Muncie Library, 3rd & 11, Muncie Area Career Center and Sharan Abdullah of Girls Incorporated for providing our local youth with valuable information regarding their organizations and programming. That was very beneficial to a lot of the youth who were there. They were very interested, especially in the Ivy Tech and Ball State tables, which was really good.

The workshops on Saturday were really great. The resume building one that was done by Ball State, one of the things that a lot of the youth were discussing afterwards was the discussion about since most of them do not have jobs because of their ages, the workshop showed them how to use the skills that they've learned from their involvement in community organizations, churches, and sports teams, and how to put that into a resume form to show the skills that they have when they're going out to look for a job. They did also offer to come out and do one of our mentor days for the summer program which was pretty awesome and we also had an organization who was interested in taking about 10 of our youth from the summer program at their site as well so we'll be discussing that.

We had workshops on Saturday:

Resume Building Workshop 10:00 am-2:00 pm (Facilitated by Ball State Writing Lab)

Dress for Success – 12:00 pm-2:00 pm (Facilitated by Rhonda Ward)

Financial Literacy – 12:00 pm-2:00 pm (Facilitated by Northwest Bank)

On Sunday, January 5th, we had two more workshops:

Skilled Trade Workshop 1:00 pm – 2 pm (Facilitated by EcoRehab)

Entrepreneurship Workshop – 2:00pm-3:00 pm (Facilitated by Carman Malone)

UPCOMING EVENTS

MUNCIE TEEN INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

We will be hosting a second registration weekend at the Walker Event Center on March 8th and 9th from 10 am – 2 pm for the Muncie Teen Internship Program. Youth

interested in registering can come out that weekend to sign up. The following week we will begin calling to schedule interviews for the program.

NATIONAL KIDS TO THE PARK DAY

National Kids to the Park Day will be held on May 17, 2025 at Canan Commons. We are still in the planning stage but it will be a day of fun with games, bouncy houses and music. We are inviting the community and the Board to come out and enjoy the festivities.

I met with Kristina and Tonia from Walmart South on the 3rd to discuss partnering for a few events this year. We are looking at hosting another Backpack Drive on July 22nd and they would like to do a Coat Drive on November 4th. Both of these events will be held at the McCulloch Cabin from 10 am – 12 pm. For the Coat Drive we would have collection boxes at our office and Walmart South to accept donations of new or gently used winter coats, hats and gloves.

Trunk or Treat – 8th annual Trunk or Treat will be held on Saturday, October 18th from 6 – 8 pm at Heekin Park. We didn't want to clash with Ball State's homecoming weekend, so it's going to be a little bit earlier this year.

NFL FLAG FOOTBALL

Registration for flag football is ongoing and we have already received a great response. We are going to have 120 players in the program. This is our third year partnering with the NFL and 3rd and 11 to offer flag football at Ball Corp. We are accepting applications for the program for youth in K – 6th grades. Brandon Hayes is here tonight to address the Board regarding the program. Once he finishes, I have two events to present to the Board for approval.

Brandon Hayes of 3rd and 11 introduced himself to the Board. He's currently an administrator at Southside Middle School, founder of 3rd and 11 and an ex-professional athlete with the Carolina Panthers and Indianapolis Colts. He's partnered the last two years with the Parks Department for this NFL Flag Football. It's K through sixth grade. The first two years we had 120. This year we're shooting for 120, that's pretty much our cap. Just to give the kids an opportunity to get out, exercise, be in the parks, learn the game of football. They all get NFL uniforms for whatever team they're on. For instance, I gave you a packet. One of the kids last year played for the Eagles and his mom sent me an email stating that he wore his Eagles jersey for the whole Super Bowl and was super excited for NFL flag football to start. We've been doing this for two years and we haven't had one complaint, and that's hard to believe in Muncie. But we have not, and the kids really enjoy it. The parents enjoy it. And we just want to keep going and build upon it and hopefully be able to take it up a couple grades later on. That's pretty much why I'm

here just to pitch that we need this in our community and it's been successful. I think it would only grow.

Shannon asked how many weeks is it for and Brandon replied it is four weeks. Shannon asked is it two days a week and Brandon replied it is one day a week. The first year, we tried to do two days a week, but getting kids to practice and to the game was an issue. So now they practice an hour before the game, so the parents only have to come that one time. They get their practice in, and then they play the game. Shannon asked if it was at Ball Corp Park and he replied it is.

Brad stated Brandon mentioned the 120 limitation, and inquired is that staffing, coaches, referees or what's the issue? Brandon replied it's definitely due to coaching, and staffing. The first year we tried to get a lot of volunteers, but that didn't really work out, so we started paying stipends for people to coach. We've definitely got to pay for the officials to be out there. So that worked out a lot better this past year. We want to continue that, so we know we have people we can depend on moving forward. If we could get more staffing and things of that nature, the number could go up. But 120 is a good amount to be to be able to manage, you know, with the people we have.

Brad interjected he did see some costs associated with that and stated he assumes some of that looks like we've got that in our budget. Some of that comes through the 3rd and 11 and other sponsors. Yeah, we had sponsors. So, everything's free. The uniforms and all that was paid for. The sponsors help pay for that. The Parks Department helps pay for that. So that's why it's free for the youth.

Shannon mentioned last year, I know you got a grant for the jerseys. Was that through the NFL Foundation and Brandon replied it wasn't. Shannon asked how did the youth get these jerseys and Brandon replied through the Parks Department. Shannon asked they paid for it and Brandon replied yes, and the sponsorships. Brandon addressed the Board and stated as you can see in the email, I'm connecting with the Indianapolis Coast to help try to get some more funding to alleviate some of that cost, but nothing's in stone right now as far as the culture is concerned.

Shannon added, so there's a difference of approximately \$5,637 for the total cost for the program versus what the budget is for the Parks Department and the uniforms. Brandon replied we won't know until all the kids are registered and we ordered the uniforms. Shannon asked has there been consideration of the youth paying for the program, and Brandon replied, we discussed that. I think last year the Mayor wanted it to be totally free so that's why that was picked up by the Parks Department.

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

PARKS EVENT APPROVALS: Nikki presented two events for Board approval.

Black Music Month Celebration – Forward Visions is requesting to use McCulloch Park on June 27th and 28th for the annual concert. They have partnered with the Parks Department for the last eight years to host this as part of our Concert in the Park Series. During the concert they will also be awarding \$1,000 music scholarships to middle and high school students. They are expecting 200 people or more and security will be provided for the event. They expect to have vendors and will submit those names to the Parks Department the month before so they can pay the vendor fee. They are asking for the stage, bleachers, Cabin 6, and the large tent, which we will provide at no cost as part of our partnership. Nikki added last year although it rained for the McCulloch event there was still a good crowd. Mr. McIntosh was present to answer questions from the Board.

Shannon asked if there would be security and if they have insurance. Mr. McIntosh replied security will be provided by Legacy Life Security Solutions, LLC. As it is a partnership with the Parks, it will be under the City. He added having security makes it easier to get the entertainment. This event has been a way to get the families out in the park again since they've really been fixing them up. We thought it was a great way to get families out there to picnic, barbecue and give them live entertainment. We've reached out to our middle and high school students who play instruments or are into music and have encouraged them to apply for the scholarship and then we will award the \$1,000 scholarship at the event. It's been a big hit. Everybody loves it and it's just our way of giving back to the community.

Chandra asked how the students apply and Mr. McIntosh replied they can go online to our website and upload a 1-minute TikTok or video and send an email explaining why they want the scholarship. We have a committee set aside to do the judging of all of that and so we come out with our winners and like I said we do middle school and high school. Chandra asked does Forward Visions have a website and forwardvisions.org. You can go to the website and see everything that we've done for the last 17 years. It's our whole history is on there. Any information you may want and how to make donations. Mark added he recalls hearing nothing but good things from the prior year, so it's a good thing.

Brad asked if there were any other questions from the Board and there were none.

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

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

Muncie Chapter Black Expo—is requesting to use Heekin Park on July 17th - 20th for the annual concert. They have partnered with the Parks Department for the last

eighteen or more years to host this community event. They are expecting 200 people or more and security will be provided for the event. They expect to have 8 food vendors and approximately 10 retail and information vendors. They will submit those names to the Parks Department the month before so they can pay the vendor fee. They are asking for the stage, bleachers, extra trash toters, two large tents, and port-a-pots which we will provide at no cost as part of our partnership.

Shannon asked what types of vendors they would have and Nikki replied there will be various food and retail vendors selling clothing and specialty items.

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

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

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

Chandra asked Nikki if we plan on doing the resource fair again and if that is something that we're going to continue with the Youth Department from this point forward and Carl replied the actual goal is to be able to have these kids working around. So, having the resource fair, and giving them the skill sets to go through a test run of what it'd be like to be interviewed. A lot of those kids came ready. They had resumes. They were dressed appropriately. They actually were looking for the partners. Some of the partners that they were looking for wasn't there, but Nikki took their number and was going to contact the company, like if it's one of the retail stores on McGalliard, Burger King, whoever was that she had spoken with. We stated to the family that Nikki would make the phone call, let them know that the resumes are in her hands, and we'd like to drop it off at their location for employment. So that's what the fair does is kind of gets the kids ready for year-round employment. Chandra stated she wanted to say how awesome this really is. I had the opportunity earlier last week to be in a room with a bunch of different employers for a luncheon. And one of the discussions was that a lot of the young people or the young adults that come in don't have any interview etiquette. It was a part of their conversation of how they dress and how they presented themselves, and that it was almost discouraging to find what they could depend on good employers. So, I had an opportunity on bragging on our parks and our city, because we offer this to the youth of our community to prepare them so they are not a part of conversations like that. So, I just want to say thank you. Carl thanked Chandra and stated he appreciates it. We often do hear feedback from employers about the proper way you come in for an interview and that's kind of what the Parks Department does. We do the same thing when we interview the hundred kids and some kids have to go back out and come back in or reschedule for another day. We don't try to exclude them, we just try to let them know

that your attire wasn't proper and you come back tomorrow and let them know that their attire just wasn't proper for an interview.

9. PRAIRIE CREEK REPORT – Tawny Hall, Operations Manager

Tawny started by giving the Board an update on some of the things they've been doing.

We got some gravel for the parking lot at the office trying as we're trying to make that look a little bit better. And we started on phase two of the Cook Education Center. We got a little bit of planet learning things for the kids inside of the Education Center today. Slowly but surely, we're getting a lot of things in there for the kids to do.

Leases have all been sent out except the couple that I've reached out to you guys about. We're just in the planning phase as Carl, Kelly and I are just working on what hiring for the season is going to look like and what projects we're going to do to fix up the reservoir a little bit.

Brad asked if there were any additional questions for Prairie Creek before Tawny moved to the event requests. Brad asked how many weeks away they were from starting to try to put the docks in, assuming we're done. Tawny replied they've got to get some proper gear for the workers as that was something they brought up during a meeting. Shannon asked about the training or getting a new training system in place to install the floating piers. Tawny stated they have a lot to work on. Going from one system to another, doing both at the same time and now we're having to get a lot more things done. We're having to do training we've never done before. We want to make sure that is implemented before we start and not after we've lost one of our employees or somebody gets hurt. Shannon asked how many employees seasonally do they need to hire this year and Tawny replied it will probably be six to ten and they're going to help from in town as well. Shannon asked when do we hire our seasonal employees typically and Tawny replied we'll start doing that now. She added she just processed front desk and then usually she talks to the guys and try to know what's going on in the garage, what their plan is, so I would assume that in about a week or two we'll probably sit down and start going through those applications that I have and we'll probably start calling people the first week of March.

James asked have you guys assessed the damage on that dock that's got the wing torn off and Tawny stated they have. The maintenance guys have spoken with the people who sell us the docks. They think that these are going to pop back into place. There are some areas that need to be repaired. Me looking at them, I don't know if that's the case or not, but they know a lot more about the docks than any of us at the reservoir do as they sell them. They've sold them on the Great Lakes, so if they're saying they've seen the ice pushing them in and they've seen them pop back out, so I'm going to trust them. James asked what if they do not pop back in, is there going to be a delay in putting them back

in and Tawny replied she thinks that would cause a delay. It wouldn't cost any more money as we have a 10 -year warranty is what I've heard. But that would cost us a lot of time, because then we have to wait to get some more in. I don't know how many parts we have. But if they don't pop out, that's going to be an issue. We are all pretty well aware of that that's something that we've been talking about. It's definitely a worry of ours.

Tawny presented five events for approval by the Board.

Bass LaFayette Fishing Tournament – July 20, 2025. They do it every year. I know they've been here last three years. This is 12 to 14 boats. They're not asking for anything. They know that they have to get their daily passes. They're not going to be selling anything. They state there will be no vendors and they don't have security marked on here. They're asking for July 20th from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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

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

Indiana Walleye Anglers – May 4, 2025 at 6 a.m. They're expecting 24 boats at most. They're not asking for anything. They have no vendors and no security. The event will be from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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 members present.

Muncie Light Horse Club Roundup – June 6 – 8, 2025 at Indian Hills. They are expecting about 100 people. They are requesting the tent, picnic tables & trash cans. This is their annual round up fundraising event. They usually close down that area, the whole Indian Trail Camping, they rent those out, and we get the money in a check like a week or two later. They raise money, last year they helped do the trails over there. That was a \$5,000 project. They also split the cost for new signs with us, and that's how they raise money every year. It's private to their club, so they are expecting 50 - 100 people. They use people inside the club for security.

If it gets approved, they'll rent a tent again from Nikki. They're aware that they have to go to her to rent that. But mostly, they'll just have that area closed down for that weekend. They will rent up all the tent and RV camping in that area. James asked if there was electric at those campsites and Tawny replied there isn't for the tent or

primitive but the RV side has it. James asked if each site was charged like on the other side of the lake and Tawny replied that is correct.

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

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

Just Jeepin' – June 7, 2025 from 1 pm – 6 pm at the beach area. Last year was our Jeep event out at Prairie Creek. We were going to do it inside the parks, but somebody on the Board suggested Prairie Creek would be a great spot for it because we have a larger area. They're expecting for that to grow this year, so they're wanting to move instead of the parking lot over at the beach, they're wanting to move to the airplane park area because it's larger. They want to do that event. Again, this year I'm really excited about that. They will have food vendors. They'll have craft vendors. They will follow health guidelines for this event. They're asking for trash cans. Last year they raised money for animal shelter. This year they want to do it for Delaware County Veterans. That raises money for whatever veterans in Delaware County may need. They're going to provide items for veterans, like shoes and clothing. They're going to find some resources for them. If there's veterans who have like house issues, this is also a resource to help fix roofs, items like that, just whatever the need in the community is. They are expecting at least 150 people. Security will be run by Brian. Brian has worked security for Prairie Creek in the past. Two years ago, he was our full-time security guard. And they will have officers there as well.

James stated he went to this event last year, this was a great event, very laid-back. Just a lot of happy people here. Brian stated he was there last year. We had no issues last year whatsoever. It was nice. I mean, you've got cars, and you had a great time. We actually had Friends of Prairie Creek come out. It was a great time, you know, we're bringing that into our events. This year, we're actually tying in with golf carts with them to help tying the campgrounds over and it's with Delaware Veterans. When we meet with them they stated there are a hundred vets here in Delaware County who are homeless. So, we want to really target that and help them out. I'm sure you guys look around Muncie and you can kind of see it today. So that really is a passion to me right now. I really want to help the homeless out. So that's where we're going to have a collection to help. You can bring out blankets and stuff like that and put out there so it helps to get a good start. Coats, socks, and they said boots are the biggest thing they need. So, people can drop that stuff off to help them so you can get them going for next year.

Brad stated he only heard positive feedback from last year and it sounds like it was a pretty good turnout. Hopefully that can continue to grow as well.

Shannon asked is there insurance and Brian replied yes. We're actually partnering with Prairie Creek and the city. Tawny added they do have a special request. Last year we allowed some of the larger vehicles in the area for the day. It made quite a bit of money to work on those trails that we hadn't seen in the past. We would like to shut down the ATV trails that day so it's not a danger to the public. It would be just that day to the group. Usually we stick to smaller vehicles. We don't want there to be jeeps, dirt bikes, a lot of people on there. So, if that's something we're going to do this year, we want that closed down for the day. We don't want to have other vehicles on it. Shannon asked is it the east side of the park and Tawny replied it's the south side. The entrance is just one way and then you get in there's a staging area. It's pretty large. So, it'd just be that ATV trail and it doesn't go to any of the other trails.

Brad inquired if that would still require the off-road permit and the same permanent or is that part of the event. Tawny stated Brian actually will take some daily off-roads with them and they'll sell them and then they he brought the funds back last year. I just don't want that open if we're going to do that and essentially have designated large vehicle days. Last year it stayed open and I wasn't concerned because nobody else would come that day. We are growing in that area we have a group that's wanting to start out there we saw a lot more traffic last year. So, if we continue to grow, it's always a possibility we'll have smaller vehicles out there. And I just don't want that to happen. Brad stated he's not familiar enough with the trails out there, and inquired if most of them accommodate or work pretty well for the larger vehicles. Brian stated he thinks he remembers they sold like 45 passes last year. So, a lot of them really enjoyed it. I don't think anybody ever got stuck out there or they didn't tear up anything or anything like that. So, it just gives them, no one wants to travel two hours away when it's something really in your backyard. So, I don't know that's something you guys can look at, you know, but you know, you can get a lot more in a fidget. And one thing is, we're getting a lot of feedback. People like coming out there, they really like the scenery out there. That was the biggest thing we got for our feedback from our event last year is people really like being out there. They love the scenery. They love looking across the water and stuff like that. So great feedback from the community

Brad stated he thinks we've essentially got two items there. First, we need to make a decision about the event itself. We then need to make a decision about restricting or changing access for the day for the off-road trails. So first, let's address the event.

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

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

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

And then for the multi or the off-road use trails, we're looking at modifying the usage for that day to be what we'd call large vehicles only during that time period. Brad asked do we have any other concerns or restrictions there that we need to look at and there were none.

Is that something that you would see that could be something that we could grow and do even outside of this specific event if we look for a semi regular schedule, would there be interest and need out there? Oh yeah. Okay. So maybe that's something we can look at how we structure that if it's once a month or every other month so we have some kind of structure there. I think this is another opportunity to utilize the facilities out there. Off-road use trail revision for June 7th associated with the Jeep roundup to allow large vehicles on the off-road trails.

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

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

Harris Chapel Church of the Nazarene, this is their Easter egg hunt. They do it every year. I'm not really sure how long but I know it's been going on for a while. They're asking for the beach area. This is going to be on April 16th. That's a Wednesday I believe. They'll put up tape around 12 p.m. and the Easter egg hunt will be from 6 to 8 p.m. They'll use the whole park area around the beach. They will have 300 to 400 people. The security is Jeremy Dye. He was our police officer two years ago, and I believe he was an Albany police officer. It's a private event, but they'll provide water, hot dogs and chips.

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

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

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

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

10. FRIENDS OF PRAIRIE CREEK –Jackie Sciscoe

Brad stated he knows we talked a little bit about the Easter Egg Hunt last month, and didn't know if they had anything else to add. Jackie replied they just started talking tonight, so they don't have anything at this time.

11. OLD BUSINESS –

Brad announced we've got a representative from Flatland here today, Mr. David Heilman. Mr. Heilman addressed the Board and stated he has two updates listed here on the agenda but he has a couple others for the Board so he'll try to be relatively brief.

First one is Tillpond Park which as a reminder was a Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant that the city received for that 50/50 match \$500,000 grant from federal down through the state matched with \$431,000 of the mayor's money and then some in-kind work which we're currently estimated about \$140,000. So, we just got under contract last week but we've been working on clearing the underbrush and the invasive species out of the park for one just to clear it up and two for the proposed trails. There's about a half mile worth of trails that will kind of wind around the current pond and back to the woods. We've been doing a tree clearing as well. And all that has to be done before April 1, which is the bad habitat restriction deadline. Once that's done, then we'll really get into the majority of the construction, the trails, the parking lot, the shelters this summer through next spring. So, I'm working through 30 percent design now, and hopefully here this summer you'll see a lot more progress out there. Brad stated he knows that's a pretty extensive project and inquired do we have an estimated completion timeline yet. David replied they're thinking to open next spring if all goes well. Brad confirmed that would be spring of '26 and David confirmed and added that could change. I'll be coming back regularly for updates and provide you guys with some updated plans for the project as we kind of figure out those finer details. Shannon asked which construction company got that bid and David replied it will be Flatland Resources, and it's a design-build project. We will be using some subcontractors for paving and specialty things that we don't have the capacity to do. Brad asked are there any major bottlenecks or issues that would create a major deadline change at this point and David replied, not at this point, but something always seems to pop up.

Brad asked if there are any other questions regarding the pond, and there were none.

The second one is the Prairie Creek Trails Phase 3 project. This was an Indiana Trails program grant that the city received in 2023, I believe. And that is again for the third phase of the multi-use trails out at Prairie Creek Reservoir. It'll link up with Phase 2, which kind of dead ends on the southeast side of the reservoir and will wind up to the beach house. So, we'll essentially connect the beach house with the City of Muncie through the trails and via the Cardinal Greenway, which is pretty cool and one of the milestones in the 2007 Prairie Creek Master Plan. So, we've been slowly plugging away at this. It's pretty cool. We have done a little bit of survey work out there. So again, Flatland Resources was selected as the design build consultant/contractor. We built the first two phases back in 2013 and 2015. So, we're very familiar with these projects in the DNR program that helped fund this. We are writing a Ball Brothers Foundation grant to

kind of cover most of the match required to pay for the you know to pay for the projects. I had a meeting with Carl and Kellie last week to kind of go over project specifics since both of them are kind of you know new to the Prairie Creek scene and we will be utilizing some borrow from onsite there at Prairie Creek just south of the boat launch. There's a large kind of grass field in south of the maintenance facilities to help build out the project and save some money. Otherwise, we're hauling that material in from borrow sites somewhere outside of town and spending an extra \$45,000. So that's a significant savings to the to the project. We're working through that. There's some logistics that we have to work through with Tawny and the Muncie Sail Club in terms of how that trail routes through their property or along their property. Currently we are proposing that the trail route along the county road as close as possible while maintaining a safe distance per the standard design guidelines for trails but that one that one's moving along fairly quickly as well with design and in our current schedules to build that this late fall into early winter if we don't again hit any hiccups that should be done by the end of the year. Brad asked if we're looking at spring 26 to open as well on that and David replied, yes, that's correct and that one will be the same material as the other two phases. It's like a compacted stone, fine stone that's ADA compliant and accessible. Brad stated he assumes they've been working and interfacing with the property owner, Indiana Water as well, and they're aware and engaged with the product. David replied, that's correct. Yeah, but they greenlit it, of which paperwork for that, or their green light, was included in the grant application. So, we were working with them.

Brad asked if there were any questions on the Prairie Creek phase three of the trail and there were none.

Moving on to Tuhey Park. David stated Shannon has been working with them on some master planning there. The master planning for Tuhey Park or A Dream for Tuhey Park was born out of some trails. Ball State received some money to build a trail connection from Ball State to downtown. There was the plan for the Muncie Arts and Culture Trail along University which was not able to come to fruition. So that the little bit of local match, plus the Ball State money, was put towards determining what could a trail route look like? And through that process last year, Tuhey Park was kind of the nexus or the terminus of that trail, which kind of raised the question of what do you do with Tuhey? How does the trail get through Tuhey? And then it was determined that maybe there should be some conceptual plans put together to understand how the circulation patterns of vehicles, pedestrians and trails could better fit within the Tuhey Park space. A steering committee was formed with neighborhood representatives Riverside Normal, Ball State representatives, Parks representatives, Shannon, Carl and George were involved in some of those meetings. The city had some other representatives in the Mayor, Community

Development, Gretchen Cheeseman, and then the YMCA because they helped run and maintain the Tuhey Pool, that was Gretchen Fields, representative of the YMCA. Through that we put through some bubbles on paper and came up with some programming ideas and ways to improve circulation through the park. We obviously don't have a final solution right now but just wanted to provide an update as people are thinking about the park. They understand its importance for the community and for the neighborhood and other ways to create programming there to create spaces to really elevate the park, its presence within the community and to create more safe places for people to play, to recreate within the city. The next steps for that are seeing if there may be some private funding available to pay for more detailed designs and cost estimating to figure out what's next. We don't have an idea where that money could come from or what this looks like long term. But I just want to provide you guys with an update on what's going on there.

Brad asked if there were any questions regarding Tuhey or if Shannon had anything else to add on that and she did not. Shannon inquired if David had any updates from the Ball State side and he replied he did not. He added they are a key play in this because they've committed some money towards a trail. But they want to see what happens at Tuhey and see a vision of what a trail could be, what it would look like, or where it would go before they proceed with their trail.

Lastly, the MLK Walk of Fame improvements in Heekin Park. As you guys may remember, the Ziegler Foundation awarded a grant to the MLK Dream Team to make improvements to the Walk of fame. Those improvements have ended up being a gathering space out at Heekin Park. I'm sorry I don't have any pictures for you but it turned out really well. You could fit a classroom size worth of students or people in that space and it sits right on the trail. There's some money for some benches as well. The Ziegler Foundation in their talks with the Dream Team had requested some sort of entrance sign along Memorial Avenue, 12th Street, similar to the other park signs that you'd see. The budget of the original grant that was given to the Dream Team will not cover the cost of the sign. I got a quote from ACE signs and there are two levels of sign. You have your basic sign and you have your ornamental, which has the fancy golden balls and a few more ornate details on it. The basic sign was about \$8,500 and the fancy one was \$10,500. I talked to Carl to see if it was possible that the Parks Department help pay for all or a portion of the that sign and he asked me to come and speak to you guys about that. I'm not sure what the processes are here but we were I guess looking for a partnership to get the vision completed, and if you guys are able to help out with the sign that would help the Dream Team replace two broken plaques and install a new plaque along the Walk of Fame, too. So hopefully, if it works out, great. If not, we could probably find other funding sources, but I thought I'd start the conversation here with you guys.

Shannon asked to confirm the total is either \$8,500 or \$10,500 for the fancy and David confirmed that's correct. Brad addressed Carl stating he doesn't know that he's close enough to the budget at least this time to understand how that fits in. He knows we've got some line items for signage and some improvements. He knows we're pretty early in the year and stated he knows some or maybe nearly all that work is complete out there and asked if David had a status. David stated the concrete work's all complete. We just have to install the two benches that they're requesting. Brad stated we need to probably look at the budget, how that fits in, and then see if that's something that we can accommodate this year. James added he'd like to see something formally presented if we're going to vote on that kind of money and Brad stated he would agree. David asked if that would be a quote and Brad replied that plus a rendering of what it's going to look like, sign sizing and just the general location where this thing go.

Shannon stated her concern is that there are existing park signs that need to be replaced first, like Riverview, for example, and there's several of them. I don't know if it's sun damage or whether damage or what happened to them, but there's some that are in bad shape that just say the name of the park. Brad replied that's something Carl would need to look at as a team and kind of see where we're at on that line item. Certainly, continue to look for somebody who wants to make a donation and help support that. That'd be a great way to look through that. We're not ready to make that commitment today at all.

David said that's all he has for the Board and Brad replied they have a lot on their plate. A lot of these are running in the same time window here especially the Tillpond and Prairie Creek. Brad inquired how are you guys prioritizing work or what is your driving initiative on those, specifically Tillpond and Prairie Creek trails? David replied Tillpond will occur, at least the work that Flatland is doing, the construction work will occur late spring, early summer. We can do excavation, we can lay stone. Again, we can't pave, we can't do concrete work. So, by getting what we call the preparation work done, that allows those specialty subs to come in on our heels and do the finishing touches. And then that frees us up to head over to Prairie Creek to install those trails. So, right now everything schedule-wise is kind of dovetailing nicely with itself. James asked if they are all complete with their work at Riverview, and David replied yes, they don't have any more responsibilities over there. They were just doing design and oversight for some of those improvements.

Brad stated that kind of covered the first two items on our old business. The next old business item, we've got is the Prairie Creek docks additions and the updates there. He wasn't sure if he was going to need Tawny or Carl on this. He thinks everybody's aware that we had originally scheduled some easy dock additions for this year. The funding and timeline didn't work out to get any added to Prairie Creek this year. So, all of those that were wood last year will be would again this year. That's what Tawny kind of alluded to that that all leases went out.

The other update that we got this week that I shared, I think with most of the board is there has been a request from Indiana Water to not renew any of what I would call property adjacent docks that had been previously individual land owners that were adjacent to the reservoir. There were some individual docks. So, the request has been not to renew those. I know previous staff out there, Tawny and I as well, had some conversations, but I want to talk through this with the board to see how we wanted to handle that. Some of those dock holders have been in good standing, and have had these docks for a long period of time. I think the appropriate way to handle that would be to offer docks to them that are open before they go to the lottery. So, if they're in good standing and they're interested in retaining a dock they would fill in any non-renewal positions essentially not adding docks to our inventory but presenting them an option before it goes to the general public lottery. Shannon asked how many are we talking about and Brad replied he thinks there's 14 and Tawny clarified there are 11. Brad added that traditionally, we've had that many available, so he doesn't see that being an issue. And he also anticipates that there may be a few that might not be interested being that it's not adjacent to their property.

Brad asked Tawny if based on what she's seen are those now available. And Tawny replied yes as she's had at least four people already contact her about not renewing and usually the majority of them come available when people just don't do their leases. They don't usually take the time to call us.

Brad stated he doesn't know all of the history there or how those got established in the first place. There are a couple concerns that both we have had as a Parks Department and the water company has had. The adjacent property owners in order to access that dock have to go through Indiana Water property and that has created some issues. Certainly not all of the property owners are offenders, but there's been some clearing, tree cutting, some encroachment into the Indiana Water property that is above and beyond what they see as necessary. It also creates a pretty large burden for our staff to install those docks and maintain them because they're off-site. It creates an issue of access for our staff to manage and maintain those as well. So that's probably two of the main concerns that they've had with those and it is probably outside of the way the lease was structured and how they intended those to be used.

So, with that, Indiana Water is working on a formal letter that'll be sent to those individuals and I think the direction is that Tawny will follow that up or send in conjunction a letter stating how we're going to handle this, what this is, and what we're going to offer unless the board has any objection or a different direction we'd like to go.

Brad asked if there were any other questions on the easy docks or if Carl had anything to add there. Carl replied he had nothing to add just that there was some conversation with the financing and the committee that had had put together the financing to present to

the Mayor and the other funders to be, I think when there was a bank involved, but in talking with the Mayor and Brad, the decision was that the Board hadn't had enough time to look at the actual plan, the processing, and feel good about the financing that it was going to take. And so that project, as far as the new easy docks has been put on hold until further notice until we can get ourselves in a better place. So, we would be putting back in the wooden docks that we've had in the past. So that's where we are at with that.

James asked if all the current floating docks are paid for now, and Carl replied yes, they are. That was handled through the Mayor's office a couple of weeks ago. There was some conversation with Tawny and the mayor's office to make sure that billing was taking place. We did have some outstanding invoices a couple weeks ago and since then it has been paid. Shannon thanked Carl for the update.

Brad asked if there was any other easy dock conversation from the board and Shannon asked will there be two adapted ADA docks or is there one ADA dock this year. Tawny replied there will be three, one old one and two new ones, about ten spots. Shannon stated that was great as there's enough for people and inquired should they let you know beforehand that they want one or is that after. Tawny said she has a waitlist and will reach out to them first. Brad questioned if they're requiring the renewal of the ADA application annual proof of need and then there's a wait list for additional ADA spots and Tawny confirmed that's correct. She stated she has a couple people on the waiting list and thinks she's going to be able to fill those this year, but if there are people who have a need for that just come to the office or call Carly or myself and we'll get you the paperwork for that and we'll try and get you one.

12. NEW BUSINESS –

Brad stated there were a couple of items on the new business. Working through Conflict of Interest Training, and asked if Carl had information on that. Carl replied in reference to the Conflict of Interest, Patty called me this evening and said she needed to reschedule her timeframe after talking with Audrey about some information that she felt like needed to be clearer and she would reschedule her time when she gets all that information together to come back and have the Board involvement. I think she's been going out throughout the city doing work with some of the other Boards as well. Brad added some of this is coming out of the new ethics committee and Carl add he thinks that's why she wanted to have Patty trained a little bit more or informed on what that looks like from the conversation I had with her.

Carl stated the YMCA contract information is before you. I just wanted to make sure everybody had some information before them but I'm not asking for any kind of discussion tonight. Once you guys have some conversation, I think Jason was going to talk to Brad and see if we can get everybody on a Zoom call. And then anybody that has any concerns or questions at that point in time, we can talk about it and try to work

through it. Brad stated he sees we've kind of got a general summary of a point list and inquired have they provided an actual contract or an update yet or are they still working through that? Carl replied we are still working through it. We just wanted to kind of talk about that before we put that in and put that before you guys before we have it signed.

Brad said he will kind of highlight some of the details on here. They're saying the facility usage is primarily the same as what we had last year. They've got a slight increase in the total lifeguard cost which is the head lifeguard and the general lifeguards for an increase of \$972. Then they've got an increase in the front desk, concessions and management staff line so they do have a reduction in front desk and concessions and an addition of a seasonal full-time pool manager for total staff cost increase of \$5,645, which results in a total overall operating increase of \$6,617.

Shannon asked if this is how much was spent in 2024? Carl replied he doesn't have it in front of him right now. Shannon stated they have overall that \$110,727. She asked is that how much was actually spent, and Carl replied that's correct. Shannon asked if they're only saying that there's going to be a \$617 difference when we were closed for over a month, and Carl replied yep, so that's why we wanted to have you review it. Shannon added that doesn't make sense and Carl replied that's why I'm providing you guys with that so you can talk and have a discussion and then follow back up with Jason. Shannon asked if the Board could have a copy of this year's budget and Carl replied yes. Shannon added she's pretty sure those line items didn't change and Carl replied they did not. That \$60,000 is still there. I looked at the 2022 income statement, and that lifeguard line item is still the same. So that tells me that 2021, and probably on beyond, has been the same as well. Shannon stated in 2022, we increased the hourly wage and we were open for something like 91 days. So, yeah, it was more than the \$60,000 definitely. Brad stated he thinks they just need to look at that a little closer and keep that on the agenda and hopefully get that tightened up for the next meeting.

Next is the Security Pros Surveillance Systems proposal, and I have an individual here who wants to speak. We don't need to talk about the NFL flag football, because we've already talked about that. So, at this time, I'll have him come up and just give an overview on what kind of proposal we're looking at to put before you.

Sam Sochocki with the company Security Pros introduced himself and the company to the Board. Our local office is in Westfield, indeed. Main office is in Sellersburg, southern Indiana. We primarily help cities, parks, and police departments with their surveillance and access control for doors. Here in Muncie we already do the Horizon Convention Center and the Youth Opportunity Center kind of on the far west side. After visiting the Convention Center a few weeks ago I stopped in to say hi to Carl and do a good introduction, quick meeting to see what was going on with you guys. He ran by a couple different parks you wanted to prioritize with me. One of the things we specialize in

ironically bathrooms and doing access control automation on those. We've got one proposal for Cooley Park that we're getting ready. Carl let me know it's currently permanently closed from vandalism. I think it was open 24/7 overnight and they believe neighborhood teenagers destroyed the plumbing in the new facility, brand new bathroom. I've got a proposal I'm working on with that one to get access control on both doors effectively getting it automated to open and close. Most parks do seven or eight p.m. at sundown so they'll automate the closing and then automate the opening at 9 a.m. or 8:30, depending on what time it opens. The one we're working on there, since there is no internet, it will require basically a buffed up upgraded hot spot that your phone company may need to get implemented for us. So once there's internet, that's kind of one little thing we have to dial in. Otherwise, I've got that proposal ready for you guys at the moment basically automating the schedule on both doors for those. It'll give you full remote access to the doors, opening and closing them, effectively removing the need for maintenance to ever venture out there to open and close them with keys.

I believe that's kind of how a lot of parks do it until they upgrade. It can be a huge headache for like rental pavilions as well. Some parks I work with call them shelters, some pavilions. That can be a huge help both with habitation on those two. So, in the future, that may be a quick, easy one we can talk about. Another one was at the Heekin Park Basketball Court. Carl kind of wanted to prioritize that one first over Cooley Park, depending on the funding, say if the neighborhood wants to help out there. At Heekin, he was mostly discussing personal violence and I believe gun crime there.

Coincidentally, I'm not sure how long it's been down, but they basically cut the internet access to the cameras that Heekin Park and that's one thing that we'll be able to work with the internet provider on trying to get a more permanent system. It's kind of like Thomas Park I believe, although they cut the internet, not the power there. Basically, trying to isolate the internet into that building safely so that there's no way for them to intersect or tamper with the cameras or the power or internet into that building now and just redo the same thing. Another issue we found was the cameras are currently no more than six or seven feet off the ground. We recommend upgrading the two cameras a little bit, maybe to 16 or 17 feet. I've got a few photos if they're needed. Trying to get those cameras up out of the way because there's no telling what you can do just by spray paint just trying to jump right up onto those cameras when they're within reach. I've got a small map on the proposal that shows the coverage on both cameras kind of prioritizing the parking lot. I don't know if that's west of the actual shelter the cameras are on now. Basically, getting an ideal view of any cars and like culprits. We know it's tough if people are walking towards the park, but if they are using cars to park there, you may even get a good shot of actual license plates too. The main issue there is just trying to get the internet fixed before we can do so. I've got both of those proposals on paper ready for you guys. One thing we were working with on Heekin Park that I was disappointed I couldn't get an update on was getting it connected to the 911 dispatch center. Effectively,

if people in the neighborhood call reporting any incidents at the actual basketball court, it'll directly connect it to dispatch immediately and give them a kind of hands-on, instantaneous view of the court, effectively connecting the whole thing, even without that feature to the one dispatch and police department. So, a whole lot of words to say, we just have two small projects getting planned. If you guys would like me to hand the proposal to you today, I can or I can email it to Carl, whatever is easiest for you guys. Brad replied, probably sending that to Carl and Nikki and they can distribute to the board. I know in some of our previous attempts at security, lighting has always come up as an issue. He inquired if they help interface with that or make recommendations or is that included in your scope? Sam replied, a few of the cameras we recommend. We joke with surveillance we like to do overkill. A few of our cameras are like infrared IR by default. That doesn't give you a perfect military thermal view but it helps a lot. Hypothetically if there are lights that get upgraded and Carl would like to turn those off at 10 or 10:30 at night to keep the crowds away midnight onward. You'll still get a very good view of anybody descriptions, vehicle descriptions that may still be there after those lights go out. But you're exactly right, even with the lights on, pretty much perfect clarity around both basketball courts.

Shannon asked do you think considering the break in at Tuhey Pool that we should get a quote for that pool? Carl replied we thought we'd go there. I know we had some concerns. So, once we got the conversation going, then that was going to be the next. Sam added he stopped by there after one of my meetings with Carl and noticed there's almost no cameras now after they had a break in there. That's an instance where even three to four cameras may be like expensive for the budget. A lot of our park customers prefer to do things in small portions at a time. Say whatever your biggest priority is, but truly is one that we could achieve almost perfect protection of that main area. He inquired was it the concession stand they broke into and Shannon replied it was also the office. Sam stated that's one you could achieve almost perfect protection on with just two or three cameras. One that we like is a single dome with two cameras in it. One of those could get you coverage of that main walkway and maybe one facing that main street where people park so you can usually get a lot of coverage with two or three cameras at most. Brad stated he thinks when Sam provides the quotes there, another good resource to visit if you've got some local parks and some areas that we can contact and reach out to understand how the coverage and the relationships have been and what the results have been. Sam replied one of our biggest, probably our favorite project has been in Kokomo. Kokomo is one where we've done over the last seven to eight years, not the entire city, but every park. Their Industrial Heritage Trail was one that the Mayor really prioritized tackling back then for not a similar reason, but people were basically afraid to use that trail before there was any surveillance on it and it's now like bustling and bright. Sam inquired would the Board prefer direct referral or just kind of a case

study and Brad replied either way, whatever you've got that you could provide we'll also do some research.

Sam asked if there were any other items he missed and Shannon asked do they have sensor lights. Sam inquired if she meant motion sensors? Shannon stated that's another problem at Tuhey Pool. People jump over that fence and swim at night, and there's no lighting. Sam replied that's one of our favorites. I say that because there's five or six different ways you can solve those issues. The simplest way effectively connects one of the camera lenses to a call center. And we've got a few videos of it working. Say people come in at 10:30, there having a picnic at a pavilion they shouldn't be at just because it's past closing. Someone from the call center will directly call them out. It's not just an automated recording. Since it's someone at a theoretical call center, they'll say you three in the XYZ clothing, the park is closed. If you do not vacate right now, we will alert the authorities and that's worked. Typically, one of those at your average park depending on if you've got the pool, you probably do again one camera and that would cover any motion immediately. Sam asked did you say there's no lights there now too, and Shannon replied not at night. Sam replied most of the infrared cameras we have detect enough motion to give you an accurate description. It may not show you a person's face perfectly, but by all means, it'll notify, it's effectively called Virtual Guard, kind of a silly word for it. It gives an accurate description of those even in low or no light, for sure. Chandra stated she can see why that's your favorite. Sam added it comes up a lot because staffing is one of the biggest issues and nobody wants to pay someone to drive around every park 24 hours, especially in the winter. Granted, the pool may be closed, winterized. It solves that staffing issue almost immediately, especially after hours.

Brad said he appreciated Sam and looks forward to seeing a proposal.

13. ACTION ITEMS

Brad asked if there were any action items or event approvals and there were none.

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

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

There were no names on the Public Input signup sheet.

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

Meeting was adjourned by Brad Marshall, President.

*** Next Park Board meeting is currently scheduled for March 18, 2025 at 6 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium.**