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Superintendent: Carl Malone

**Muncie Park & Recreation Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, July 19, 2022**  
**City Hall Auditorium**

- (1) Call to Order
- (2) Pledge of Allegiance
- (3) Roll Call
- (4) Approval of the minutes from (June 2022 Park Board Meeting)
- (5) Check Presentation from Muncie NAACP Branch
- (6) Superintendent Report – Carl Malone, Superintendent
- (7) Prairie Creek Report – Dustin Clark & Ashley Wright
- (8) Parks Programming – George Foley Jr
- (9) Dog Swim Day (Tuhey Pool) Shannon Powers
- (10) Old Business – Security Camera Updates

Skate Park

- (11) New Business – Lafferty Field Baseball Update – Richard Ivy
- (12) Action Items
- (13) Public Input – (3) minutes limit – Please state your name and address

- Remember to please call the Park Office or the Park Board President (Brad Marshall) if you have an item that needs to be placed on the agenda.

**\* Next Park Board Meeting – Tuesday, August 16, 2022 (6:00 p.m.) - City Hall Auditorium**



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[cityofmuncie.com/parks-department-muncie.htm](http://cityofmuncie.com/parks-department-muncie.htm)  
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## Superintendent Report

Tuesday, July 19, 2022

Muncie Parks and Recreation has been busy with mowing, pruning and weed-eating in our parks. Parks staff have been troubleshooting and making repairs in all our parks. Some of the repairs has consisted of plumbing repairs, replacing doors and windows in our Cabins and installing cameras.

- Tuhey Pool security cameras have been installed
- Morningside Park is waiting for a protective case for the Wi-Fi box.
- Cooley Park is waiting for Xfinity to install a Transmitter Box that has to be 250 feet or less to the area where the Wi-Fi will be installed. The current Transmitter Box is over 500 feet away.
- Heekin Park camera's will be installed on Friday of this week.

### **Park Projects 2022**

- Riverview Splash Park and park renovations: Projected start date will be end of July 2022. Completion Date: 2023
- McCulloch Park baseball diamond – Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation Field is completed.
- Muncie Skate Park (Westside Park) Start Date: (May 2022) - Pending Fundraiser Goal - \$80,000 – Completion Date: Fall 2023
- Tuhey Pool Repairs are pending on Bond Approval (2022)
- Halteman Park pending Bond Approval for Pickleball Court (Late September 2022 to start framing of court. Completion of court Projected date: (Spring 2023)

If the Board would have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the ParkOffice (765) 747-4858 or cell (765) 749-8490.

Carl Malone  
Superintendent  
Muncie Parks and Recreation

# Muncie Park & Recreation Board Meeting

July 19, 2022 6 p.m.

City Hall Auditorium

- 1. CALL TO ORDER-** Shannon Powers called meeting to order at 6:00p.m.
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – All stood for the Pledge
- 3. ROLL CALL-** Present were Shannon Powers, Mark Ervin, and Chandra Parks. Brad Marshall was present via Zoom. James Lutton was absent.
- 4. APPROVAL OF June 21<sup>st</sup> BOARD MINUTES-** Vote was taken by all Board members present. Motion carries. Motion approved by all members present.
- 5. NAACP PRESENTATION – Joseph Anderson, et al** – The Muncie NAACP Branch Executive Board was in attendance to present the Parks Board with a check in the amount of \$1,500 for the Parks Foundation. Joseph stated this was an idea that started four or five years ago from a conversation with George Foley. This year we got a lot of participation from outside individuals so the dream actually became a reality. It was a good event. It's something we hope to continue here in the future. The check represents a portion of the proceeds from the Mental Health Walk/Run.

A picture was taken of the NAACP Executive Board and Parks Board members holding the cardboard check and the physical check was given to the Parks Board secretary to deposit into the Park Foundation.

George Foley thanked the NAACP for supporting Muncie Parks in several ventures they have done. This is a great start for our Foundation. We know we have a lot of work to do in our Parks with our basketball courts and baseball fields. This is close to matching what the Mayor said he would match if we reach that goal. The next event we have coming up that will go towards the Park Foundation is a golf outing on Friday, August 5, 2022. We're partnering with The O'Connor Family and some other Baseball organizations to put together that event. We're getting a lot of teams signed up so he invited the Board to the event and those proceeds will go to the Foundation.

Shannon stated she thinks it's so vital that community members are recognizing the relationship between mental health and physical activity and how physical activity at the community level by providing opportunities for people can change their mental health. She knows something the Board has talked about is providing more recreation opportunities year round so this is great. She thinks this is great for Muncie.

## **6. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Carl Malone, Superintendent**

First, he wanted to commend the local chapter of the NAACP for participating with Parks & Recreation. The main hub was setup at McCulloch Park and that's where the groups assembled. He was able to follow the group in his City truck throughout the park and the city on the route. Just to see everyone that came out and participated for such a great cause. And also, that it promotes health, wellness and fitness. He's sure in the coming years it will continue to grow even bigger to what they had this year. We had good numbers, a good turnout. And these relationships and partnerships are so important and we've talked about it a little in the Five Year Plan about creating partnerships to help us reach our goals. We look to continue to reach out to the community to bring other partners in to help us bring our parks into better standing so we can promote wellness and fitness.

On the way in he heard on the radio that Muncie is the #3 retirement spot for senior citizens based on cost of living, housing, real estate, and quality of life. That was good to hear. Shannon inquired if that was in the state and he replied he believed it was in the nation. He stated he was a little shocked but it was nice to hear. People are coming and the things they want are parks, schools and roads. He knows they have a long way to go as far as parks. It's a lot of work and we only have so much money to do so many things. When people come that is one of the first things they do talk about is the status of the city parks. He talks to the staff all the time about the importance of who we are and what we do every day. We get calls all the time about the positive and negative parts of the parks.

This is a link to the report from Woof Boom Radio:

<https://www.woofboomnews.com/2022/07/muncie-ranks-high-on-best-places-to-retire-in-america-list/>

This is a link to the report in the Muncie Journal:

<http://www.munciejournal.com/2022/07/muncie-ranked-number-3-in-top-15-best-places-to-retire-in-america-says-census-data-report/>

The past four or five weeks we've been moving from one location to the other as we had some setbacks. We finally got our alarm system and the phones in place. People have been trying to contact Nikki and she's done the best she could with trying to reach out and to make contact with people in order to take care of business as it relates to rentals. Our park staff was kind of short this year. We started out with some seasonal workers and then we were down to zero and we had to rely solely on part-time and full-time staff to keep the mowing up to par along with some weedeating and pruning of all of our parks which includes Tillpond. We started working on that this week. Staff has been pretty busy out in the parks and trying to make sure that we do as good of a job as we can. Even with that there is still a lot of work to do.

A lot of our work has been focused on McCulloch Park and getting it ready for Cal Ripken Presentation Day, with beautification in and around McCulloch. There is still some work to do. The diamond is complete. We just need to do a bit of cosmetic work around McCulloch and we should be good. The goal is for him to be here August 15, 2022, so we are pushing to have it looking good by that time.

Tuhey Pool, the cameras have been installed. That's a plus to George and Shannon when talking about the safety of Tuhey's. We've had a lot of challenges this year in terms of crowd control and individuals having to be escorted away from the building due to outbursts and behavior. Hopefully the cameras will be able to help us with crowd control and identifying individuals who need to be escorted out.

Morningside Park had a little setback. We have part of the camera system in place and we are looking to get the second piece which will be like a security box that would go over the monitor/camera that would protect it from the weather. We are real close to have the security system in place there. They were one of the first ones to ask for security cameras so we are trying to do all we can to get them situated.

Cooley Park has also had a setback. They went out and took a look. We thought we were ready for the install but we were told there was a transmitter box and a pole that has to be installed due to the location of the building and so many feet need to be in place for the system to work. We are waiting to hear back on when that will take place.

After the Neighborhood Association meeting a few weeks I attended they agreed to secure the restroom doors due to some vandalism that was taking place. We have had some neighborhood people step up to help police and even make some repairs and we are thankful to those individuals. We are hoping that with the cameras it will diffuse some of the activity that is taking place. That was the first park we invested a lot of time and money in and the hope was as you weed in positive things, you would weed out

negative things. We still have some work to do in that area in terms of the vandalism that's taking place. It's a work in progress.

Heekin Park we should have those cameras installed the latter part of the week. I've been in contact with the Neighborhood Association and they were in support of the cameras being put in place by the basketball court. From time to time there are police calls at that park as well for safety reasons. I believe this tool will also help if we have a situation, to identify those individuals by way of the cameras so we are looking forward to having those installed as well.

### **Park projects for 2022 –**

We finally got the permit from the state for the Riverview project to get started. We were scheduled to start in March but with the delays from the state it's July and we just got word that the permits are good to go and have been lifted. That project should start for the third water park sometime this month or early August which might push us into 2023 as far as completion time. That was actually a 2022 project. My concern for that is Thomas Park was due to be 2023 and so now we're looking at those two and the skate park. No timeline yet but 2023 may also be the window. So now we have three projects all scheduled in 2023 so we have to see how that is going to play out.

Shannon asked what was determined to be in Riverview Park, is it a splash pad. Carl stated the neighborhood group was still looking at the scope of the work. The one he recently looked at had a splash pad, two playgrounds, renovated basketball courts, pickleball court and renovated restrooms. Right now they don't have any restrooms or changing rooms. All the other parks have had a building to convert for changing room/rest room to include Cooley and Halteman and Thomas has a restroom that has been shut down for many years. If the neighborhood wants it that can be renovated and that can provide that opportunity.

**Skate Park at Westside** – they met last week with the committee and they are working on meeting the rest of the fundraising goals and are getting pretty close. Adam has worked with the Hunger Skate Park people to get the blueprints and some other work that we need to have before we move forward with that project but they are getting close to reaching the dollar amount. The City's money was already put in place and the committee had to go out and get the balance of the funds. But it will be at Westside Park and they are hoping to get it done soon. At that point in time we will look at a timeline of it that is definitely going to be 2023 or 2024.

**Tuhey Pool** - we have had some repairs that have been ongoing throughout our opening this year. A few challenges with the pumps and valves and we will continue to

look at that after the season closes Labor Day weekend. We've talked to the City, Deputy Mayor, YMCA, the Pool Manager and we think it will be positive to get in a room shortly after the season ends and talk about the pros and cons, highs and lows and discuss how to go forward with making the needed repairs. Pools are very costly to run so we need to make sure we have the allocated monies in place to do that.

**Halteman** - we just finished sealing and coating the parking lot and it looks pretty good. We have some data on the pickleball court. They plan to start late summer/early fall with some construction work and be completed sometime early next spring provided the funds are allocated for it. That's part of the last piece of their park renovation. They are pretty happy with what's currently out there. The walking trail is going great. The splash pad serves the need. The shelter is being used. They are discussing what to do with the building. Parks department did the bathhouse part, Newsome's did the restroom part and the neighborhood is going to complete the rest which is unfinished. It is causing some safety concerns as teenagers and people are able to push their way in and hang out.

Shannon inquired if the funding for the pickleball court was coming from the neighborhood association. Carl stated he didn't know if that was true or not. He knows they have had conversations. At one time there was talk about using ARP monies but he's not sure if all the money has been earmarked for the pickleball court. The request is on the table but were the dollar amount is coming from he is not sure.

**Summer Youth Work Program** - Carl was able to take part in the end of the season summer wrap up at Northside Middle School with over 130 young people that were hired by George and his committee. All the partners there were very excited about our kids and their efforts. What we didn't hear was having to expel people from the program due to behavior, not coming to work, not showing up. They just seemed really excited when I was there. I didn't get to visit them on their sites. I made one site visit to downtown YMCA but didn't tell them who I was, I only mentioned I knew about the program and had been hearing good things about their work efforts. I spoke to some of the staff and they said the kids were doing a good job. It was good to see them taking the job serious and doing a good job. We're probably going to have to grow some kind of way. Right now we're capped at about 130 kids and we get phone calls all the time about increasing that number which means we need to increase the budget amount in order to do that. It's such a great partnership with the city and all the surrounding partners that we have. I just want to give a shout out to George, Nikki and his staff for doing a great job. We started the program a few years ago and they've taken it to different levels in a short period of time and you can really see the excitement on the parents faces and the young people's faces as well.

Chandra thanked them for the investment as both of her daughters participated with the hopes of making money to go to church camp, which they did. They were able to go do all the shopping and enjoy themselves at camp which is this week.

Shannon stated it's a nice pipeline to people we want to hire at Tuhey Pool for next year. Recruit them for the lifeguard training program and also to work in concessions. Carl said it also is a pool of youth and parents for when they go to visit colleges and institutions of higher learning. Also for skilled jobs, trades, opportunities to get their journey cards. They all aren't going to go to four year universities but there is a lot of skilled work out there and we hope we can get some of our local kids into those fields. We have that pool to call on to possibly get excited for a professional career that may not call for a four year degree or tuition and maybe going this other route can give them that opportunity. Thank you to City Council for providing those funds, the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and the total community. Just the investment is really worthwhile to have our young people be a part of our program for six weeks.

Carl inquired if anyone had any questions about park. He stated there is still a lot of work to be done. We see it every day, it takes money. We've made a lot of improvements in a short period of time and we have quite a bit more to do.

Shannon inquired the reason the seasonal staffing was an issue. Carl responded that he was off during that time. One went back to his union job which paid him twice the amount but has called since saying he doesn't know if it's worth the drive to meet those demands. The other person worked with us for two years and came back for a few weeks and one sustained an injury. It's work. It's not a picnic in the park. It's demanding and we do ask for them to give us effort. Nikki stated they have gotten some more in and they are pretty awesome. Carl stated George and Nikki did the interviewing and by the time I came back they said this was a good batch to hire. And hopefully they can have the opportunity to become permanent part-time.

## **7. PRAIRIE CREEK REPORT – Ashley Wright**

Asley stated it has been a dry, busy summer. Everything has been going very well, splitting 4<sup>th</sup> of July into two nights, from a staffing standpoint was good for us. It helped calm the crowd and gave days of multiple things to do for people that camped for the weekend. Because unless you boat or swim at the beach there isn't much to do and this was more holiday centered activities. It worked out well, it was something everyone enjoyed. She thinks it worked out well at the beach. Some of the campers were upset it wasn't in the campground but she tried to remind everyone it is a parks event not a campground event and it is something we want everyone to enjoy and everyone to be invited to. The City of Muncie can't fit in the campground as much as we would like it to.



We tried to accommodate the best we could. It was definitely so much better out there. Everyone had room to lay out a blanket, sit and watch the concert and just enjoy themselves. We kept the beach open until dark so people could sit out on the beach and there were a bunch of boats parked out on the water. You could apparently hear the music on the water. It actually turned out really nice so we're already talking about next year. We received some pointers people would like to see for next year. People liked the food trucks from prior years. Hope of Delaware is interested in partnering with us again. We think it is a good partnership and a win-win for everyone. They help me plan everything and the kids of Delaware County benefit from it with the school supplies. They help with the craziness and help me. They will get the bands lined up, we've talked about getting food trucks and something like that instead of just having concessions open. They are early in it but she believes it will be bigger and better next year.

Ashley requested approval for a Labor Day event that they've done several years. It originally started in the campground like the July 4<sup>th</sup> event and will be down at the b. It is put on by Steve Ogle and friends. It is the fifth year for the event. We had a seasonal camper that passed away from a heart attack and this is like a memorial concert for him. They will have security, they have off-duty officers. We don't keep the beach open later for this event. We do keep the bathrooms open, we just don't let anyone swim after our normal hours. We did give them the option if they want to they can pay our guards. If that changes she will notify the Board. They won't have any food vendors and we will probably have the concession stand open so there are things available to the people.

Ashley stated the event is September 4, 2022 from Noon to 10:30 pm. Chandra inquired if that was a Saturday and Ashley stated it is the Sunday of Labor Day weekend. Shannon inquired if Prairie Creek makes any money off of it. Ashley stated they don't outside of concessions but they don't lose anything either. It's something the other campers and people enjoy. Shannon inquired what the event was and Ashley stated it is a concert with multiple bands. Chandra inquired if Ashley had any concerns about the event and she stated she didn't as they've done well in the past. Shannon inquired about the number of expected people and Ashley stated 150 – 200 people. Ashley stated City Councilman Troy Ingram is one of the coordinators with Steve Vogel who is the brother of the gentleman who passed away.

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

Ashley wanted to address some concerns from the weekend. There were some issues with the port-a-pots. We do have a company that we pay to service our port-a-pots. One once the picture was posted online it had already been cleaned. She wishes she knew about it before it got to where it was. We don't know they are that way since we don't

physically clean them out and they will have to check more often. We check our regular restrooms and will have to check the port-a-pots more often to make sure they are getting those like they should be. Secondly, the light at the ADA fishing pier was out. That is something we have reported a couple different times. There are actually two lights up on the hill. The electrical line came off the bait shop, went off to the one in the back and came to the one in the front where the pier is now. The line fell in between the bait shop and first light. When they came to fix it, they just unwired the back light. They got it fixed for a while but now it has gone back out and isn't working at all. We now have two lights out. Unfortunately, those are AEP lights and we are on their schedule. We recently purchased some lights that we are going to put in the wood handrails that go down, some solar lights. So hopefully that will help until they get it fixed.

Shannon inquired who they were waiting for to fix it and Ashley stated they were waiting for AEP as it's an AEP light. She stated they are short handed so they are just waiting for someone to come out.

Ashley invited Victoria Brewer of Camp & Eat Boat-tique and Once Upon a Plate up to discuss her renovation request. So far everything is going great with Dustin & Ashley, the shop and the restaurant. They're super happy to provide convenience items, camping & boating things for the boaters and also the locals have been supportive and the restaurant is going really well. Per the lease they have done a lot of cosmetic things to the building. Ashley and Dustin have approved all of it. We're awaiting one big project that's technically not cosmetic but it is in a way so we wanted to bring it to the Board to see if it was something we could move on. She brought paperwork for all Board Members so they could review. We've painted, we've repaired the deck, power washed the deck, remodeled the store side of the building to the tune of several thousands of dollars and we recently signed a contract with CANPACK, the new canning company coming here to Muncie that requires us to expand our kitchen into what is now the restaurant side. We have a kitchen side, restaurant side and store side and we would like to expand into the restaurant side, one physical wall from floor to ceiling. It won't affect the actual structure of the building at all. It's cosmetic. We're just expanding some electrical needs, some refrigeration needs, storage needs. Just overall things needed. Just to give a tiny scope of the CANPACK contract. We signed a contract and started June 1<sup>st</sup> and we've been feeding their crews dinner every day, seven days a week and we will be doing that for the next year and a half. It's starting out small but we've grown from six people, to ten people, to sixty people, to hundreds of people every day, seven days a week. Delivering those meals to their hotels which would be the Fairfield and Baymont here in Muncie. We do need more space and more equipment to accommodate that. On the kitchen side that we'd like to expand there won't be an actual kitchen hood. We will keep that where it currently resides on the kitchen side. We just need more electrical and refrigeration, storage units, convection ovens, things that don't require a

hood system. Just expand further into the dining room. She did bring, only for the sake of scope of work, a quote to build that wall and also a drawing of what we would like to do with that. I do have copies for all of you as well as Ashley and Dustin in hopes we can get that moving pretty quickly as we're a month and half into it now and it's snowballing pretty fast. We need the space as soon as possible and just wanted to put those in front of you for approval and discussion with Ashley and Dustin when the time comes. She's happy to answer any questions they might have.

Chandra asked to see the paperwork. Shannon asked if she saw the CANPACK work trumping the actual restaurant. Victoria stated she didn't but it will add to the workload which is part of the reason they need the space because we will have more employees. So there will be a restaurant function and a CANPACK function every day. And then there is still the catering function that is ongoing. So we are trying to separate work spaces and storage spaces and all those things in one very small space for what we're trying to accomplish.

Chandra offered her congratulations and Shannon inquired if she was asking for funds and Victoria stated she was not, just approval. She has funded all of the project. We funded the deck. We funded all of the cosmetic paint, everything we've done to update the building. The only purpose of giving you the quote for the wall is to see the scope of work that's attached to it. The funds are all at my expense. Shannon inquired if or when they leave that space, ten or fifty years from now, would that space have to be reconstructed? Victoria stated it would be a turnkey operation for anyone that was in food service at all and it currently is. It is just extremely outdated. Shannon asked if it would be an improvement and Victoria stated very much so. Ashley stated the only thing that would really change would be the layout. When they did the leases, Mark can attest to it, we have it in three separate sections. Where that one would kind of go into the other. The measurements and things would change if like the next person was only a caterer or a storefront and we want to keep it as a rental space for us. That would be the only thing she can foresee. Victoria said they are trying to keep that in mind as they do the build out. In that if someone does take over just the kitchen and just the store side which ultimately can be two different businesses, the third space could as well. And we're trying not to. Right now the way it is laid out you have to go to one space to use the other and we're trying to eliminate that. So that in the event our lease is up and someone else takes over it can survive on its own, in its own function, however this would add to it, the store and the restaurant side. We're trying to keep that all separate, so that you don't run into that problem in the future if that does become something that happens. We have great contractors we're working with. They're all insured and bonded, highly respected in Delaware County, that are helping us reach those goals to keep it, this can be a space, this can be a space, but we need this to function on its own in this space. Victoria provided all Board Members with copies of her paperwork for review. She

doesn't expect to have an answer tonight and understands these things needed to be discussed. She just wanted to get it front of them because it is something they need to start pretty quickly should the Board move forward with that decision.

Chandra inquired which part it would be on the diagram they were reviewing. Victoria showed them the wall that would be added that would go from the kitchen entrance and would stop at the emergency exit that goes down to the city stairwell and we did not want to eliminate the natural light from the window. The wall stops partially through the dining room but it does zig zag into that emergency exit for Fire Marshall reasons and all those things. This room is currently an old server station, bread room, a room already with a wall. We would like to tear that wall down and extend the longer wall into the dining room. It does not affect the structure. It is again cosmetic. It would just be easier. It is all separated by a stairwell that leads to city offices downstairs so it's not going to fully connect the kitchen into the new space but it will add prep kitchen, refrigeration, and easy access. Shannon inquired how much square footage they would gain. Victoria stated none as they already rent that space and are just looking to divide it to make it more kitchen function than restaurant function.

Victoria stated the bar is currently that horseshoe shape on the diagram. It's basically an octagon and they would ultimately like to reshape that and make it a square to align with the wall. All of it comes together eventually but the wall is the most important part so we can add more kitchen equipment to be able to accommodate all the work that's upon us. She stated Ashley and Dustin seem super happy with what they've done with the color, design and paint. Ashley stated it is like night and day.

Chandra stated she knows Victoria is wanting a response pretty quickly and wondered what would be ideal. Victoria replied the big numbers start coming mid-August for CANPACK and we're also right smack dab in the middle of wedding season. She doesn't want to rush the decision but a week or two, maybe three would be awesome as the contractor we have is willing to work through the night to get it done so that we can be open for regular business hours through the restaurant and be able to have lunch and dinner served so it doesn't affect our revenue stream while they are doing this. Chandra stated she is a fan of the business. Shannon inquired how long it would take them to do this build and Victoria responded less than three or four days.

Chandra stated they are missing a couple of Board members and should give everyone a fair share to review. Shannon stated one of our Board members is in this line of business and they would like to get his feedback but she thinks this is something that we could send her an email by the end of the week and asked if that would suffice. Victoria said that would as they are wrapping up a painting project by Friday and that's the last piece of the puzzle until things progress. This is the only thing we need Board approval for per

our lease as everything else is cosmetic. Ashley said she feels if they knew how everyone feels ahead of time that could at least give us an idea. Shannon stated she personally feels good about it. To have a \$20,000 investment in a building the Parks doesn't have to put in is a win-win for us. Chandra stated she supported her as a local business and Shannon stated entrepreneurially, she commended her. Victoria stated she would wait for their decision, but it was good to know how they were leaning. Shannon inquired if they could get her email address and Victoria stated she had business cards, could write it down and Ashley has it as well.

Motion to table until we speak with the missing members passed.

The Board thanked Ashley for her hard work through the holiday.

## **8. PARK PROGRAMMING – George Foley, Programs Director**

**Youth Employment Program** – I won't speak long since Carl gave a great detail of information about the program. It really went great. I just want to say at the celebration we invited the partners of the sites where the kids worked and over three-fourths of them showed up. They spoke and spoke highly of the kids that worked in program. We had great food and a great celebration with the kids. We were able to decorate Northside. The room was colorful and bright, so it was a great way to end the celebration. I'm really happy and excited the way the program went this year. The kids got it more about working and the mentorship with the financial literacy. We were able to do some STEM programming and so they were able to listen to lectures and do things hands on. It was a good combination of both of those together. So I am just excited with how the program went.

The summer's been busy, so I am glad to breathe a little bit now. As far as with basketball, we had soccer early in the spring, we had flag football, we've been doing some things with the seven sports series. The summer has been great with the youth, just a great time with the kids' doing activities. We're starting to build our database so as we continue to do programming, we're able to email these parents and let them know what activities are going on. As you know we try to do as many activities as we can for free. We know how the economy is, it's a struggle out there, so the parents are excited and always reaching out about when we're going to do things. I was in the office last week, Nikki and myself and there was a lady that came in and it shocked me, she started crying about how excited she is. She's been looking at the Parks' social media posts about the summer program and the opportunity that's going on with the youth through the Parks' programs. I want to thank the Parks Board and Carl for trusting me to do this position and for being able to do some great work with everybody in the community for summer programming. I would like to extend programming through the fall and winter. Carl and myself would like to do an end of the summer basketball event with the kids.

Everyone always does back pack giveaways so we've talked to some partners about doing hygiene products. We think that would be a good twist to do at the end of the summer before the kids go back to school. We also want to do some softball tournaments with some young ladies to bring it back to the community. We've been working on Heekin Park and Westside. Muncie Community Schools has blessed us to use their softball and baseball fields so we have a tournament we may want to do towards the end of the fall at those locations.

Once again, I want to thank you guys for the summer. The way things are going I am already working for next year. Talking to partners on the phone. Nikki is helping me reach out to some partners as far as working out transportation for next summer. I did want to let the Board know that I am working with Brandon Hayes and we're almost at completion on the NFL grant application which would be \$250,000. With this money we could start working on Ball Corp. Carl and I have talked to the Mayor in the past as it has been a passion of ours. We think having that facility on the southside of town would be good for the south side and for the youth. We think it would bring some businesses to that side of town just by having football and soccer programming from around the state at that particular facility. September is the deadline and as you know Brandon Hayes played in the NFL, is considered a legend and we are crossing our fingers that by the end of the year we will get an answer about that grant. That's what I've been working on in the time I have had off.

Shannon confirmed it was for \$250,000 and asked what it entailed. George replied, it would include building the facility for inner-city kids. It could help us get the things we need like artificial turf, a scoreboard, and year by year, if I am here, we can work on practice facilities at that park. We think the \$250,000 would be a great start to what we started talking about doing two years ago. George stated he would be reaching out to Shannon to assist with some questions to complete the grant and mentioned he and Brandon have been working with partnering with the NFL on something else for the youth, that he will go into detail about at a later date. We're working hard this year and at some point, Carl and I will be asking the Board for a Program Coordinator at some point as it's in the Five Year Plan. I love my work but I wore myself a little thin this year and I was really tired towards the end of the program. Seeing the faces and excitement of the kids and hearing them talk. I had a parent message me saying it's been rough in their household and two of their kids we hired were able to buy their own school clothes. It's good to hear stories like that about how the Parks Board, City Council, the Mayor, and Deputy Mayor support these programs and help kids and their households.

I have spoken with Dr. Shannon Powers about programming possibly for next year and having swim classes as we spoke with a lot of kids in the summer program that don't know how to swim at all. We had some open dates when the kids had the opportunity to go to Tuhey to swim and many came up to me and the leads stating they would have

loved to go to the pool, but they don't know how to swim. They're even scare of shallow water. Next year I would like to work with Dr. Powers if she's the pool manager and do some swim classes at a cheap price for the kids as they seem like they would be interested in signing up for those. Dr. Powers stated she thinks they could get a grant to cover that.

Dr. Powers inquired about programming for the fall. George stated they would have football again. Tackle and flag football for the fall. And also have soccer with The Friends of Conley for the fall and should be doing signups for those within the next week or two.

Chandra inquired about the end of the summer basketball he mentioned earlier, and he stated they are looking to do that towards the end of August. I will let Carl pick the destination, but it will be between Heekin Park and McCulloch Park where we will do the tournament. Chandra inquired if it would be open to the community to put together teams or if they would do it. George stated they will do a signup. We would like to do more online signups, parent consent forms and liability waivers. So we would like to create more forms online so we can create a database of the kids and the parents and we can notify them when we have other programming. Jeff, our IT person here at the City of Muncie, gave Nikki and I access to some software that we can use to do more online registrations. At some point we would like to do payments online, but we know that has to go through the City of Muncie. We've talked to some parents when we've had some events when we've charged \$25 and they live in Selma or Yorktown and they inquired about paying online instead of having to come into town to pay. The software we have does that but we would have to talk to the controller's office to see if it's possible to do payments online.

Chandra suggested doing a mailchimp account to the reoccurring families that sign up to do mass emailing to parents as another platform to get information out ahead of time whereas Facebook can't reach. George agreed and stated they could also spread the word to other schools. He said they did a good job this summer reaching out to the schools when the kids were in session. They shared a lot of information and flyers for us so we had a lot of signups from the schools and we want to continue that partnership with our school system.

We have a couple of organizations that want approval for some events in the parks. I just want to say at the Parks we are trying to do things in accordance right now so I want to say this while we are on Facebook live that it is nothing personal against anybody but in the past organizations may have done events just by calling in and it got penciled in but Carl, Nikki and myself just want to do things in accordance with the Board and have everybody fill out an application and have it approved by the Parks Board so it's on record.

**America's Hometown Band** –They've done this event in the past, since I've worked here. They want to do it at Westside Park on August 18, 2022 from 5 – 9 p.m. This is a free concert for the public and the performances are to begin at 7 p.m. They are expecting over 300 people to attend. They do not feel the need to have security. There will not be any food vendors there. They are requesting 60 chairs and 12 risers. They also need electrical power for the P.A. system they will have. They also put this is a family friendly event they've done over the past four to five years without any issues and it has always been supported by the City of Muncie, the Mayors and the Parks Department.

Shannon inquired if there had been any previous issues and George stated there had been no previous issues that he's heard of in the past two years he has been here.

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

**Indiana Black Expo – Muncie Chapter** would like to have their End of Summer/Back to School Celebration at McCulloch Park. They want to use the cabin and the basketball court on Saturday, August 20, 2022 from noon to 6 p.m. They are expecting 100 people to attend. Security will be provided by Legacy Life Solutions. They will have food vendors but don't have the list at this time. They will have social services vendors. Recovery Café, YWCA, Muncie Outreach, Delaware County Chamber, NAACP and others will be setting up booths. They are asking for use of the bleachers, stage and the big tent.

Shannon inquired if we were charging them a fee and George responded right now we are not charging because as a Board we have not set a price standard for everyone. So at some meeting we do need to finalize if and what we are going to charge for use of Park equipment. Shannon stated she knows we've talked about this before. The time, labor costs of all that and the wear and tear on the equipment it might be a good investment to charge people to use it because if they weren't getting it from us they would be going to a rental facility so it would be good to get some money. She inquired if it was possible to ask them to pay for all of this equipment or is it too late. Nikki responded the issue is the previous times we've brought it up, we've sent over what we're looking at but it's never been voted on to be decided that this is what we are going to charge everyone so that's why we haven't really been charging. Instead of cherry picking who we charge and saying we're going to charge you \$100 for this and you \$50 for this because there was no unanimous decision by the Board so we need to do that. Shannon agreed and asked if it was possible to create that. George stated he believes for right now we should approve it without charging them as we haven't charged anyone else to use them and he thinks it's only fair to just waive it for everyone right now. Shannon asked if that can be created



and brought to the Board by the next meeting. Nikki stated she has sent it before but it just kind of gone away. She can provide what we have on the table and the Board can review it and adjust it if you think it should be hire or lower. Mark stated we would probably also need a proposed policy that not only states the costs but who's gonna be charged and who isn't so we're consistent when we apply it across the board then we can adopt it as a policy. Mark stated he would be in favor or approving both of these events with no charge but I think going forward for every event we should have a policy we can go by. George agreed and stated some of these organizations are not for profits and so when we do the pricing he would consider how much we charge them because they basically run off of having events and a lot of their proceeds they give back to the community. He would ask the Board to consider that.

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

**Caskey and Justice** would like to use Heekin Park on September 24, 2022 from 5 – 9 p.m. for a Day of Remembrance for COVID. It would be for people who have lost loved ones from COVID to come together and have a balloon release. They expect 50 – 100 people. They have security provided by Central Patrol Agency LLC. There will be no vendors at the event. They will have food items provided by the organizers. They are asking for one set of bleachers, 3 tables and a 4x8 wooden stage.

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

#### **9. TUHEY POOL – Shannon Powers, Pool Manager**

**Dog Swim Day** – It would be the last day the pool is opened before it is drained which would be September 10, 2022. It has been held in previous years and is called Drool in the Pool. Many cities across the country do this, it isn't unusual though it is new to her. There have been some people that have mentioned they would like to bring it back.

I called over to the Muncie Animal Shelter and they would like to partner with us and we would give a portion of our proceeds to them to support their efforts with shelter animals. It's also another way to bring in another crowd into Tuhey Pool to experience it. There would be a waiver that has to be signed and there will also be a checklist on making sure the owners attest they aren't vicious animals, pregnant, they have been spayed or neutered and are up to date on their vaccines.

Chandra inquired about the date and wondered if it was after hours. Ashley Honeycutt at the Animal Shelter was thinking we could have small dogs in the morning and big

dogs in the afternoon. Carl also inquired about the time as he knows kids usually try to get to the pool on the last day it's open. Would it be kids in the morning and then the event later in the day? Shannon replied the last day for people would be September 5<sup>th</sup> and this event will be on September 10<sup>th</sup>.

Mark inquired if the owners go in with their dogs or if it's just the dogs and Shannon stated in some pictures she's seen but she thinks it should just be dogs for safety reasons, in case someone gets scratched. In some cities it is humans and dogs. Mark inquired if there was an admission charge. Shannon stated she is going to charge \$15 per dog/human pair. Previously when they ran it in 2015 it was \$10.

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

**Lifeguard Certification** – Under the Ball Brothers Rapid Grant we were able to get four people certified as lifeguards under the grant we received in the spring and that certification lasts two years. We're going to offer another class on August 1, 2022. Yorktown High School has allowed us to use their pool for free and it's a one day certification program. We're going to advertise again for more lifeguards.

Chandra inquired if there were any issues with the pool this year in having to use the lifeguards this year. Shannon stated they have been blessed with many pipelines for lifeguards through Cardinal Swim Club, Yorktown Swim Club and her contacts at Ball State University. So we have more lifeguards than we need and by continuing to certify them and work those pipelines with Muncie Central High School hopefully we won't be in that category like the rest of the nation where there's a shortage. Mark interjected Indianapolis didn't open half their pools this season and Shannon stated it was more than half due to the shortage.

There's another grant I've spoken to Brad Marshall and Mr. Foley about to help us pay for the pressure washing, repainting the epoxy and the black lines on the Olympic size pool and also the wade pool. Both of those are in great need and I just received a quote from Sherwin Williams for all the underwater caulking we'll need and it was less than I thought it was, which is a good thing. We're working on that grant and it's due July 31<sup>st</sup>. Labor would be greatly in kind donated by some local swim clubs that have a vested interest in the pool as much as we do.

## **10. OLD BUSINESS – Security Camera updates and skate park**

These were covered under the Superintendent's Report but Carl stated we have had a lot of visitors to the parks, for whatever reason, whether they be homeless or down on their

luck, a lot of vandalism and interfering with cabin rentals, especially at Heekin. Nikki talked to DeDee and there are often times when people are in the restrooms when the people who have rented the cabins are trying to use them. We only have one cabin with a restroom in it so the others have to use the one by the playground. And if you have visitors in those restrooms and or around the playground area it is a safety concern. I've talked to the Chief of Police and the Deputy Mayor about it and we have to figure out a way to do better by having people put in a better place within our city. We've had a meter base taken off Heekin Park's power box that sends power to all the cabins, just totally removed. We've had them break the box itself and turn the power off right in the middle of rentals. There has been a lot of different types of activity which is why we need the cameras. And it's all around the state. There are other parks going through the same stuff, it's not just Muncie and it's not just one particular park. It's throughout the city.

Skate Park I have already spoken about and hope at the next meeting I will have more information regarding the timeline and where we are with that project.

#### **11. NEW BUSINESS – Lafferty Field**

Richard isn't here but I've been in contact with him about it. It's on target for August 15<sup>th</sup>. We're just trying to get some of the seeding and the sodding in place, so that's an ongoing deal. Water is out there and we're moving the sprinkler systems around to get water where it needs to go and we have a small leak that we think we just got that traced down today and hopefully it is a small leak. If we can find it on the side of the fence where the grass is that would be great. If not, we may have to do a bit of pavement movement and it's headed towards the actual building itself which is better than out in the field area.

#### **12. ACTION ITEMS**

There were no action items.

#### **13. PUBLIC INPUT – Please limit time to 3 minutes.**

Nikki stated Victoria was the only person on the list but she spoke during the Prairie Creek section with Ashley.

Carl spoke about safety in the parks as it relates to gun violence. I've had many conversations with the Juvenile Justice system and the city about gun violence and how it relates to parks and how it relates to us as a community. I feel blessed we haven't had any major problems in our city so far to date but when you get an event like the one George spoke about in August the reserve is you have to have security there for all kids, all parent and all families. With that in mind, safety is something we always think about first. It hasn't always that way. It used to be the last thing we would do on an event application because we don't want anyone to have an event happen and there is

someone hurt. There will be some ongoing conversations in the Mayor's office with some other groups out there about gun preventions, gun reporting and how to report gun violence as it relates to our community, our schools and definitely our parks. Typically what happens is something happens at school, it hits the bus stop and then it heads to a park. We want to be in place to prevent those incidents if we can for this year and moving forward.

**Meeting was adjourned by Shannon Powers, Vice-President.**

**\* Next Park Board meeting is currently scheduled for August 16, 2022 at 6 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium.**

# Park Board Meeting Public Input Sign In Sheet

Date: 7/19/22

Name (Please Print)

Address

- | Name (Please Print) | Address       |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 1. Victoria Brewer  | Prairie Creek |
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