

**MINUTES**

**LAKE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING**

**DECEMBER 14, 2023**

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Board President, Chris Dilts, called the Lake County Parks and Recreation Board meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. in the large conference room of the Lake County Parks Corporate Office, 8411 E. Lincoln Highway, Crown Point, Indiana.

II. ROLL CALL

Secretary to the Board, Jim Basala, called the roll and the following Board Members were present: Christopher Dilts, Julie Jones, Jesse Rippe, and John Salzeider. Board member David Uzelac was present via phone conference. Board Attorney, Louis Casale, was also in attendance.

Staff members present: Jim Basala, Chris Landgrave, Chris Nawracaj, Sasha Mateer, and Marsha Rodriguez.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 14, 2023 BOARD AGENDA

In a motion by Mr. Rippe, seconded by Ms. Jones, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Board Agenda of December 14, 2023.

Mr. Dilts made a motion to add the nominations Committee to the Agenda. Mr. Rippe seconded the motion.

V. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 9, 2023 BOARD MINUTES

In a motion by Mr. Rippe, seconded by Mr. Salzeider, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Board Minutes of November 9, 2023.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Accept Donations/Paul Stofko & Mr. and Mrs. Tim Matzdorf, Stoney Run

Ms. Mateer reported that Mr. Stofko recently held an organized race event at Stoney Run County Park. He was very pleased with the help that manager Jennifer Nelson, and her staff, gave him the day of the event, on November 12<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Mateer asked the Board to accept the donation of one hundred and twenty-five dollars from Mr. Paul Stofko, to Stoney Run County Park. In a motion by Mr. Rippe and seconded by Mr. Salzeider. Mr. Dilts asked if there was any discussion, with no discussion, the donation was approved.

Ms. Mateer then reported, that there was a second donation to Stoney Run County Park. This five-hundred-dollar donation was given by Mr. and Mrs. Tim Matzdorf. They both have donated five hundred dollars continuously to the park for some years now, stating that the Parks may use it how ever they may see fit. In a motion by Mr. Rippe and seconded by Mr. Salzeider. Mr. Dilts asked if there was any discussion, with no discussion the donation was approved.

## B. Approval of 2024 Golf Fees

Mr. Nawracaj reported that the golf rates were in the Board members packets. Stating that the rates will be the same rates as they were last year, trying to keep in line with other golf clubs in the area. Some of the project goals are to update the parking lot as well as the clubhouse.

<b>Golf Courses</b>		
<b>TURKEY CREEK</b>		
<b>Weekday</b>		
18 holes	\$21.00	
9 holes	\$16.00	
Seniors (60+)	\$13.00	
Student (<19)	\$13.00	
Leagues	\$12.00	
Twilight (after 3 p.m.)	\$12.00	
<b>Weekend</b>		
18 holes	\$29.00	
9 holes	\$20.00	
Twilight (after 2 p.m.)	\$15.00	
<b>Cart Rental</b>		
18 holes	\$13.00/person	
9 holes	\$8.00/person	
Season cart pass	\$650.00	
<b>Memberships</b>		
Seniors Unlimited	\$615.00	
Seniors Weekday	\$480.00	
Full Time Student	\$175.00	
Adult, Single Unlimited	\$745.00	
Adult, Single Weekday	\$640.00	
Husband/Wife Unlimited	\$965.00	
Senior Husband/Wife Unlimited	\$785.00	
<b>CEDAR CREEK</b>		
<b>Executive Course</b>		
Weekday 9 or 18 holes	\$10.00	
Weekday Junior/Senior	\$9.00	
Weekend/Holiday 9 or 18 holes	\$12.00	
Weekend Junior/Senior (Junior must play with an adult)	\$11.00	
Child (under 11) playing with adult	\$5.00	
Walk Carts	\$2.00	
Riding Cart 9 or 18 holes	\$10.00/person	
<b>Miniature Golf</b>		
Regular	\$5.00	
12 years and under	\$4.00	
<b>Driving Range</b>		
One token	\$5.00	+\$1.00

		Change
<b>Memberships</b>		
Adult Membership	\$300.00	+\$50.00
Junior Membership (19 and under)	\$150.00	+\$50.00
Senior (60+)	\$250.00	+\$50.00

Mr. Rippe made a motion to accept staff’s recommendation, to approve the 2024 golf park fees. Mr. Salzeider seconded the motion. Mr. Dilts asked if there were any additional comments or questions. There being none, Mr. Dilts called for the vote, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the motion as presented.

VIII. ACCEPTANCE OF CLAIMS

Claims to be accepted:

1107 Operating Fund	\$ 302,864.41
1116 Land Purchases	90,213.39
1117 Non-Reverting Fund	54,183.15
9354 Park Bond Fund	103,114.03
9450 NLT Grant	<u>116,677.85</u>

**Total: \$ 667,052.83**

Mr. Dilts asked if everyone had a chance to review the claims that were emailed to them. Mr. Rippe made a motion to accept the claims. Ms. Jones seconded the motion. Mr. Dilts asked if there was any further discussion. There being none, Mr. Dilts called for the vote, and the Board unanimously approved the claims for payment.

IX. REPORTS

A. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Policy and Personnel/Budget and Finance

None

2. Goals and Objectives/Land Acquisition

None

Mr. Dilts expressed that before moving onto the Division Reports he wanted to discuss the nomination committees. Each year a nomination committee is appointed to present the nominations at January’s Board meeting. Next years nominations committee will be Mr. Salzeider, Mr. Rippe and Mr. Dilts.

B. DIVISION REPORTS

1. Recreation and Special Facilities

Ms. Mateer, Division Superintendent, reported to the Board, that Bellaboo’s had an increase in attendance numbers for the month of November. They are currently getting ready for their *Bellabration* program that takes place on New Years Eve.

Christmas Time at the Mill, was a success at Deep River County Park. Families had the opportunity to walk around the park, visiting many of the historical sites. Ms. Mateer wanted to recognize David Flood the historical programmer at Deep River County Park, along with the many volunteers, part time staff, and park manager Taylr Woodworth for their exceptional work during the program.

Larry Modglin was recognized and awarded the distinguished citizen award this year, at the IPRA conference in November. He has spearheaded twice, in the rebuilding of the Gristmill waterwheel. Mr. Modglin is an asset to the Parks Department.

2. Park Operations

Mr. Nawracaj, Division Superintendent, reported that Deep River Waterpark ice skating, is officially open when the weather permits. The fifty-degree weather has kept the park from opening on some of the days. The park is ready, having new skates this year to rent. Going into the new year employees will start cleaning up landscaping beds, networking projects, painting exteriors of the waterslides and in general getting it ready for the 2024 season. Programmers are getting the park ready, for the New Years Eve program, *Swifties on Skates*, which will be a Taylor Swift themed party.

3. Administrative Services

Mr. Landgrave, Chief Operating Officer, reported that the mechanics have done most of the conversions to the winter equipment. The shop now is filled with mowers, getting a jump on the spring and summer equipment. The carpenter staff is finishing cleaning up, the old planning building at Turkey Creek, which will be used for storage now.

Finances are doing well for the end of the year. The 107 and 117 reports are both sitting at a healthy balance. The 107 will carry us into the new year. Expressing that a healthy balance into the new year is very important.

Mr. Landgrave wanted to address again that at the IPRA (Indiana Parks and Recreation) conference in November. The Lake County Parks had many employees volunteering, presenting, and sharing their knowledge. The Parks also won a Clark Ketchum award. Which recognizes a park and recreation agency that has achieved excellence in conservation stewardship. The parks were recognized for the Little Calumet River Collaborative and National Audubon Society.

C. REPORT FROM THE CEO

Mr. Basala reported, that the Parks Department has recently restructured the Department, in the way that is operated from the administrative staff level. In upcoming plans, the Parks Department is working with the Parks Foundation, to get restrooms constructed at Big Maple County Park. Funds will come from the donation that was given by Mr. Bill Modrak.

X. GENERAL DISCUSSION

XI. ADJOURNMENT

In a motion by Mr. Rippe, seconded by Mr. Salzeider, the Lake County Parks and Recreation Board meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

JIM BASALA  
Secretary to the Board

mar