

MINUTES

LAKE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

NOVEMBER 9, 2023

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Board President, Chris Dilts, called the Lake County Parks and Recreation Board meeting to order at 6:30 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: Chris Dilts, Carl Ploense and Jesse Rippe. Board Attorney, Louis Casale, was also in attendance. Board member David Uzelac and John Salzeider were present via phone conference.

Staff members present: Jim Basala, Chris Nawracaj, Craig Zandstra, and Marsha Rodriguez.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 9, 2023 BOARD AGENDA

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

V. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 12, 2023 BOARD MINUTES

In a motion by Mr. Rippe, seconded by Mr. Uzelac, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of October 12, 2023.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Accept Donation of .25 Acre from The Lake Heritage Parks Foundation for the Veterans Memorial Pathway Trail

Mr. Zandstra reported, that the property is billboard parcels along U.S. 231 between I 65 and Delaware St. There are also some drainage culverts as well. The previously purchased trail that is adjacent to it will make it easier to access the current trail when needed.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2023-06

Of the Lake County Park and Recreation Board

WHEREAS, The Lake heritage Park Foundation, Inc. is an Indiana not-for-profit corporation organized to primarily aid and assist The Lake County Park and Recreation (Board). In the acquisition and maintenance of real property for park and recreation and conservation purposes, (the "FOUNDATION"); and,

WHEREAS, the (FOUNDATION) has acquired certain real property for and on behalf of the (BOARD) for the amount of Thirty Thousand dollars (\$30,000.00), said real property being described as follows.

(see Exhibit "A"); and,

WHEREAS, the (BOARD) is by law empowered to receive gifts of real or personal property; and,

WHEREAS, the (FOUNDATION) desires to transfer to the (BOARD), at no cost, the real property as described in Exhibit "A."

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the (BOARD), at no cost, the real property as described in Exhibit “A” from the (FOUNDATION) for zero dollars (\$0). Said real property shall be held by the (BOARD) for park and recreation and conservation purposes as provided by law.

RESOLVED by majority vote of the (BOARD) this “9th” day of November 2023.

Christopher Dilts, President of Lake
County Parks and Recreation Board

Attest _____
James Basala, CEO and Secretary of the
Lake County Parks and Recreation Board

Mr. Rippe made a motion to accept Resolution Number 2023 - 06. Mr. Uzelac seconded the motion. Mr. Dilts called for the vote, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the motion as presented.

B. Accept Donation of 7.38 Acres from The Lake Heritage Parks Foundation for The Grand Kankakee Marsh County Park

Mr. Zandstra reported that the property is wooded with some wetland. Expecting that the area will be an area for hunters.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2023-07
Of the Lake County Park and Recreation Board

WHEREAS, The Lake heritage Park Foundation, Inc. is an Indiana not-for-profit corporation organized to primarily aid and assist The Lake County Park and Recreation (Board). In the acquisition and maintenance of real property for park and recreation and conservation purposes, (the “FOUNDATION”); and,

WHEREAS, the (FOUNDATION) has acquired certain real property for and on behalf of the (BOARD) for the amount of Seventy-Five Thousand dollars (\$75,000.00), said real property being described as follows.

(see Exhibit”A”); and,

WHEREAS, the (BOARD) is by law empowered to receive gifts of real or personal property; and,

WHEREAS, the (FOUNDATION) desires to transfer to the (BOARD), at no cost, the real property as described in Exhibit “A.”

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the (BOARD), at no cost, the real property as described in Exhibit “A” from the (FOUNDATION) for zero dollars (\$0). Said real property shall be held by the (BOARD) for park and recreation and conservation purposes as provided by law.

RESOLVED by majority vote of the (BOARD) this “9th” day of November 2023.

Christopher Dilts, President of Lake
County Parks and Recreation Board

Attest _____
James Basala, CEO and Secretary of the
Lake County Parks and Recreation Board

Mr. Rippe made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2023–07. Mr. Uzelac seconded the motion. Mr. Dilts called for the vote, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the motion as presented.

C. Resolution to Approve Temporary Loans

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-08

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE TEMPORARY LOAN TO
LAKE COUNTY APRK AND RECREATION BOARD’S OPERATING FUND
AND NON-REVERTING OPERATING FUND**

WHEREAS, Indiana code 36-1-8-4 provides for temporary advancement to depleted funds; and

WHEREAS, the Lake County Park and Recreation Board has reported that there will be insufficient funds in the park and Recreation Board’s Operating Fund (1107) and Non-Reverting Operating Fun (1117) to meet the Lake County Park and Recreation Board’s current Park Budget for operating; and

WHEREAS, the Lake County Park and Recreation Board’s Bond Fund (4354), Bond Fund (4353), and Non-Reverting Land Fund (1116) have on hand a surplus of cash exceeding by at least the amount to be loaned and sum of all amounts required to pay the current and anticipated expenses of the Lake County Park and Recreation Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED BY THE LAKE COUNTY PARK BOARD AS FOLLOWS:

That a total sum not to exceed \$1,500,000.00 be loaned from the Bond Fund (4354), Bond Fund (4353), and Non-Reverting Land Fund (1116) for payment of current and anticipated expenses of the Lake County Park and Board’s Operating Fund (1107) and Non-Reverting Operating Fund (1117). Said loan shall bear no interest and shall be repaid to Bond Fund (4354), Bond Fund (4353), and Non-Reverting Land Fund (1116), on or before (30) days after the last day for payment of taxes levied and in process of collections during the year 2023, and in no event to exceed December 31, 2024.

DULLY ADOPTED BY THE PARK AND RECREATION BOARD OF THE COUNTY OF LAKE, at Crown Point, Indiana this 12th day of November, 2023

Chris Dilts, Park Board President

ATTEST:

Jim Basala, CEO and Secretary to the Board

Mr. Rippe made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2023-08. Mr. Uzelac seconded the motion. 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	\$ 115,664.24
1116 Land Purchases	7,900.60
1117 Non-Reverting Operating Fund	129,651.28
9450 NLT Grant	<u>586,884.79</u>
TOTAL	\$ 840,100.91

Mr. Dilts asked if anyone had any questions or comments about the claims. Mr. Rippe made a motion to approve the claims. Mr. Ploense seconded the motion. Mr. Dilts called for the vote, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the claims for payment.

IX. REPORTS

A. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Policy and Personnel/Budget and Finance

No Report

2. Goals and Objectives/Land Acquisition

No Report

B. DIVISION REPORTS

1. Planning and Natural Resource Management

Mr. Zandstra, Division Superintendent, reported to the Board, that Deep River County Park applied and received a Water Conservation Fund Grant from DNR. Funds that are through the National Park Services. The federal funds will be used for Big Maple Lake, through the phase two project. Paving, and installing restrooms, are some of the foreseeable projects.

Deep River Visitor Center hosted a pruning seminar, where thirty participants from various organizations attended. After the seminar, they pruned back some of the trees, and shrubs around the gazebo. They will be hosting another workshop, in the new year.

There will be trail closings on the Erie Lackawanna Trail, Turkey Creek Trail, and the Oak Savannah Trail. Buckeye Pipeline currently is doing work along these trails. Along the Oak Savannah Trail, Nipsco will be closing between Wisconsin and Liverpool. When repairs with utilities are needed, working with them to get the process done in a timely matter.

There will be a final walk through on the C & O Trail, with Milestone and Butler Fairman and Seufert. Dedication information is still in the works due to the season and weather.

At Oak Ridge Prairie the burn crew has been working hard on burn prep. The thousand-acre park has about three or four different locations that need burning. When complete they would have burned about fifty to a hundred acres on the southwest corridor. Close property owners have been notified as well.

Hunting season started on October 28th at the Grand Kankakee Marsh. The water is looking good, and the blinds are open to the public. With many satisfied customers.

2. Administrative Services

Mr. Landgrave Chief Operating Officer, reported to the Board that there is a new superintendent to the Parks. Mr. Chris Nawracaj, has come from Deep River Waterpark as the general manger. Mr. Nawracaj earned his position after two interviews, along with eight other candidates. Chris Nawracaj started during high school in 2004, and in 2014 became the operations manager. In 2017 he became the general manager. We are pleased to have Mr. Nawracaj in his new position.

Mr. Landgrave stated that the staff just recently came back from the WWA (World Waterpark Association) conference in New Orleans, LA. Deep River Waterpark has been very active in the positions. Ms. Sasha Mateer won the Al Turner award, Al Turner is the founder of the organization and the award is for that individual who brings that sense of community into the WWA. There have been two other previous award recipients who are Mr. Jim Basala and Mr. Chris Landgrave.

Next week the staff will be going to the IPRA (Indiana Park and Recreation Association) in Fort Wayne, IN. Next year Mr. Basala will be the President Elect and then the President of the organization. This year many staff members will be presenting. Mr. Nawracaj and Nicole Drexler, Mr. Zandstra, and Emily Trexler and Kara McKay all doing sessions while they are there.

The carpenters and mechanics are all busy, with the changeover from fall to winter. Servicing the equipment and attaching snow plows. Cedar Creek Golf Course has closed for the winter after a period of rain made it imposable to golf. Turkey Creef Golf Course will remain open until the weather makes it impossible to golf.

3. Recreation and Special Facilities

Mr. Nawracaj, Division Superintendent, reported to the Board that he would be reporting for Ms. Mateer this month. Reporting that on December 9th and 10th, Deep River County Park will be hosting, *Christmas Time at the Mill* from 10 am to 4 pm. The park will be decorated, with many photo opportunities and of course chestnut roasting. The general store will be open with maple syrup and other hand-crafted gifts for sale.

Haunted Hills ended their season renting the Deep River Waterpark parking lot, believing this year was another success. Having security, and making sure the parking lot was cleaned each night.

This was their second-year renting with us, and has already discussed utilizing the lot again next year. It works out well, for them, and with us.

Staff at Deep River Water Park are keeping up with the changes as the weather changes. Repainting slides, cleaning landscaping, as well as doing ice skating training for the upcoming skating season during the winter. The rink will open weather dependent on the day after Thanksgiving on November 24th.

On October 26th five programmers and one mechanic went out to Williams Elementary to take part in the Jump Start Read for the Record Program. With each one having their own classroom of either kindergartners, or first graders. They are looking forward to participating again in the spring.

C. Report from the CEO

Mr. Basala reported that the mechanic Mr. Jaime Wrecsics was a last-minute addition, and did a phenomenal job with the reading program. Having a great time with the children, and is ready to do it again. Mr. Basala also wanted to announce that Mr. Landgrave, as of this morning is now the Chairman of the Board for the World Waterpark Association. Deep River Water park is the only waterpark that in over forty years, has had two chairmen for the WWA.

X. GENERAL DISCUSSION

XI. ADJOURNMENT

In a motion by Mr. Reithel, seconded by Mr. Dilts, the Lake County Parks and Recreation Board meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BASALA
Secretary to the Board

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