

MINUTES

LAKE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

AUGUST 10, 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 East 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, Carl Ploense, Jesse Rippe, Rita Gillis, John Salzeider and David Uzelac. Board Attorney, Louis Casale, was also in attendance.

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

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. APPROVAL OF August 10, 2023 BOARD AGENDA

In a motion by Mr. Salzeider, seconded by Ms. Gillis, the Board unanimously approved the Agenda of August 10, 2023.

V. APPROVAL OF JULY 13, 2023 BOARD MINUTES

In a motion by Mr. Salzeider, seconded by Mr. Rippe, the Board unanimously approved the Minutes of July 13, 2023.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

None

VIII. ACCEPTANCE OF CLAIMS

Claims to be accepted:

1107 Operating Fund	\$ 246,834.30
1116 Non-Reverting Land	10,815.95
1117 Non-Reverting Operating	400,109.62
4118 Gift Fund	1,197.45
4353 Bond	2,000.00
9450 NLT Program Grant	<u>10,949.24</u>
Total	\$ 671,906.56

Mr. Dilts asked the Board if everyone had a chance to look over the claims being presented for approval this evening. Mr. Salzeider made a motion to accept the claims for payment. Mr. Rippe seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, 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

Mr. Basala reported, that the public presentation of the budget is a requirement by law, and will start the beginning of September. The negotiations will then start, along with setting the rate for the building fund.

2. Goals and Objectives/Land Acquisition

No Report

B. Division Reports

1. Planning and Natural Resources Management

Mr. Zandstra, Division Superintendent, reported that our full-time partners, that are part of the Natural Resource division are working at Gibson Woods. Still waiting on a response from the EPA about the proposals that were submitted, to redo the nature center, and put in new boardwalks. The C & O Trail has begun at Oak Ridge Prairie, and the paving should be starting soon, as well as a construction update meeting with the contractors/engineers, at Butler Fairman & Seufert. Lake County will be assisting as well, installing benches, a shelter, and a bike rack. The Pennsy Greenway Trail is complete, there was a final walk-through last week. On July 22nd Lake County Parks helped the Blind Social Center in Gary. They are building a new social center on the northside of the trail, between Broadway and Madison St, with shelters and picnic tables. It was a great turnout with elected officials and residents all showing support. There were quite a few trees that fell at Grand Kankakee Marsh, due to the storm that came through last week. The construction crew went out and cleaned up the trails and levees.

2. Recreation and Special Facilities

Ms. Mateer, Division Superintendent, reported that the outside facility at Bellaboo's is getting a lot of activity. Stating that after running the numbers this month, it is the best July since they have opened. Having children come out in their swimsuits enjoying the water activities, shows that the facility is doing exactly what we had hoped it would do. The landscaping is growing, creating shade in all the areas that were planned. Deep River Waterpark has dropped down to being open on weekends only now, due to school being back in session. The month of July had some challenges with the weather being unpredictable, but when the weather was nice the public came out. The *Deep River Grinders* hosted their annual Shriners benefit game this past weekend. The weather was not the best, but the rain held out. With over two hundred spectators the event raised over forty-five hundred dollars for the Shriners hospital. The *Sleepy Hollow* tickets will be going on sale on Aug. 23rd at Deep River Waterpark. This year if you miss buying the tickets on the 23rd, the remaining tickets will be able to be purchased on-line the next day. The event will be taking place at Buckley Homestead on September 8th and 9th as well as September 15th and 16th. The twelve hundred tickets do sell out every year. Ms. Mateer wanted to acknowledge all the volunteers in all the divisions that have stepped up to help as well. Stating that the *Sleepy Hollow* program is run on about ninety percent volunteers. At Deep River County Park there is a group of volunteers working on the waterwheel. Mr. Larry Modglin has been the lead, with the waterwheel restoration. Their efforts do not go unnoticed.

3. Administrative Services

Mr. Landgrave, Chief Operating Officer, reported to the Board, the past weeks storms kept Park Services employees busy cleaning up fallen trees at the parks. One large branch particularly fell on a building at Buckley Homestead, but they managed to cut it before any damage was done. With the weather, this is the time of year when the carpenters try to get as much done. The mechanic crew stay busy as well with the consistent vehicle and mower maintenance.

Financially everything is still looking good. As Ms. Mateer mentioned the Waterpark is down to weekends only.

X. GENERAL DISCUSSION

Mr. Basala reported that he recently went to the former Gary Environmental Education area at Three Rivers, and stated the buildings are all gone, with piles of concrete and steel beams just remaining. They eventually will be taken away and recycled. The next goal will be to take down the chain link

fencing along Liverpool, and replace with a fence like what we have in front of the Mill at Deep River County Park. Staff has been working with Shirley Heinze and a grant that was received, to provide improved paved access from the boat launch to Liverpool.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

In a motion by Mr. Salzeider, seconded by Mr. Rippe, the Lake County Parks and Recreation Board meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BASALA
Secretary to the Board

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