

MINUTES

LAKE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

MAY 11, 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 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, and David Uzelac. Board member John Salzeider was present via phone conference. Board Attorney, Louis Casale, was also in attendance.

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

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. APPROVAL OF MAY 11, 2023 BOARD AGENDA

In a motion by Mr. Uzelac, seconded by Mr. Ploense, the Board unanimously approved the Board Agenda of May 11, 2023.

V. APPROVAL OF APRIL 13, 2023 BOARD MINUTES

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

VI. OLD BUSINESS

None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Ratify Actions of April Meeting

Mr. Uzelac made a motion to ratify the action from the April thirteenth Board Meeting. Listed item B., under New Business the Refuse Quotes, also in the motion would be item C., the Turkey Creek Food Contract and item D., the Turkey Creek Golf Course, Store Building Roof Proposal. Mr. Uzelac also included the Acceptance of Claims. Mr. Salzeider seconded the motion. Mr. Basala reported that the purpose for the ratification is due to last months meeting. A quorum was established, with two of the Board members on conference. Concerned, that there needed to be enough in person Board members, to meet the regulations. Ratifying the actions from last months meeting will resolve any concerns. With no further discussion, the Board unanimously ratified the Actions of the April Meeting.

B. Resolutions regarding Land Acquisitions on Veterans Memorial

Mr. Uzelac stated, that he wanted to make a motion to approve Resolution Number 2023-03. Mr. Salzeider seconded the motion. With no further discussion, Mr. Dilts called for the vote, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the motion as presented.

Resolution Number 2023-23

WHEREAS, The Lake County Park and Recreation Board, a political subdivision of the State of Indiana (hereinafter, the “BOARD”) is presently acquiring land to develop its Veteran’s Memorial Tail Bike-Hike Path (hereinafter the “PROJECT”); and,

WHEREAS, it has been determined that acquisition of the real property described in Exhibit “A” attached hereto is necessary to complete the PROJECT; and

WHEREAS, the said real property has been appraised pursuant to the regulations and laws of the State of Indiana, an abbreviated set of the appraisals are attached hereto and marked Exhibit “B;” and,

WHEREAS, the PROJECT is being funded in part by grants from the Indiana State Department of Transportation.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED as follows:

- 1.) It is in the best interest of the citizens of the County of Lake and the State of Indiana to acquire, Develop and maintain the PROJECT.
- 2.) In order to acquire, develop and maintain the PROJECT, the real property described in Exhibit “A” must be acquired by the BOARD.
- 3.) In order to comply with the Laws of the State of Indiana and Regulations governing acquisitions of real Estate using Indiana State Department of Transportation funding, the PROPERTY has been appraised at its current value.
- 4.) That the BOARD attorney is hereby authorized and directed to offer said appraised value as determined by said appraisers to the PROPERTY owners.
- 5.) That, in the event the PROPERTY owners do not agree to sell the PROPERTY under the for the offer said offer, the BOARD attorney is hereby authorized and directed to commence proceeding to acquire the PROPERTY under the Eminent Domain Laws of the State of Indiana.

This Resolution adopted by majority/unanimous vote of the BOARD
this _____ day of _____ 2023.

Christopher Dilts, President of the Lake County
Parks and Recreation Board

Attest: _____

James Basala, CEO and
Secretary of the Lake County Park
And Recreation Board

C. Donation of Truck

Mr. Cioroianu reported, that the Parks Department is seeking to accept a donation, from the Lake Heritage Park Foundation. The donation is a 2020 Ford, F150 Super Crew truck. Mr. Landgrave explained that the Lake Heritage Park Foundation exists, to support the Lake County Parks Department. Part of what they do, is donate a truck to the Park Department. The department will use the truck for the Natural Areas crew. Mr. Uzelac, made a motion to accept the donation from the Lake Heritage Park Foundation. Mr. Ploense seconded the motion. With no discussion Mr. Dilts called for the vote, and the Board accepted the donation.

D. Monetary Donation

Mr. Basala reported, that Mr. Bill Modrak who is a neighbor of the Parks Department, donated a monetary gift to the Lake Heritage Parks Foundation, that will be used for work, at Big Maple Lake. Mr. Modrak, has interest in seeing a restroom possibly at Big Maple. Mr. Salzeider moved to accept the donation from Mr. Modrak. Mr. Ploense seconded the motion. With no discussion Mr. Dilts called for the vote, and the Board accepted the donation.

VIII. ACCEPTANCE OF CLAIMS

Claims to be accepted:

1107 Operating Fund	\$ 377,195.57
1116 Non-Reverting Land Fund	13,631.98
1117 Non-Reverting Operating Fun	53,646.60
4353 Bond	750.00
9450 ARP ACT-NLT	<u>2,024.80</u>

Total: \$ 447,248.95

Mr. Dilts asked if everyone had a chance to review the claims that are being presented this evening and if there were any questions or discussion about the claims. Mr. Ploense made a motion to approve the claims for payment. Mr. Uzelac seconded the motion. Mr. Dilts asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, Mr. Dilts called for the vote, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the motion as presented.

IX. REPORTS

A. Committee Reports

1. Policy and Personnel/Budget and Finance
None
2. Goals and Objectives/Land Acquisition
None

B. Division Reports

1. Recreation and Special Facilities

Ms. Mateer, Division Superintendent, reported that April was another great month for Bellaboo's, with 7,300 visitors. Field trips have been up, and noting that Bellaboo's has not seen numbers that high in the month of April, since 2017. The garden is open, and they are looking at starting the water components around the first of June. At Buckley Homestead, the school field trips are at their height of the season. All their open days have been booked solid. There was a good turnout this past weekend at their annual *Sheep Shearing* event, the volunteer interpreters are always appreciated. At Deep River County Park, the general store is now open to the public. The new roof is completed and looks great. The Grinders opened their season with two home games, with one loss and one win. Their next home game is Sunday, June 11th, against the Moose Lodge at 2 pm. The Moose will be selling food and donating their proceeds to the Grinders Vintage Base Ball Program. Deep River Waterpark is two weeks away from opening on May 26th. The pools are filled and filtering with a full-time staff, while doing trainings. The park is looking forward to a seven-day operation again this year. The event programming staff are getting ready for the *Voyager Rendezvous* at the Grand Kankakee Marsh on May 20th and 21st. It takes a glimpse into the past of the *18th Century Fur Trade* era. The *Memorial Day* service will be at Stoney Run County Park on May 29th at 2 PM.

2. Planning and Natural Resources Management

Mr. Zandstra, Division Superintendent, reported that turkey season has started. The hunters have been out, and it is a hit and miss for them. The parks are looking to acquire the former Range Line Road Conservation Club property which is 7.4 acres, owned by Range Line Presbyterian Church. The Kankakee River Basin Development Commission approved funds to support acquisition. We have asked for funds from the Lake Heritage Parks Foundation, and have applied with the Indiana

DNR (Department of Natural Resources) through the President Benjamin Harris and Conservation Trust. The total cost will be seventy-five thousand dollars for the 7.4 acres. If everything comes together there will be an update to the Board in a few months. At Gibson Woods a few proposals have been submitted to the EPA to help rehab the nature center, parking lot, the boardwalks and signage along with new exhibits. A presentation by the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), in January, which took place at Purdue Northwest. They were encouraging different agencies along the Grand Calumet River, with the past environmental concerns, hoping to qualify for funds from the EPA. On May 31st there will be a ribbon cutting for the Pennsy Greenway Trail, between the Lake County Parks and the Schererville Parks Department. A trail counter was donated by NIRPC (Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission), which will help count the amount of people on the trail. Mr. Mitch Barloga of NIRPC can then take the trail counts, and utilize them for grant and planning purposes. More trail counters are expected in the coming years.

3. Park Operations

Mr. Cioroianu, Division Superintendent, reported to the Board that golf courses are up and running. The leagues at Turkey Creek are in full force. At this time of the year at Cedar Creek, the golfers are out utilizing the driving ranges, getting ready for the golf season. At Lemon Lake the Soccer and Disc Golf Leagues are out, utilizing the fields and keeping the park busy. The construction crew just finished the deck on the facility manager's house. Looking forward to moving the manager in within the next couple weeks, after the water softening system is installed. The mechanics are busy as the crews are out mowing, this time of the season has the tractors and mowers being worked hard.

Mr. Cioroianu reported that today would be his last Board meeting. Mr. Cioroianu stated that he will be retiring, and has been with the department for thirty-six years on June 1st. Forty-three total, including starting as a part-timer at sixteen years old, working every summer. Thanking the Board for allowing him to do everything he has done over the years. He acknowledged Mr. Dilts's father, who treated him with respect, when he was running the golf course over the years. Mr. Cioroianu stated he is looking forward to the next chapter, whatever that may be.

Mr. Cioroianu started with the Parks Dept. as a seasonal employee at Oak Ridge Prairie in 1981. Chris was promoted after holding groundkeeper positions, to Assistant Park Manager at Lemon Lake. He then went on to become the Turkey Creek Assistant Greens Superintendent in 1989, until he was promoted to Greens Superintendent. In 2013 he was promoted to the Park Operations Superintendent.

4. Administrative Services

Mr. Landgrave, Chief Operating Officer, reported that financially the parks are doing well. When places like Bellaboo's and Turkey Creek are busy, and soon with the Waterpark opening, they all will bring in the revenue. Mr. Basala reported that they recently went to the council and received an appropriation increase in the general property improvement line item.

X. GENERAL DISCUSSION

Mr. Uzelac made a motion that starting next month, the meetings will be starting at 6:30 pm. Mr. Ploense seconded the motion. With no discussion Mr. Dilts called for the vote and announced that starting next month the meeting time will officially be at 6:30 pm.

Mr. Ploense announced that he has taken a position with Volunteers of America of Illinois. A program called SPACES which stands for Suicide Prevention and Community Education Services. It is a VA grant funded operation, and he will be working with veterans directly who are in crisis or approaching crisis. Mr. Basala stated that the Indiana Parks Recreation Association, was approached by the VA, and others to help work with Veteran Suicide. There is a program called Calm Benches, where benches are placed in the parks, with information on the bench, for whom ever is sitting there can reach out and receive help. Mr. Ploense stated that his new position is very rewarding.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

In a motion by Mr. Uzelac, seconded by Mr. Ploense the Lake County Parks and Recreation Board meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BASALA
Secretary to the Board

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