

MINUTES

LAKE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

MARCH 9, 2023

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Board President, Chris Dilts, called the Lake County Parks and Recreation Board Meeting to order at 5:30 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: Christopher Dilts, Carl Ploense, Rita Gillis, Jesse Rippe and John Salzeider. Board Attorney, Louis Casale, was also in attendance.

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

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. APPROVAL OF MARCH 9, 2023 BOARD AGENDA

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

V. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 9, 2023 BOARD MINUTES

In a motion by Mr. Salzeider, seconded by Ms. Gillis, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Board Minutes of February 9, 2023.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consider Turkey Creek F & B Operations

Mr. Cioroianu reported, that over the years, the food and beverage operation at Turkey Creek has at times been leased out to a third party. For the past number of years, the department has managed the F & B operation. It has been hard hiring employees, with the facility open only April through October, and not offering full time employment throughout the year. Stating that there is hope to possibly fill the position again with a third-party organization. Moving forward will mean making sure that they have the experience, and expecting them to be open during golf season, with hours coinciding with the park's operation hours. Hoping by the next Board meeting there will be a recommendation to bring forward.

B. Consider Bids for C & O Trail Construction

Mr. Zandstra reported, that there was a bid opening on February 22nd, for the mile and half C & O (Chesapeake and Ohio) Trail that links to the Oak Savannah Trail on the south west corner to the south east corner of Oak Ridge Prairie. There were three bids that were submitted with Milestone being the low bidder of the three. The Town of Merrillville had a bid opening as well for their portion of the C & O Trail. There are plans to help bring down the cost, a shelter, benches, and tables that were on the high side that may need a change order. Cost can be saved as well with fencing being done by the Parks Dept. Along with the notice of award, and with the agreement with Milestone, a construction supervision agreement with Butler Fairman & Seufert. Coordination with the two contractors will help work simultaneously with Merrillville's project, and having the trails connect to Mississippi St. on the Hobart and Merrillville line. This will be another amenity that trail

users will enjoy once built. Board Attorney Louis Casale, mentioned that Milestone is the old Walsh and Kelly company. Milestone is a company from Indianapolis that has been around for seventy-nine years. Mr. Dilts asked if there was a motion to approve the Notice of Award. Mr. Ploense made a motion to accept the Notice of Award, Mr. Rippe seconded the motion. Mr. Dilts asked if there was any discussion, there being none the Board unanimously approved the motion as presented. Mr. Dilts asked if there was a motion to approve the agreement between Owner and Contractor. Mr. Rippe made a motion to accept the agreement, Mr. Ploense seconded the motion. Mr. Dilts asked if there was any discussion, there being none the Board unanimously approved the Agreement between Owner and Contractor. Mr. Dilts asked if there was a motion to approve the agreement between Owner and Engineer. Mr. Rippe made a motion to accepts the agreement, Mr. Ploense seconded the motion. Mr. Dilts asked if there was any discussion, there being none the Board unanimously approved the Agreement between Owner and Engineer.

C. Consider Quotes for DRCP Visitor Center Roof

Ms. Mateer reported, at Deep River County Park Visitor Center, it was recently noticed that the roof was leaking. Quotes were solicited from three roofing companies to replace the Visitor Center cedar shake roof at Deep River County Park. All quotes received included the tear off and disposal of the old roof, inspection of the existing decking, and the use of a ½” thick cedar shakes. An alternate quote was also asked for, with a ¾’ thick cedar shake. Staff recommends awarding the alternate ¾” cedar shake quote to Korellis in the amount of \$43,853.00

<u>Quoter</u>	<u>Bid Cost</u>
Korellis	½” Cedar Shake \$58,064.00 Alternate ¾” Cedar Shake Deduct \$14,211.00 Total: ½” Cedar Shake \$58,064.00 Total: ¾” Cedar Shake \$43,853.00
Gluth Brothers	½” Cedar Shake \$61,572.00 Alternate ¾” Cedar Shake Add \$1,250.00 Total: ½” Cedar Shake \$61572.00 Total: ¾” Cedar Shake \$62,822.00
Maris and Sons, Inc.	½” Cedar Shake \$91,500.00 Alternate ¾” Cedar Shake Add \$8,500.00 Total: ½” Cedar Shake \$91,500.00 Total: ¾” Cedar Shake \$100,000.00

Mr. Dilts asked if there was a motion to approve. Mr. Salzeider made a motion to accept the quote from Korellis to repair the Deep River County Park Visitor Center roof. Ms. Gillis seconded the motion. With no discussion the Board unanimously approved the quote from Korellis.

VIII. ACCEPTANCE OF CLAIMS

Claims to be accepted:

1107 Operating Fund	\$ 145,606.41
1116 Non-Reverting Land	13,012.86
1117 Non-Reverting Operating	<u>40,306.80</u>
Total:	\$ 198,926.07

Mr. Dilts asked if everyone had a chance to review the claims that were emailed to them. Mr. Salzeider made a motion to accept the claims. Ms. Gillis seconded the motion. Mr. Dilts asked if there was any 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

Mr. Basala reported that there currently are not any budget discussions.

2. Goals and Objectives/Land Acquisition

Mr. Basala reported that he made a presentation to the County Council Study Session about the Cumulative Building Fund, and the need for Capital Development. On Tuesday at the Council meeting, they will approve the ordinance and do a first reading. Whether or not they will suspend the rules, and do a second reading is unsure.

B. Division Reports

1. Park Operations

Mr. Cioroianu, Division Superintendent, reported that the carpenters have finished up the managers house, appliances are being delivered, and the plumbers are waiting on the cost to tap into the Cedar Lake water supply system. The carpenters are also working on the Turkey Creek maintenance building, by putting in new air lines and water lines, along with new lighting. The Crown Point Youth Soccer Group tentative start date, is Saturday, April 8th. At Stoney Run employees have been working on their spring cleanup. The mechanics are wrapping up their winter servicing and getting ready for the new season.

2. Recreation and Special Facilities

Ms. Mateer, Division Superintendent, reported that Bellaboo's is still seeing a rise in attendance. March and early April is usually one of their busiest times of the year, with Spring break for children. April 7th will be their *Egg Marks the Spot*, ticketed event, which includes their Easter egg hunt, which is outside weather permitting. Buckley Homestead is getting ready for their programming season as well, starting with *Meet the Farm Babies* on March 25th and 26th from 12pm to 6pm. It is a free program where families can come out and see the farm animals, including a pen area where children can interact with the lambs, goats, ducks, and chicks. *Maple Syrup Time* has begun at Deep River County Park with field trips. The weekend will kick off the free program to the public, from 10am to 5pm, along with next weekend as well. The gift store will be open for syrup sales. At Deep River Waterpark, employees have been taking advantage of the good weather, working on landscaping the flower and working on guard stands and food stands repaired and ready. Ms. Mateer stated that all the departments are currently hiring.

3. Planning and Natural Resource Management

Mr. Zandstra, Division Superintendent, reported that there have been about three to four control burns, on about forty acres at Gibson Woods this past month. Partners at DNR (Department of Natural Resources) have helped as well. The Nature Conservancy applied and was accepted for a Natural Fish and Wildlife federation grant. With these funds I Pads will be bought, to help the staff monitor through GPS areas that are being worked and treated. Seventy acres have been burned up to this date at Oak Ridge Prairie. A report was submitted from Audubon, on the monitoring that was done on the secretive Marsh birds along the Little Calumet River and several other areas in NWI. There will be a meeting with the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission, discussing current grants, and looking forward to the following year to keep the crews and contractors funded.

4. Administrative Services

Mr. Basala reported for Mr. Landgrave, stating that financially we are doing well. We have not received our first income tax draw. Typically, by mid-March, we will get a good indication how the tax draw is going and how much our portion will be. There was an all-Department staff meeting a few weeks back at Lake Etta Banquet Hall. A good time to get together and meet each other, talking about our financial situation, talking about properties that were acquired recently. Mr. Jim Wright is

our Employee of Year. Mr. Wright is the park manager at the Grand Kankakee Marsh, who has been with us for thirty-eight years. Mr. Basala also wanted to point out in the Board folders was a Next era Energy report. Discussing the replacement of high-tension lines running from the State line and going East through Department property south of the waterpark. They will be putting up single poles and tearing down the existing high-tension lines.

X. GENERAL DISCUSSION

XI. ADJOURNMENT

In a motion by Mr. Rippe, seconded by Ms. Gillis, the Lake County Parks and Recreation Board meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BASALA
Secretary to the Board

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