

**MINUTES**

**LAKE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING**

**JULY 13, 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, Jesse Rippe, Rita Gillis, and John Salzeider. Board Attorney, Louis Casale, was also in attendance.

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

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. APPROVAL OF JULY 13, 2023 BOARD AGENDA

In a motion by Mr. Uzelac, seconded by Mr. Ploense, the Board unanimously approved the Board Agenda of July 13, 2023.

V. APPROVAL OF JUNE 8, 2023 BOARD MINUTES

In a motion by Mr. Rippe, seconded by Ms. Gillis, the Board unanimously approved the Board Minutes of June 8, 2023.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Donations

1. Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Mr. Basala reported, that the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee, has been incredibly involved in taking the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Stoney Run, from what was only three large boulders to what it is today. They have had numerous programs for Memorial Day and Veterans Day since 1974. Mr. Robert Gerstenberg explained at one point, that funds would be donated to the Lake County Parks Department. The donation was made in the amount of \$8,818.73, and will be going into our gift fund, that will help support the Memorial. Mr. Basala asked the Board to approve the donation from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee. Mr. Rippe, made a motion to accept the donation from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee. Mr. Ploense seconded the motion. With no discussion, Mr. Dilts called for the vote, and the Board accepted the donation.

2. Beckman Family Trust

Mr. Basala reported that the Beckman family, as in the past, has donated bird feeders to Gibson Woods Nature Preserve. Among the feeders, were a Brome Seed Buster, Yankee Troll, Wild Birds Unlimited cylinder feeder, Weather Guard Dome, an Echo Tough seed tray feeder and a Feeder Pole. Mr. Basala asked the Board to accept the donation from the Beckman Family Trust. Mr. Ploense made a motion to accept the donations, Mr. Rippe seconded the motion. With no discussion Mr. Dilts called for a vote, and the Board accepted the donation.

B. 2024 Budget Resolution

Mr. Landgrave reported, that there are two funds that need approval. The first being the Operating Fund 1107, that will need to go to the Council. This being step one in the approval process. The Budget is the appropriation of what can be spent for the year.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-04**

**WHEREAS**, the Lake County Park & Recreation Board, (the Board) is the duly authorized, empowered and directed by the laws of the state of Indiana to adopt the budget for the fund 1107 for each fiscal year: and **WHEREAS**, after due deliberation and in an open and public meeting, the Board has decided to authorize its budget for fund 1107 attached thereto.

**DULY ADOPTED BY MAJORITY VOTE OF THE COUNTY OF LAKE, STATE OF INDIANA, at Crown Point, Indiana this 13<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023.**

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Christopher Dilts, President

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Carl M. Ploense III, Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_  
David Uzelac

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Salzeider

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jesse Rippe

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rita Gillis

ATTEST:

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Jim Basala, CEO and Secretary to the Board

Mr. Uzelac stated, that he wanted to make a motion to approve Resolution Number 2023-04. Mr. Rippe 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 NO 2023-05**

**WHEREAS**, the Lake County Park & Recreation Board, (the Board) is the duly authorized, empowered and directed by the laws of the state of Indiana to adopt the budget for fun 1117 for each fiscal year: and **WHEREAS**, after due deliberation and in an open and public meeting, the Board has decided to authorize its budget for fiscal year 2024 for fund 1117. Now therefore the Board hereby resolves to adopt the budget for fund 1117 attached thereto.

**DULY ADOPTED BY MAJORITY VOTE OF THE COUNTY OF LAKE, STATE OF INDIANA, at Crown Point, Indiana this 13<sup>th</sup> Day of July, 2023.**

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Christopher Dilts, President

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Carl M. Ploense III, Vice President

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David Uzelac

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John Salzeider

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Jesse Rippe

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Rita Gillis

ATTEST:

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Jim Basala, CEO and Secretary to the Board

Mr. Landgrave reported that the 1117 is the Non-Reverting Fund. Where the funds come from miscellaneous revenues generated by the Parks Department. What we can not cover under the 1107, we can always move over to the 1117 and still pay. Mr. Uzelac stated, that he wanted to make a motion to approve Resolution Number 2023-05. Mr. Ploense seconded the motion. With no further discussion, 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	\$ 371,494.04
1116 Non-Reverting Land	\$1,008,491.77
1117 Non-Reverting Operating	\$ 379,076.83
4118 Gift Fund	\$ 964.02
9450 NLT Program Fund	<u>\$ 2,042.50</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,762,069.16</b>

Mr. Dilts asked the Board if everyone had a chance to review the claims as they are being presented today. Mr. Rippe made a motion to accept the claims for payment. 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 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. Recreation and Special Facilities

Ms. Mateer, Division Superintendent, reported to the Board, that Bellaboo’s had another great month in June. Lakeshore Public Media is there today having a *Learning with Lakeshore* event. Buying out the night, and having a open event to visitors. Buckley Homestead has been hosting a successful *Story Time with the Animals* event on Mondays. Reading stories and doing a meet and greet. With over a hundred people attending the programs. They are opening the event in the month of July, due to the success of the program. The *Farm Tours* this year, have increased over seventy-five percent from last year, with twenty-two hundred registered school children coming out this past season. Preparation for *Fall Fest* as well, contacting with vendors and preparing contracts. Deep River Waterpark as usual, needs the weather to cooperate to have the public come out during the summer months. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, the park had two thousand people by eleven A.M., and ending the day with thirty-three hundred for the day. In June, the Waterpark had four closed days due to weather, three days were early closed days due to weather, and another three days closed due to the smoke from the Canadian wildfires. Two Saturdays had seventy-degree weather, and this coming Saturday is showing rain, with possible thunderstorms. At Deep River County Park, the South Shore Brass Band will have a free concert at the park Gazebo, prior to the Grinders July 16<sup>th</sup> game, as well as playing the Star-Spangled Banner before the game starts.

2. Planning and Natural Resources Management

Mr. Landgrave reported that Division Superintendent Craig Zandstra was absent today, but wanted to say that his staff is doing a great job during his absence.

3. Park Operations

Mr. Landgrave reported that at Cedar Creek Golf Course, the numbers have surpassed numbers at Turkey Creek Golf Course. Possibly due to the new resident homes, being built in the area. The carpenter staff, have been doing a great job cutting down the dead trees in front of Deep River County Park. Putting new siding on the Visitor Center, along with a new fence in an area that was worn. The mechanics have two new staff members, that are doing amazing jobs already. Keeping up with all the mowers that come in during this time of year.

4. Administrative Services

Mr. Landgrave reported that the numbers look ok, but like Ms. Mateer reported that there is a reason for concern due to weather. Mr. Landgrave asked Mr. Basala to explain in better terms. Mr. Basala reported that they are still trying to smooth out all the kinks still with the Oracle System, which at times, does not balance Revenue and Expense, and Payroll numbers.

Mr. Landgrave also wanted to acknowledge that recently Mr. Robert Gerstenberg, who was part of the Vietnam Memorial Committee, had sadly passed. Recognizing him for his service overseas, and work with the Memorial. Mr. Dilts stated that he felt he had transitioned his position very well, starting a year in advance, going through all the steps to get all the votes, and everyone to agree, that the funds would be going to the park. Taking the time to get us all the names, and contacts, so that we could continue to do what they did, for the Memorial Day, and Veterans Day services.

Also, on another sad note, Mr. John Stacks who was an employee at Stoney Run County Park, and was part of the original committee of the Vietnam Memorial Committee, recently as well had passed away. Mr. Stacks was a Vietnam Veteran, and after serving, went to Ball State where he earned a degree in Natural Resources. Starting at Lemon Lake County Park, as a seasonal employee, and then when Stoney Run opened transitioned there. Later going to the Lake County Fair Grounds, as the park manager, till he retired as a gentleman farmer. Stating that there will be a memorial this Saturday for Mr. Stacks.

X. GENERAL DISCUSSION

XI. ADJOURNMENT

In a motion by Mr. Ploense, seconded by Mr. Rippe, 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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