

MINUTES

LAKE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

JUNE 8, 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, Rita Gillis, John Salzeider, Carl Ploense and Jesse Rippe. Board Attorney, Louis Casale, was also in attendance.

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

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. APPROVAL OF JUNE 8, 2023 BOARD AGENDA

In a motion by Mr. Salzeider, seconded by Mr. Rippe, the Board unanimously approved the Agenda of June 8, 2023.

V. APPROVAL OF MAY 10, 2023 BOARD MINUTES

In a motion by Mr. Salzeider, seconded by Mr. Ploense, the Board unanimously approved the Minutes of May 10, 2023.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Land & Water Conservation fund Grant Approval

Mr. Zandstra reported, that the Land and Water Conservation Grant, applied on June 1st was specifically for Big Maple Lake. The Grant's total is six hundred thousand dollars. It is a 50/50 match, with \$300,000 of the total coming from LCPRD. Part of the grant is to acquire 5.9 acres by County Line Rd., and Old Lincoln Hwy. The remainder of the grant will be used for restrooms, paving, and concrete work around the entry of the park. We will also be using donated funds for the project. Land and Water's procedure, is to let the Board and public know, that the grant was applied for, as part of the process of applying for the grant.

Mr. Salzeider, made a motion to approve the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant. 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.

B Donation

1. Kenneth Kolberg, (Deep River R/C Flying Club)

Ms. Mateer reported, that the donation is an annual donation. Donating one hundred dollars to support the portable toilets for their R/C Flying Club. There will be an open house this Saturday at 11am, that will also be open to the public.

Mr. Salzeider made a motion to accept the donation from Kenneth Kolberg. 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.

2. Buckley Homestead, Donation

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Abraham, donated a large supply of costumes to Buckley Homestead. The Abraham's, were long time Civil War reenactors, and have participated in programs there. The family are talented seamstresses, and are excited to put the costumes to use, during the Sleepy Hollow program.

Mr. Rippe made a motion to accept the donation from Mr. and Mrs. Abraham. 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.

VIII. ACCEPTANCE OF CLAIMS

Claims to be accepted:

1107 Operating Fund	\$ 197,466.78
1116 Non-Reverting Land Fund	9,371.37
1117 Non-Reverting Operating Fund	102,076.60
9203 C & O Trail Grant	<u>4,505.00</u>
Total	\$ 313,419.75

Mr. Dilts asked if everyone had the opportunity to review the claims and if there were any questions or concerns. Mr. Salzeider made a motion to accept the claims for payment. Mr. Ploense 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 motion as presented.

IX. REPORTS

A. Committee Reports

1. Policy and Personnel/Budget and Finance

Mr. Basala reported, that there was a meeting recently on how the 2024 Budget process will be going forward, with the new Oracle system. The Board will have to get paperwork to the County between July 5th and July 15th.

2. Goals and Objectives/Land Acquisition

Mr. Basala reported, that he would like to meet with the three Goals and Objectives Committee members. To talk about the five-year plan, objectives, succession plans, and other general department goals. Hopefully to discuss within the next few weeks.

B. Division Reports

1. Recreation and Special Facilities

Ms. Mateer, Division Superintendent, reported that Bellaboo's had another good May, with figures that exceeded last year's numbers. Their outdoor water features are open, along with their summer camps starting this Monday. Staff is ready, and looking forward to a good summer.

The Grinders will be playing this Sunday, at Deep River County Park against the Springfield Long Nine. Hobart Moose Lodge will provide concessions, with sales being donated back to the Grinders.

Deep River Water park opened Memorial Day weekend, and the attendance is looking average for this time of year. They currently are working on a Friday, Saturday, and Sunday schedule, but starting this week they will be going to a 7-day week schedule. Something that the waterpark was unable to do last year at this time. Stating, that the full-time staff has done an amazing job recruiting, interviewing, and training.

Ms. Mateer reported that back in March, she was contacted by the marketing and public relations group that represents Aflac. They had chosen the Community Health Network, to be a recipient of one of their Community Cares Grants. Part of that grant included them placing a bench in a local park. Their park decision was Lake Etta. On May 16th Mr. Basala attended the event on behalf of the department. With also the president of North America Aflac in attendance.

2. Planning and Natural Resource Management

Mr. Zandstra, Division Superintendent, reported that the summer crew is out working at Gibson Woods with the help of DNR. The dedication of the Pennsy Greenway took place this past week on the 31st. State regional and town officials attended. The trail is almost completed to date. Mr. Basala recognized and thanked Board President Mr. Dilts, for his participation, by saying a few words on behalf of the Park Department at the ceremony.

The Little Calumet Conservation Collaborative, will be presenting to the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission, possible funding for the next two years. Also, to possibly get some help with our full-time employees, that do work along the Little Calumet.

NRPC and INDOT has also notified us, that funds will be given to us, for the Right of Way Commission project.

3. Park Operations

Mr. Landgrave, Chief Operating Officer, reported that in the absence of Mr. Cioroianu who retired on June 1st, he will be filling in with the responsibilities and reports of the division. Stating that, he recently met with employees to get an idea where he could provide the most help and support. The carpenters have been busy removing salvageable items from the Gary School City property, that includes cabinets and tables. They also have been putting up fencing along the Pennsy Greenway Trail. The mechanics, are responding at the different park sites for mower repairs. Cedar Creek and Turkey Creek golf course numbers are up as well, with numbers higher then last year.

4. Administrative Services

Mr. Landgrave, Chief Operating Officer, reported to the Board that as the Revenue and Expense Report in their Board packets shows, the Department is doing well. Operations are doing well, and the Waterpark is sitting where they expected. Bellaboo's continues to do well as well. Mr. Landgrave stated that two Board meetings back, Mr. Basala had stated he had requested an additional appropriation on land improvement. Which was given to us, and the parks have been saving for appropriate usage. Mr. Basala handed out a list of projects to the Board members, listing what funds will be used for. Staff is currently looking at this list, to accomplish the projects. Getting quotes on paving, starting at the Mill.

Mr. Salzeider inquired about the new Food and Beverage operation at Turkey Creek. Mr. Landgrave reported that the relationship is doing well with Legendary Lloyd's. Providing a decent product, with staff looking professional.

XII. GENERAL DISCUSSION

Mr. Basala mentioned that over the years the Department has changed and evolved. Not only has the Department evolved, but so has the community it serves, as well as the park and recreation profession. Every five years we do an update to the 5-year master plan, and that time will be coming up in the next couple of years. Beyond the 5-year plan, we need to engage in critical analysis of the Department, and reevaluate our goals and objectives. The Lake County Parks and Recreation Department has been looked up to throughout the State of Indiana, as a leader and exceptional department. Mr. Basala stated that he wants to make sure that the legacy continues, hence the need for a Goals and Objectives Committee meeting.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

In a motion by Mr. Salzeider, seconded by Mr. Rippe, the Lake County Parks and Recreation Board meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BASALA
Secretary to the Board

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