

**MINUTES**

**LAKE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING**

**APRIL 13, 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 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, and David Uzelac. Board members John Salzeider and Jesse Rippe were present via phone conference. Board Attorney, Louis Casale, was also in attendance.

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

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. APPROVAL OF APRIL 13, 2023 BOARD AGENDA

In a motion by Mr. Uzelac, seconded by Mr. Rippe, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Board Agenda of April 13, 2023.

V. APPROVAL OF MARCH 9, 2023 BOARD MINUTES

In a motion by Mr. Salzeider, seconded by Mr. Rippe, the Board unanimously approved the Board Minutes of March 9, 2023.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Donation from Margarete B. and William H. Fifield

Mr. Basala, CEO and Secretary to the Board, reported to the Board that this annual donation from the Margarete B. and William H. Fifield Endowment Fund is administered through the Crown Point Community Foundation. This year's donation is \$263.70. Bill Fifield was an original Park Board member. The Fifield's created the endowment fund so that upon their passing, the Lake County Parks Department receives a donation in their memory every year. Mr. Basala asked the Board to accept the donation.

Mr. Salzeider made a motion to accept the donation of \$263.70 from the Margarete B. and William H. Fifield Endowment Fund. Mr. Rippe seconded the motion. Mr. Dilts called for the vote, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the motion as presented.

B. Refuse Quotes

Mr. Cioroianu, Division Superintendent, reported that on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 the Parks Department received two bids for refuse removal. One from Republic Services and one from Waste Management. Republic Services 12-month bid was \$20,071.84 and Waste Management was \$43,765.56. Staff recommends awarding the bid to Republic Services for \$20,071.84.

<u>Quoter</u>	<u>Bid Cost</u>
<b>Republic Services</b>	\$20,071.84
<b>Waste Management</b>	\$43,765.56

Mr. Dilts asked if there was a motion to approve. Mr. Rippe made a motion to accept the refuse quote from Republic Services. Mr. Salzeider seconded the motion. With no discussion the Board unanimously approved the quote from Republic Services.

C. Turkey Creek Food & Beverage Contract

Mr. Cioroianu reported that at last month’s meeting, it was discussed that there were discussions and negotiations being made with an individual who was interested in taking over the food and beverage position at Turkey Creek. The individual Lloyd McLendon (Legendary Lloyds) is present today. Mr. Cioroianu introduced Mr. McLendon. Mr. McLendon thanked the Board for having him and stated that he was born and raised in Gary IN. Went on to Valparaiso University, where later in his life had the opportunity to deliver the commencement speech for his daughter’s law school graduation, and then hand his sons diploma at his graduation. His family is Valparaiso oriented where he was drafted into baseball for the New York Mets.

Mr. Cioroianu thanked Mr. McLendon and stated that Mr. Landgrave and himself have sat with Mr. McLendon discussing many different items and feel confident that Mr. McLendon can manage the facility and look forward to a long-lasting relationship with Legendary Lloyds.

Mr. Landgrave stated that the Parks Dept. is starting off with a one-year contract and hoping with success in the first year.

Staff recommends accepting the contract as written. Mr. Uzelac made a motion to approve the one-year contract with Legendary Lloyds being the Concessionaire at Turkey Creek. Mr. Rippe seconded the motion. With no discussion the Board unanimously accepted the contract as presented.

D. Turkey Creek Golf Course, Store Building Roof Proposal

Mr. Cioroianu reported that one of the maintenance buildings at Turkey Creek has a flat rubber roof, that started to leak this past winter. Stating that he reached out to three different roofing contractors. Maris & Sons Roofing, Gluth Brothers and Korellis. With one bid back from Korellis and feeling that the Korellis bid was a fair bid. In order to keep weather from doing any further damage staff is recommending to accept the Korellis base bid price of \$28,576.00.

VIII. ACCEPTANCE OF CLAIMS

Claims to be accepted: **4/20/2023**

1107 Operating Fund	\$ 224,849.61
1116 Non-Reverting Land	513,663.00
1117 Non-Reverting Operating	44,764.05
9450 C & O Trail Grant	<u>26,675.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 809,951.66</b>

Mr. Salzeider asked if everyone had a chance to review the claims that were emailed to them. Mr. Uzelac made a motion to accept the claims. Mr. Reithel seconded the motion. Mr. Salzeider asked if there was any discussion. There being none. Mr. Salzeider 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  
No Report
2. Goals and Objectives/Land Acquisition  
No Report

B. DIVISION REPORTS

1. Planning and Natural Resource Management

Mr. Zandstra, Division Superintendent, reported that the approved Pizzo & Associates, burn contract was recently completed. A thirty acre burn at Gibson Woods was successful and the expenses for that will be reimbursed 100 percent by the US Fish and Wildlife Service Grant.

Mr. Zandstra stated that the Grand Kankakee Marsh hunting tallies from duck season were in last month's Board packet. It was a good year with over five hundred waterfowl harvested. There were some icing issues, that affected hunts at times. The spring turkey season will be starting on April 27<sup>th</sup>, going through May 15<sup>th</sup>. Hunters are already signed up and looking forward to the season.

Schererville Town Council approved a hundred thousand dollars in funds towards Lake Hills, hoping that the Schererville Parks Board approve another hundred thousand at their May meeting. Commissioner Tippy has expressed support and may have funds to support the project. Mr. Zandstra reported that he talked with DNR a few weeks back and he will be making a request of another one hundred thousand dollars, through environmental plate sales in Indiana. On May 1<sup>st</sup> Mr. Zandstra will be putting in applications for acquiring conservation land as well. He is hoping by June to have the funds together for the purchase.

Mr. Zandstra reported that The Pennsy Greenway Trail Board meeting was held recently, and discussed pre-construction with Milestone. Construction will be starting within the next few weeks. Homer tree service has been clearing the area of all the larger trees. Mr. Basala reacquainted the Park Board, that the Pennsy Greenway Trail is in conjunction with the town of Schererville. Mr. Basala and President of the Board Mr. John Novacich are both part of the Pennsy Greenway Trail Phase IV Board that handle the administrative portions of the project.

2. Recreation and Special Facilities

Ms. Mateer, Division Superintendent, reported to the Board that *Maple Syrup Time* at Deep River County Park was a huge success. Historical Facility Manager, Dyan Leto, stated field trip numbers came close to over a thousand guests, over the eight-day period. The two weekend public events saw well over eighteen hundred visitors as well. Ms. Mateer mentioned as well that there was great feedback on social media as well as other channels. *The Deep River Grinders* will be kicking off their first home game on May 1<sup>st</sup> at the Deep River County Park at 2pm.

Ms. Mateer stated that Bellaboo's had their best month since Covid 19 with over six thousand guests in the month of March. Bellaboo's is doing a great job pulling together as a team, running programs with very few part-time staff. Ms. Mateer wanted to thank any full-time staff from various divisions that have come out to help. Bellaboo's will also be having their *Eggs Mark the Spot* program this weekend. The program, put on hold since Covid, has nearly one hundred participants signed up at this time.

At Buckley Homestead, Historical Programmer, Joe Reed who has taken over, after Megan Canata passed away, has started programs again, starting with *Meet the Farm Babies*, and *Chicken Talks*. Publicizing weekend tours on the web site, with a rise in numbers at the park again. The Farm Tours and Hands on Tours are both almost completely booked. June and July will be opening up as well soon for the tours.

Staff at the Waterpark are out working, still hiring and training getting ready for the 2022 opening. Water Safety Manager Nicole Drexler is on her second water safety class, with the third coming up in the next few weeks. Deep River Waterpark is still getting the word out on open positions, at job fairs, and schools.

2. Park Operations

Mr. Cioroianu, Division Superintendent, reported that Cedar Creek Golf Course and Turkey Creek Golf Course are both open for business. Reporting that it would be even better when the weather is cooperative. Mr. Cioroianu stated that when the weather was nice on a Sunday, the course was busy from 7am to 4pm having collected over five thousand dollars in revenue. The weather recently affected the Crown Point Youth Soccer Program, having to cancel all games throughout NWI. Games will start back up on Saturday with over six hundred and fifty children signed up at Lemon Lake. The construction crew finished up doing work at the Lemon Lake property manager's house. The mechanics are busy getting the equipment ready for the mowing season, once the weather breaks park sites will be ready.

4. Administrative Services

Mr. Landgrave, Chief Operating Officer, called the Board's attention to the Revenue and Expense Report in their Board packets. Reporting that the Parks Department, received their first three-month payment. Mentioning that it is a great start for the year with everything balancing. Mr. Landgrave wanted to point out as well that at Deep River Waterpark, there has been some construction going on, fixing one of the Lazy River that has piping issues. Stating that, timing wise everything is still in shape. Mr. Basala reported that staffing is the Parks Departments biggest issue. Even after increasing wages for seasonal and part-time staff. Major maintenance continues to be an issue as facilities age. Mr. Landgrave stated that there will always be money in the budget to manage things, but there is never enough money to deal with the age.

X. GENERAL DISCUSSION

None

XI. ADJOURNMENT

In a motion by Mr. Salzeider, seconded by Mr. Uzelac, the Lake County Parks and Recreation Board meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BASALA  
Secretary to the Board

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