

MINUTES**LAKE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING****JUNE 13, 2024****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, Julie Jones, John Salzeider, Carl Ploense, David Uzelac, and Mike Toth. Board Attorney, Louis Casale, was also in attendance.

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

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**IV. APPROVAL OF JUNE 13, 2024 BOARD AGENDA**

In a motion by Mr. Uzelac, to amend the June 13th 2024 meeting. Adding under New Business, to select a new Vice President, due to Mr. Rippe's resignation. Mr. Ploense seconded the motion. With no discussion, the Board unanimously approved the Amended Agenda of June 13, 2024.

V. APPROVAL OF MAY 9, 2024 BOARD MINUTES

In a motion by Mr. Salzeider, seconded by Ms. Jones the Board unanimously approved the Minutes of May 9, 2024.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

None

VI. NEW BUSINESS**A. Replacing the Lake County Parks Board Vice President**

Park Board President, Mr. Christopher Dilts reported, that the procedure, would be to present a list of nominations, close nominations and then election. With one nomination, Mr. Uzelac. Mr. Dilts asked if there were any other nominations. With no other nominations, a motion to then close nominations were approved. Mr. Dilts called for the vote, and the Board voted unanimously to vote for a new Vice President. Mr. Dilts named Mr. David Uzelac as the nomination. Mr. Dilts called for a vote, with no discussion the Board voted unanimously to name Mr. David Uzelac, as the new Vice President for the remainder of the term.

B. Donations**1. Accept Equipment Donation**

Mr. Zandstra reported, that the Parks Department, in the past, has borrowed Mr. Bob Little's farm tractor. The Lake County Parks, needed a tractor, and Mr. Little offered the tractor at a good price. The Park mechanics looked over the tractor and agreed that it was a sound tractor. Mr. Zandstra reported, that the Parks is requesting the Board to accept the New Holland tractor, to use at the Grand Kankakee Marsh. Mr. Landgrave added that the Parks Department was renting a tractor at the GKM for some years, which eventually became unserviceable. Renting

became expensive after Covid. The Parks Foundation purchased the tractor, and would like to donate it to the Lake County Parks for usage at the Grand Kankakee Marsh. Mr. Dilts asked if there was a motion to accept the donation. Mr. Salzeider made a motion to accept the donation, and Mr. Uzelac seconded the motion. With no discussion, Mr. Dilts called for the vote, and Board unanimously accepted the donation.

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

Ms. Mateer reported that the annual donation from the R/C Flying Club, for the Saulky Trak area at Deep River County Park. They host a yearly open house, and the donation helps support the cost of the porta potty, that is provided for them throughout the summer. Mr. Dilts asked if there was a motion. Mr. Toth made a motion to accept the donation. Ms. Jones seconded the motion. With no discussion Mr. Dilts called for the vote, and the Board unanimously accepted the donation.

C. Resolution to Approve the Conservation Fund Loan for the Spurlock Acquisition

Mr. Zandstra reported that to maintain a cash flow at a certain manageable level, we will be borrowing funds from the Conservation Fund. The Conservation has helped in the past with the Serros property along with a few properties in the Deep River areas. They would hold the property, until the grant funds come in that would help purchase the property. The entire purchase price is covered by grant funds.

Mr. Toth made a motion to accept the Resolution. Mr. Ploense seconded the motion. With no discussion Mr. Dilts called for a vote, and the Board voted unanimously to accept the Resolution.

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 2024-05
OF THE LAKE COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION BOARD**

WHEARAS, The Lake County Park and Recreation Board (the “BOARD”), is a Duly organized, authorized, and acting governmental agency, and a political Subdivision of the State of Indiana; and,

WHEREAS, the “BOARD” desires to acquire an approximately Twenty-eight (28) acre parcel of land described in Exhibit “A” attached hereto, (the “PROPERTY”); and,

WHEREAS, the “BOARD” wishes to borrow a sum not to exceed Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$800,000.00). (The “LOAN”) from The Conservation Fund (“TCF”) to partially fund the purchase of the property, the price of which is One Million Seventeen Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,017,500.00).

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved as follows:

1. The Lake County Park and Recreation Board (“BOARD”) is hereby authorized to borrow a sum not to exceed Eight hundred Thousand Dollars (\$800,000.00) from the conservation Fund(“TCF”) for the Acquisition of approximately Twenty-Eight (28) acres located in Lake County, Indiana, with the specific terms of interest not to exceed Seventy Percent (70%) of the prime rate at the time of “LOAN” funding for the term of Six (6) months.
2. The CEO/Secretary to the “BOARD” is hereby authorized and directed and on behalf of the “BOARD” to execute, deliver, and cause the “BOARD’ to pledge as security for a loan in the amount of Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$800,000.00), and to execute any and all other documents necessary or appropriate to give effect thereto.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the “BOARD,” as a governmental agency hereby approves the taking on of the aforementioned debt that it hereby waives any rights it may have to sovereign immunity with regard to “LOAN” enforcement.

WE FURTHER CERTIFY (i) that this Resolution and the acts contemplated by this Resolution are not inconsistent with the “BOARDS” intent; (ii) that each of us has had a full and complete opportunity to inquire into all of the facts and circumstances deemed relevant to the Resolution; (iii) that each of us deems the pledging of certain assets to be in their best interest, and; (iv) that each of us does hereby waive any otherwise required notice of this action or other predicate to this Resolution, including, without limitation, to the extent applicable, notice of the meeting of the “BOARD.’

This Resolution passed by a majority of the “BOARD” and adopted and effected as Of the Thirteenth (13th) day of June 2024.

The Lake County Parks and Recreation Board:

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

Attest: _____
James Basala, CEO and Secretary of the
Lake County Parks and Recreation Board

D. Change Order for Turkey Creek Paving

Mr. Landgrave reported, that the main parking lot had additional areas that were not in the original contract. The contractors noting, that there was extra sub grade work, that if not fixed, would create soft spots. The total for the additional two areas is \$8,302.47. Mr. Uzelac made a motion to accept the Change Order. Mr. Toth seconded the motion. With no discussion Mr. Dilts called for a vote and the Board unanimously accepted the Change Order.

VIII. ACCEPTANCE OF CLAIMS

Claims to be accepted:

1107 Operating Fund	\$ 864,457.96
1116 Non-Reverting Land Fund	26,997.50
1117 Non-Reverting Operating Fund	76,811.57
4118 Non-Reverting	192.00
4353 Bond	40,080.00
4354 Bond	<u>10,771.44</u>
Total	\$1,019,310.47

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

2. Goals and Objectives/Land Acquisition

B. Division Reports

1. Planning and Natural resource Management

Ms. Zandstra, Division Superintendent, reported that the Spring turkey season ended at the Grand Kankakee Marsh, with a new broken record for turkeys harvested. The KRBC (Kankakee River Basin Commission) would like to see additional public access for canoes and kayaks along the river. Specifically, along the east side towards Porter County. The boat launch along Range Line Road is getting busier with floaters, and fisherman as well, with a possibility of getting a launch just for the floaters. The Delta Institute with the Student Conservation Association, will be doing tree planting for the next couple months, working with the Town of Merrillville. Planting apple trees at local parks, and trees on the fairways at Turkey Creek Golf Course. Along the C&O Trail, and near a sand ridge on the south east area of Oak Ridge Prairie, Oak Trees that will be planted to compliment some of the existing ones that are there. The Natural Area Crew have been working hard at Gibson Woods, and along the Grand Calumet River. The Little Calumet Crew has been working at Lake Etta, and along the Little Calumet River. Working on the Oak Savannah Trail treating the many species that grow during the season. Cutting the invasive shrubs, and spraying the resprouts. Mr. Zandstra reported that the Cicadas numbers have been good at the clay soil parks, like Lemon Lake and Stoney Run. The sandy soil parks like Deep River do not have any. The cicadas will not be appearing again till 2041.

2. Recreation and Special Facilities

Ms. Mateer, Division Superintendent, reported that Bellaboo's had their third best May since 2005. Schools came out and the field trips continued. The camps are being booked and the outdoor water play, is now open for the season.

Buckley Homestead brought back, and started their Story Time on the Farm. The program started with about 30 people, but has grown to a hundred, running Mondays in June. On the first Monday about two hundred and fifty came out. Farm animal stories are read, while getting the farm animals out to interact with the children. They did two free sessions, one at 9:30 and one at 10:30. This week Buckley Homestead will be hosting a new event, called History Speaks Civil War Stories. A free program from 10 AM to 4 PM, in conjunction with the Civil War Round Table, and the Crown Point Public Library. The program should not be confused with the WWII event, that Buckley had with reenactments. There will be reenactment conversations throughout the park with authors, presentations, and exhibits. The Crown Point Public Library received a grant from the Legacy Foundation to cover the cost of the speakers.

The CSRI (Cooperative Special Recreation Initiative) in partnership with other park departments in the area, that brings special needs programming to the community. This month the Lake County Parks was host to a program at Buckley Homestead called Quiet Time at the Farm, put together by event specialist Dawn Robertson. About twenty special needs individuals came out to the program. Learning about farm life, and interact with the farm animals.

Deep River County Park will be having a new program on June 28th called, Twilight, Trims and Treats. There will be live music at the Gazebo, from 6 to 8:30 pm. The public can bring their chairs, picnic, and enjoy the music before it gets dark.

The Grinders last few games have been at home, the next few will be away games. The next home game will be July 7th at 2 pm vs the Tippecanoe Canal Jumpers. The Hobart Moose Lodge 783 will be there as well cooking food, with proceeds going back to the Grinders. Mr. Basala stated that the program has been around for over thirty years, interacting with children after the games, letting them swing the bats.

Ms. Mateer reported that for the past eight weeks or so, there has been a group of sewing ladies that have been volunteering their time to repair, and sew new costumes for Sleepy Hollow and Fall Fest. Spending anywhere from four to five hours sewing with their own sewing machines. They are being a tremendous help, to the department.

3. Park Operations

Mr. Nawracaj, Division Superintendent, reported the golf courses this last month started off a

little slow, due to the weather and flooding. Now that the grounds are drying, business is picking back up. At Cedar Creek, they are fully on board with the NBC Golf Now, giving the public the opportunity to book tee times online. Which also ties into the same system as Turkey Creek. Providing a unified system for both. Staff is really appreciating the paving that has happened at Turkey Creek, focusing now on cleaning up, and bringing the facility back to top notch. Having golf outings now that the weather is looking up.

Deep River Waterpark is now open everyday until August. Attendance has been positive, with a season where there seems to be a healthy number of lifeguards. There is still lifeguard training, with one finishing at the end of the week. The waterpark switched lifeguard agencies from Red Cross to Star Guard. This past week Star Guard came out and did an independent unannounced audit, giving us a four-star audit out of five. There will be another one sometime in July.

Board member Mr. Toth wanted to point out, that recently he visited and walked through Turkey Creek Golf Course. Stating that he felt the course was in good condition, and that the bridges there looked great.

4. Administrative Services

Mr. Landgrave, Chief Operating Officer, reported to the Board that the carpenters have been the ones working on the bridges at Turkey creek. A few years back they had bought new irrigation controllers, have completed installing, and are in working condition. There has been some progress there.

The mechanics are busy during this season, keeping up with the many vehicles, golf carts, and mowing equipment. Now that summer is here, there is not a lot of free time.

The 107 and 117 balances that are used to operate, are looking solid right now. With numbers looking to get stronger as the summer progresses. The Legacy Foundation has contacted us, and would like to use Lake Etta on July 18th for a luncheon to introduce the new superintendent, for the National Lake Shore/National Park.

Mr. Basala also mentioned that the Legacy Foundation is currently trying to raise some funds as a match grant with the Eli Lilly Foundation. Their logo is a tree, they contacted the LCP to help them plant memorial trees.

Mr. Landgrave wanted to let the Board know that a Park Foundation Board member recently passed away. Mr. John Friend was part of the Board for many years, skipping other meetings in able to attend the Park Foundation meetings. He will be missed.

Mr. Basala wanted to mention as well that Turkey Creek will be holding a IPRA (Indiana Park and Recreation Association) golf outing in Sept., to help raise funds for scholarships. The IPRA is also involved in a public awareness campaign. One of the portions being the importance of Parks and Recreation as an essential service of the community.

Wednesday, June 11th was the 56th anniversary for the 1st Park Board meeting in 1968. It is a testament to the original Board members, and the Board members staff, elected officials and supporters since that time that the Lake County Parks & Recreational Department is the exceptional department it is today.

XII. GENERAL DISCUSSION

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

In a motion by Mr. Ploense, seconded by Mr. Uzelac, the Lake County Parks and Recreation Board meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BASALA
Secretary to the Board

mar