

**MONROE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
BOARD MINUTES**

**January 19, 2022 3:30 pm
ZOOM MEETING ID: 869 3534 6385**

I. Call to Order: President Evelyn Harrell called the meeting to order at 3:33 pm.

II. Roll Call:

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Electronic</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Evelyn Harrell		X	
Joe Goss		X	
Amy Thompson		X	
Dr. Carolyn VandeWiele		X	
Kevin Dogan, J.D		X	
Phil Cornwell		X	
Carol Walter		X	

Staff Members Present: None

Staff Members who attended the meeting electronically: Kelli Witmer, John Robertson, Kay Medley, Autumn Brunelle, Andy French, Matt Wilhoit, and County Attorney Margie Rice.

Invited Guests Present: None.

Invited Guests who attended the meeting electronically: Monroe County Council member, Cheryl Munson, Tamby Cassady and Michael Flory, Cassady Electric.

Public Present: None.

Public who attended the meeting electronically: Julie Gray, local citizen, Troy Vegeler, Cutters Soccer Club.

III. Amendments and Approval of the Agenda –

Ms. Thompson moved to approve the agenda as presented and Mr. Goss seconded.

Roll Call:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Electronic</u>
Harrell	X			X
Goss	X			X
Thompson	X			X

VandeWiele	X			X
Dogan	X			X
Cornwell	X			X

Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Statement of Compliance: This meeting, using electronic communications, is subject to IC 5-14-1.5-3.5, and therefore no final action will be taken at this meeting on the prohibited subject matters listed in Section 3.5(f) of the statute.

V. Public Comment on Non-Agenda items – None.

VI. Approval of the December 8, 2021 meeting minutes –

Ms. Thompson moved to approve the amended December 8, 2021 meeting minutes and Mr. Goss seconded.

Roll Call:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Electronic</u>
Cornwell	X			X
Harrell	X			X
Goss	X			X
Thompson	X			X
VandeWiele	X			X
Dogan	X			X

The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Approval of the December 2021 non-reverting claims –

Mr. Cornwell made a motion to approve the December 2021 non-reverting claims and Mr. Goss seconded.

Roll Call:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Electronic</u>
Dogan	X			X
Cornwell	X			X
Harrell	X			X
Goss	X			X
Thompson	X			X
VandeWiele	X			X

The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Approval of the December 2021 credit card charges –

Ms. Thompson made a motion to approve the December 2021 credit card charges and Mr. Cornwell seconded.

Roll Call:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Electronic</u>
VandeWiele	X			X
Dogan	X			X
Cornwell	X			X
Harrell	X			X
Goss	X			X
Thompson	X			X

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Witmer introduced Cheryl Munson as the new Parks Department liaison. Ms. Witmer also noted that this would be the last meeting for Margie Rice to attend as the County Attorney for the Parks Department, as she would be leaving employment with Monroe County Government in a few days. All wished Ms. Rice well and stated that she would be missed.

IX. Old Business

A. Karst Farm Park siding, soffit, gutters, & roof discussion – Mr. French first updated the Board on the garage doors at the maintenance building, stating that he would be getting in touch with Joe Yoder, Graber Post Buildings, concerning the installation of the garage doors on the maintenance building. Mr. French hopes to have that job completed in the next four or five months.

Mr. French continued by telling the Board that he invited Mr. Goss to come out and look things over concerning the siding and the roof, both on the Commons and the caretaker's house, he also mentioned that Mr. Goss felt that neither the Commons nor the caretaker's house were in very good shape. Mr. French told the Board he was able to get a quote from Graber Post Buildings, and Graber Post Buildings stated that they would hold their quote until the middle of February 2022. Mr. French also mentioned that he was supposed to meet with Koontz Construction, but that has not happened yet.

Mr. French told the Board the quote for the siding, soffit, fascia, and re-wrapping the restroom entry doors on the Commons is \$24,453. For the roof on the caretaker's house, the price would be \$12,855. For the siding, fascia, and soffit on the caretaker's house the price would be \$24,215. Mr. French suggested that the smaller jobs could be done by the maintenance staff to save money.

Ms. Witmer told the Board that Mr. French would be in contact with Greg Crohn, Monroe

County Facilities Manager, concerning the caretaker's house, to see if the Commissioners would be interested in helping out with that facility since it is not a shelter. Ms. Witmer stated that she could ask for additional appropriation from the Council as well. Mr. Goss told the Board that he feels it is important to put new siding on the Commons because it is a focal point in the park and new siding would make it very attractive.

Mr. Goss stated that as far as the caretaker's house goes, the roof isn't leaking but showing some wear, as well as the siding, he would like to think the Parks Department could get help from the Commissioners, but doesn't feel it is in as much need as the Commons. Ms. Witmer mentioned that some of the Board members have questioned the use of metal siding. Mr. Goss said he feels that the metal siding is more attractive and more durable in the long term.

B. KFP & FWP playground & cantilever (big umbrella) updates – Mr. French updated the Board on the progress of the new playground at Karst Farm Park, stating that surveying has been completed and because the concrete contractor can pour concrete at 26 degrees Fahrenheit or above, he expects there to be concrete poured sometime this winter. Mr. French told the Board that he was unable to contact the playground equipment installation contractor at this time, but things are moving in a forward direction.

Ms. Witmer told the Board that the first draft of the new playground at Flatwoods Park was finished and now the Parks Department will need to contact Andy Knust with Bledsoe, Riggert, Cooper & James to get a survey crew out to Flatwoods Park. Ms. Witmer told the Board things are moving forward and the Parks Department would keep the Board apprised; the goal is to get things completed by early fall of 2022.

Ms. Witmer updated the Board on the upcoming purchase of cantilevers, which are giant umbrellas. She would like to order all of them at the same time to save money on freight. There will be two cantilevers at the Flatwoods Park playground and two at the Commons area (because Mr. French will have to take out several shade trees in that area), and one at the Karst Farm Park new trailhead (which will be paid for by the Duke Energy Foundation).

Mr. Dogan asked Ms. Witmer if the Parks Department has experience with cantilevers. Mr. French told the Board that the splashpad has had cantilevers a year and a half and they work very well, providing a lot of shade, noting that the shade covers are removed for winter and the 4th of July fireworks. Mr. Dogan asked what the estimated lifespan would be on the cantilevers. Mr. French told the Board as far as the poles go, at least thirty to fifty years and the canopies should last for at least five to ten years.

C. Karst Farm Greenway construction update – Ms. Witmer enlightened the Board on the Karst Greenway Trail completion from Ellettsville to Woodyard Road, noting that it is now open to the public. Ms. Witmer stated that hopefully the Commissioners will be signing a contract for the August 2022 completion of the second segment (south segment) from Woodyard Road to the Loesch Road trail head parking lot.

Mr. Goss asked about the drainage issue on the trail. Mr. French told the Board after speaking with Andy Knust, the plan is to have someone come in and put a smaller diameter culvert in the

existing pipe, then shore out each side of that around the pipe to give a wider footprint so it is not vertical down to the culvert. This could give somewhat of a foundation on either side. Ms. Witmer told the Board her goal was to contact the DNR, discuss the situation, and see if it would be possible to include this on the grant. Ms. Witmer told the Board that she will be trying to find funding, and it will probably be a third contract for a contractor to come in and do the job, noting that once the work is done, the culvert will have longer longevity and she may be able to get money from the grant.

X. New Business

A. Resolution 2022-1 to Disclaim Property (abandoned railroad corridor) – Ms. Rice explained to the Board that the resolution to disclaim property was not for the railroad corridor that the Park Board or the County Commissioners have ever exercised control over, so the Board will not be familiar with this. It is in the Clear Creek area and she is asking the Board to approve the resolution today. The Board may remember the history on the deed that Monroe County acquired from CSX. There was quite a controversy about the idea of putting trails on the railroad corridor in the late 90’s and early 2000’s.

Ms. Rice went on to say that Monroe County paid around \$90,000 to acquire a deed for CSX’s rights to the railroad corridors and it wasn’t clear from the deed which corridors were actually included, because there were many spurs and corridors out in Monroe County. Monroe County was intending to build a trail on the main south line, but after litigation there was a statewide declaratory judgment and the idea of development on the CSX went by the wayside.

Ms. Rice continued explaining that there is a little bit of a corridor that Monroe County and the Parks Department have never exercised control over. It crosses property that is now owned by Blind Squirrels LLC, which is owned by the Cassady family. They have secured approval to develop their property and this resolution is asking the Board to disclaim any interest that it may have. Ms. Rice stated that the County Commissioners have already disclaimed their interest.

Ms. Rice told the Board that because the deed from CSX has Monroe County Parks & Recreation on it, she feels it necessary to have the correct paperwork done in case anyone looks at the deed twenty years from now; there will be a good record with the resolution and the minutes that the Board disclaimed any interest in the property.

Mr. Goss made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-1 concerning the disclaimer of interest in the South Rogers Street property owned by Blind Squirrels LLC, and Dr. VandeWiele seconded.

Roll Call:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Electronic</u>
Thompson	X			X
VandeWiele	X			X
Dogan	X			X
Cornwell	X			X

Harrell	X			X
Goss	X			X

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Thompson moved to approve the use of electronic signatures for the Monroe County Parks & Recreation Board members, and Mr. Cornwell seconded.

Roll Call:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Electronic</u>
Goss	X			X
Thompson	X			X
VandeWiele	X			X
Dogan	X			X
Cornwell	X			X
Walter	X			X
Harrell	X			X

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Harrell mentioned that there may not be a more appropriate juncture, for the Board to express their appreciation to Ms. Rice for her excellent advice, supervision, and oversight support, noting that the Board will miss her. Ms. Rice stated that she would miss working with the Board and Parks Department as well, and as a Community Member she plans on volunteering to help with trails and park projects.

Ms. Harrell also welcomed Cheryl Munson as the Parks Department’s new liaison and told Ms. Munson that the Board and Parks Department always welcomes the presence and comments of the liaison. Ms. Munson stated that it has taken her a long time to be able to win the liaison position for the Parks Department.

B. Agreement for Concession Services-Kona Ice of Bloomington – Mr. Robertson told the Board that the Parks Department has been very pleased with Kona Ice as the concessionaire for the parks, noting that with their partnership they have been great in communicating any issues they see at the parks. Mr. Robertson mentioned that they were very popular with the park visitors and the Parks Department would like to renew their agreement.

Mr. Robertson went on to say that Kona Ice would like to enter into a three year agreement with Monroe County Parks & Recreation instead of a one year agreement, and he and Ms. Witmer would like to do that as well. Ms. Witmer mentioned that Kona Ice is very committed to making the park visitors happy and noted that they have purchased another wagon to help provide

alternate locations for park visitors. After brief discussion from the Board, it was decided to enter into a three year agreement with Kona Ice.

Mr. Goss made a motion to enter into a three year agreement with Kona Ice as the Concessionaire for Monroe County Parks & Recreation, effective once the County Commissioners have signed the agreement with an expiration date of December 31, 2024, and Dr. VandeWiele seconded.

Roll Call:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Electronic</u>
Harrell	X			X
Goss	X			X
Thompson	X			X
VandeWiele	X			X
Dogan	X			X
Cornwell	X			X
Walter	X			X

The motion passed unanimously.

C. Wildlife Management discussion to devise a policy – Ms. Witmer told the Board she would like to discuss devising a policy concerning wildlife at the parks. Ms. Witmer went on to say that the parks have always had wildlife and she believes that there will be more as the parks properties increase. Ms. Witmer stated that the Parks Department has received calls from the community, voicing concern that some of the wildlife may be destructive to the parks, for instance, we usually have skunks at Karst Farm Park, we have a beaver at Jackson Creek, and there are always moles everywhere.

Mr. French told the Board that beavers are fun to watch, but they can be very destructive, for instance the beaver at Jackson Creek is cutting the trees down, however those trees are only about five years of age and they will grow back. Mr. French stated that the beaver seems to have moved on, and in his opinion he feels that the park staff just needs to keep an eye on that area. As far as the skunks go, Mr. French said as of now the park staff have been able to move them to a different area in the park if they are causing a problem. Ms. Witmer told the Board this is why she feels it necessary to have a policy.

Mr. Dogan made mention that he suspects some of the wildlife in the parks are not native to the parks, because of people moving unwanted animals from their home to the parks. Mr. French told the Board that Mr. Dogan’s suspicions were true, because he has witnessed people doing this and has even stopped people from doing this. Ms. Thompson stated that she agrees that there should be a policy on wildlife, and believes wildlife are part of the environment and ecology and provides a learning opportunity for people visiting the parks. She continued by saying she would be more concerned about wildlife tearing up structures, or living in the caretakers attic, noting that she has a list from the DNR of licensed nuisance wildlife operators

that she sends out to people quite often. Ms. Harrell suggested that the Parks Department draft a tentative policy that deals with animals that are dropped off and also requires a step in there before the Parks Department staff takes action, that somebody or entity, who's job this is, be consulted on what to do about whatever the animal is or the problem is. She would like a little background and research built into a potential policy, then bring it back to the Board.

Ms. Witmer told the Board that Julie Gray, volunteer with the Humane Society of the United States and member of the public, would like to speak on this agenda item. Ms. Gray told the Board that the Humane Society is very interested in promoting human, wild animal coexistence, noting that they have an office and all sorts of programs that work to help people live with wild animals rather than having to trap or kill them.

Ms. Gray mentioned that there is a State Director for the Humane Society who could link the Parks Department and Board up with other localities to see what they might be doing. Ms. Gray voiced concern with the City's policy to kill the deer around Griffey Lake. The Humane Society have long argued that there would be a better way of controlling that deer population through non-lethal management such as sterilization, the Parks Department might want to fold its thinking about deer into this overarching policy it will be developing on wildlife coexistence.

Ms. Gray stated that there could be animals in the parks and she thinks that people enjoy seeing the animals in the parks, and she understands that balancing the fact that animals can destroy trees and become sick gives the need for policy, and the Humane Society would be happy to give any advice. Ms. Witmer added that the Parks Department and Board would love any advice the Humane Society has to offer, mentioning that over the past thirty years the Parks Department has been coexisting with all the animals in the parks.

Ms. Witmer also mentioned that the Parks Department has a veterinarian on the Board who can give an opinion on whether or not the animal is sick or has rabies. Ms. Gray added that the local Wild Care Organization can also be included in the loop, because they have expertise in rehabilitation for sick or wounded animals. Ms. Harrell clarified to Ms. Gray that the City of Bloomington Parks & Recreation are over Griffey Lake and the deer issue. Currently Monroe County Parks & Recreation does not have an issue with deer.

Ms. Walter asked about feral cats and what is done with them. Ms. Witmer told the Board that the parks staff usually calls her and she traps them and takes them home if they need a little care before taking them to the animal care and control for "hopefully" adoption. Ms. Harrell stated that the Board will look forward to the 1st draft of the Wildlife Management policy in the near future, after a little research and drafting is done by the parks staff.

D. Monroe County Vaccine and Testing Requirement Policy as per OSHA Standard, BOC approved document on 01-05-22 – Ms. Witmer told the Board that the County Commissioners have put a hold on the Monroe County Vaccine and Testing Requirement Policy, until OSHA and the Supreme Court decides differently.

E. Agreement for Services-Bledsoe, Riggert, Cooper & James – Ms. Witmer discussed with the Board the agreement for services with Bledsoe, Riggert, Cooper & James, noting that it

is just like the one the Board has approved in the past. It will expire on December 31, 2022 and will not exceed \$5,000. Ms. Witmer made the comment that the Parks Department has been using Bledsoe, Riggert, Cooper & James for things that the Parks Department needs done quickly and this retainer is tremendously helpful.

Mr. Goss made a motion to approve the agreement for services with Bledsoe, Riggert, Cooper, and James, for calendar year 2022 and the retainer agreement will not exceed \$5,000 and Ms. Thompson seconded.

Roll Call:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Electronic</u>
Dogan	X			X
Cornwell	X			X
Walter	X			X
Harrell	X			X
Goss	X			X
Thompson	X			X
VandeWiele	X			X

The motion passed unanimously.

- XI. **Financial Reports** – Please read
- XII. **MCPR Staff Reports** – Please read
- XIII. **Correspondence** – None
- XIV. **Mr. Cornwell made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Dr. VandeWiele seconded. President Evelyn Harrell adjourned the MCPR Board meeting at 5:16 pm.**



Amy Thompson-Secretary

01/19/2022

Date

Minutes Prepared by Kay Medley