

**MONROE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
BOARD MINUTES**

April 20, 2022 3:30 pm

Hybrid Meeting: In person and via ZOOM

501 N Morton St. Suite 100B Bloomington, IN 47404

I. **Call to Order:** President Evelyn Harrell called the meeting to order at 3:47 pm.

II. **Roll Call of Board members:**

	<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		X
Phil Cornwell	X		
Carol Walter			X

Staff Members Present: Kelli Witmer, John Robertson, Kay Medley, Andrew French, Beth Cossairt, and Matt Wilhoit.

Staff Members who attended the meeting electronically: Stanley Robertson.

Invited Guests Present: Layne Elliott, Eppley Institute.

Invited Guests who attended the meeting electronically: County Commissioner, Penny Githens, and County Attorney, Molly Turner-King.

Public Present: None

Public who attended the meeting electronically: Andrea Multese, Cutters parent, and Dan Preston, Cutters parent.

III. **Amendments and Approval of the Agenda** – No amendments

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** – Andrea Multese stated that she was a parent of two children who play for Cutters and was directed to the Park Board meeting by Ms. Githens, to possibly get some insight. Ms. Multese added that her family loved using Karst Farm Park and the entire facility is fabulous, however, all of the Cutters parents consistently

complain about the field drainage, even a light rain can sometimes cause non-use of the fields and it can be up to two days of good weather before they can be used again. Ms. Multese stated that the Cutters parents are regularly directing their complaints to the Cutters, whom of course are not in control of the fields; that is why they were directed to this meeting. The Cutters parents would like to get more information on the planning for the fields and how Cutters can work with the Parks Department to advocate for better drainage of the fields.

Ms. Witmer thanked Ms. Multese for her comments and stated that the Parks Department is working with the Cutters and Mike Grubb, and currently there is no funding for any large improvements, but the Parks Department is working towards that goal with a committee of Cutters members, Monroe County Council members, Commissioners, and the Visitor’s Bureau. Ms. Witmer hopes they will be meeting in the next thirty days to continue the goal and plan for getting funding for the Karst Athletic Complex improvements.

Dan Preston stated that he was a parent of children who play for Cutters and he feels improving the Karst Athletic Complex could be an excellent opportunity for economic development in Monroe County. Mr. Preston added that an investment in the fields could actually lead to and spillover economic effects that could help businesses and other projects that Monroe County has.

Mr. Preston mentioned that the Cutters players visit a lot of different fields when they play in other communities and they see that the communities are taking advantage of better facilities that attract even more teams that often pay to use the facilities and sometimes pay for the development itself in that strategy. The Board thanked Mr. Preston for his comments.

VI. Approval of the March 23, 2022 meeting minutes –

Mr. Goss moved to approve the March 23, 2022 meeting minutes and Mr. Cornwell seconded.

Roll Call:

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

The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Approval of the March 2022 non-reverting claims –

Dr. VandeWiele made a motion to approve the March 2022 non-reverting claims and Mr. Cornwell seconded.

Roll Call:

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

The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Approval of the March 2022 credit card charges –

Dr. VandeWiele made a motion to approve the March 2022 credit card charges, with the exception of the last three duplicate entries in the log book 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	
Cornwell	X		X	
Harrell	X		X	

The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Old Business

A. IU Eppley-master plan process explanation by Layne Elliott – Mr. Elliott updated the Board on the progress of the master plan. He explained to the Board that the original time frame for the completion of the master plan has been extended to July 31, 2022 and the first rough draft has been sent out to Ms. Witmer, hopefully Ms. Witmer has shared the rough draft with the parks staff and Board.

Mr. Elliott stated that there were still a few pieces that needed to be finished on the rough draft, noting that he needs to finish writing condition assessments; there are a few unfinished blank spots, and there are some additional maps that the IU Geology Department is preparing. Mr. Elliott continued explaining that the “Action Plan”, which is the largest entry to the master plan, and is made up of all the items that the Parks Department is planning to do over the next five years, along with estimated cost, funding sources, and priorities, will also be added.

Mr. Elliott told the Board the second draft should be ready for review in the next two to three weeks and Eppley will come back to the May meeting with a PowerPoint presentation, which

is the more formal presentation, and a required part of the process. This allows the Board, parks staff, and public to ask questions and give feedback. This information will be documented and put into the final draft of the master plan. Mr. Elliott stated that there has been some debate as to whether the DNR needs to look over the final draft before the Board approves it or not. Once that is decided, the Board can approve the master plan in the June meeting.

Ms. Thompson commented that the master plan needed to include some history of the Indigenous Peoples, and currently the history of the area starts out with European Settlers. Mr. Elliott asked if anyone had information on that, and Ms. Witmer stated that the Park Naturalist, Autumn Brunelle, should be able to help with that. Ms. Thompson also pointed out that the athletic facility is titled “Karst Farm Park Athletic Complex” and within the document the fields are referred to as soccer fields. Although the fields are used largely by soccer players, they are also used by other groups and in her opinion should be referred to as “athletic fields”.

B. Jackson Creek Park update –

1. Staked boundary survey – Mr. French told the Board that the survey was completed and boundary markers were staked along with irrigation boxes and GPS locates. Mr. French also told the Board that after completing the boundary lines, there are some issues that County Legal will be taking care of.
2. Tree removal – Mr. French told the Board that out of the three dead trees along the boundary, only one was on the park’s side, so in the next couple of weeks Bluestone will be taking that tree down.

C. Karst Farm Park Commons renovation updates –

1. Siding – Mr. French updated the Board and shared pictures of the completed Commons siding replacement, stating that the section where the pop machines used to be was removed for easier access. Mr. French also noted to the Board that Graber Post Buildings did a fantastic job on the Commons.
2. Concrete issue – Mr. French explained to the Board that there was heaving in the concrete around the Commons and it is a trip hazard; it is not ADA acceptable and could become a liability if it is not fixed soon. Ms. Witmer told the Board that the Parks Department would like to hire Precision Concrete Cutting for \$2,315.06 to remove the trip hazards, noting that the City of Bloomington is currently using Precision Concrete Cutting to take care of their heaving issues and they have done a beautiful job. After brief discussion the Board agreed the concrete needed to be fixed.

Mr. Goss made a motion to approve the proposal from Precision Concrete Cutting to eliminate the concrete hazards in Karst Farm Park in the amount of \$2,315.06, not to exceed \$3,000 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	
Cornwell	X		X	

The motion passed unanimously.

3. Cantilevers, picnic tables, & grills – Ms. Witmer told the Board that in the next month or two she hopes to have quotes for cantilevers for Karst Farm Park Trailhead, Flatwoods Park, and the Commons area, noting that the plan is to place some cantilevers where the trees were removed. Ms. Witmer mentioned to the Board that Mr. French had taken inventory of all picnic tables and grills that need to be replaced because they are too worn out or damaged to work properly, in all the parks.

Ms. Witmer stated that each year the Parks Department likes to buy several of those needed items. Mr. French has been working on quotes for those items, and he has received two quotes, one for the bare minimum and one for a discount if bought in bulk. After discussion by the Board it was decided to approve the purchase of the cantilevers, picnic tables & grills that were quoted by RJ Thomas Manufacturing Company.

Mr. Goss made a motion to approve the quote from RJ Thomas Manufacturing Company for 10 grills, 10 shelf-swivels, and 15 picnic tables for \$15,033 and Mr. Cornwell 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	

The motion passed unanimously.

X. New Business

A. Additional Appropriation – Ms. Witmer explained to the Board that because the Parks Department did not anticipate re-siding the Commons, the amount appropriated in the non-reverting line number 1179-30006-0000 contractual in the fall of 2021 for the 2022 budget will be short. Ms. Witmer told the Board that an additional appropriation of \$30,000 in the contractual line would let the Parks Department pay all of the upcoming anticipated bills.

Dr. VandeWiele made a motion to appropriate an additional \$30,000 in the non-reverting contractual account line,

1179-30006-0000 and Mr. Goss seconded

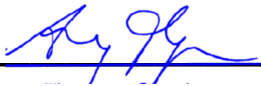
Roll Call:

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

The motion passed unanimously.

- XI. Financial Reports** – Please read
- XII. MCPR Reports** – Please read
- XIII. Correspondence** – BRCJ Flatwoods Park survey report

President Evelyn Harrell adjourned the MCPR Board meeting at 4:38 pm.



Amy Thompson-Secretary

Minutes Prepared by Kay Medley

April 20, 2022

Date