

**MONROE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
BOARD MINUTES**

May 18, 2022 3:30 pm

Hybrid Meeting: In person and via ZOOM

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

I. Call to Order: Vice President Joe Goss called the meeting to order at 3:31pm.

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
Phil Cornwell	X		
Carol Walter	X		

Staff Members Present: John Robertson, Kay Medley, Andrew French, Beth Cossairt, and Autumn Brunelle.

Staff Members who attended the meeting electronically: Stanley Robertson

Invited Guests Present: Layne Elliott, Project Manager, Epley Institute for Parks and Public Lands, and County Commissioner, Penny Githens.

Invited Guests who attended the meeting electronically: County Council member, Cheryl Munson, County Attorney, Molly Turner-King, and Kristy Anderson, Epley Institute for Parks and Public Lands

Public Present: None

Public who attended the meeting electronically: None

III. Amendments and Approval of the Agenda – Mr. Goss told the Board that there had been a request to add an agenda item to New Business: item D, Splash Pad Update.

Dr. VandeWiele moved to amend the agenda adding item D, Splash Pad Update to New Business and Ms. Walter 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	
Walter	X		X	

The 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 – Ms. Githens asked Ms. Turner-King to explain the situation concerning an adjacent property owner wanting to take down some trees along the abandoned rail corridor. Ms. Turner-King told the Board that along the Karst Farm Greenway the adjacent property owner has contracted some of the trees to be logged. She continued to explain that there are eleven trees within the easement that have already been tagged not to be logged, but there are fourteen trees up along the abandoned rail corridor that are identified for sale.

Ms. Turner-King asked the Board how they felt about the adjacent property owner marking those trees to be logged, noting that some of the considerations that went into saying no to the trees in the easement do not come into play in this instance and the trees are pretty far removed from the trail and close to the property owners fence. Ms. Thompson stated that if the trees are owned by the Parks Department, then the answer should be no logging of the trees. Ms. Turner-King reminded the Board that this is a contract that is already signed and this will be a neighbor for quite some time.

The Board had further discussion and decided that the property owner should have checked to see if the trees were on park land before entering into a contract to have them logged and agreed that the trees could not be cut down. Ms. Turner-King told the Board that she would let the adjacent property owner know the Board’s decision.

VI. Approval of the April 20, 2022 meeting minutes –

Ms. Thompson moved to approve the April 20, 2022 meeting minutes and Dr. VandeWiele seconded.

Roll Call:

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

The motion passed.

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

Ms. Thompson made a motion to approve the April 2022 non-reverting claims and Mr. Cornwell seconded.

Roll Call:

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

The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Approval of the April 2022 credit card charges –

Ms. Thompson made a motion to approve the April 2022 credit card charges and Ms. Walter seconded.

Roll Call:

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

The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Old Business – None

X. New Business

A. Master Plan Draft – Public Input – Layne Elliott, Project Manager for Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands, gave a power-point presentation of the 5 year master plan draft, noting that Eppley was the consultant hired to work with the Parks Department staff to create and update the master plan for years 2023 – 2028.

Mr. Elliott explained that the master plan was a tool or roadmap to guide municipal park departments in making decisions and reaching long-range planning goals, noting that it also helps park departments with grant eligibility and in gaining public input to use for direction of important policy issues and to build wide-spread support of the plan for successful implementation. Mr. Elliott continued by going over the purpose and goal of the master

plan, background and context, agency information, programming, public engagement, accessibility report, evaluation and recommendations, benchmark analysis, needs assessment, and the action plan.

Ms. Thompson asked if there was an analysis done on the level of Monroe County Parks staffing, given the amount of acres, trails, etc. covered by the parks staff. Mr. Elliott stated that there was a benchmark analysis done that compared Monroe County with several other counties. Ms. Thompson asked if there was a recommendation associated with the analysis. Mr. Elliott told the Board there was not a recommendation from Epley. Mr. Robertson stated that he recalled that Monroe County Parks & Recreation was somewhere in the middle of that comparison.

Ms. Thompson made mention that a correction needed to be made on page 22 of the master plan; she is listed as treasurer and should be listed as secretary. Ms. Githens asked how the Parks Department compared with other parks departments as far as getting grants, funding, and donations; should the Parks Department be looking for more funding or is the Parks Department better than some. Mr. Elliott stated that it depends on what grants you are applying for and what resources you have, but he thinks that Monroe County Parks & Recreation falls somewhere in the middle and having the master plan will help in finding more funding.

Mr. Robertson thanked Mr. Elliott and Epley for the amount of extensive leg work that went into developing the master plan and stated that from the Parks Department's perspective, it is unimaginable the amount of work & time that went into putting this kind of comprehensive report together. (For more detailed information, please see copy of Master Plan)

B. Equipment request 2022-2023 – Mr. Robertson updated the Board on the upcoming request to the Council for equipment from the 2023 County General Budget. The Parks Department would like to request two Ferris mowers that are in need of replacement. Each mower has a trade in value of \$4,500. The Parks Department also needs an additional John Deere ATV Gator. Mr. Robertson asked the Board to consider funding one of the items, if the Council will not allow funding for these items.

Mr. Robertson told the Board that he, Ms. Witmer, and Mr. French have had discussion concerning this request and recommend that the Board consider moving forward with the purchase of the John Deere Gator before the budgets are finalized. He continued to explain that the Parks Department currently has a Gator on hold at Koenig Equipment for \$8,989, but the offer expires on May 30, 2022, and Mr. French is concerned that they will sell it to someone else. After brief discussion by the Board it was decided to purchase the Gator at this time.

Ms. Walter moved to approve the purchase of the John Deere Gator for \$8,989 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	
Walter	X		X	
Goss	X		X	

The motion passed unanimously.

C. 2023 County General budget DRAFT (budget due date not announced) – Mr.

Robertson presented to the Board the draft of the 2023 budget for both County General and 1178 Non-Reverting Capital accounts. Mr. Robertson asked if there were any concerns. Mr. Cornwell asked about the increase in fuel and whether the Parks Department was asking for enough increase. Ms. Medley explained that she used the latest fuel prices and compared those prices with the prices from 2021 and the amount of gallons used, to come up with the estimated costs, noting that Ms. Witmer then added a little more to the increase. Ms. Medley told the Board that unless there is a drastic increase there should be enough money to cover 2023 fuel costs.

Ms. Thompson asked about the Greenway Professional Services account line. Mr. Robertson explained that a lot of what once was professional services, are now lumped in to the Contractual account line, with the exception of the Greenway Professional Services line which gives the Parks Department a better understanding of what is being invested year after year as far as management of the greenways are concerned. Ms. Thompson asked why the Monroe County Storm Water regulations may cause an increase in dumpster costs.

Mr. French told the Board that the Monroe County Storm Water Department has required all dumpsters to have lids on them, and this may increase our dumpster costs. Mr. Goss asked if there were any more questions concerning the budget increases. The Board agreed that the budget looked good. Mr. Robertson told the Board that there might be slight changes made as the budget process progresses.

D. Splash Pad Update – Mr. Robertson discussed with the Board the email that was sent to the Board which had a service agreement from American Rec. Services LLC attached. He went on to say that a problem with the splash pad has unfortunately happened very fast and the service agreement with American Rec. Services LLC, not to exceed \$5,000, has been approved and signed by the Commissioners, contingent upon the Park Board’s approval.

Mr. Robertson reminded the Board about the email that was sent out by Ms. Witmer, notifying the Board that a crack in the splash pad water tank had been identified, and the water tank will not need to be replaced, only repaired, which will reduce the cost significantly. Ms. Thompson asked how soon American Rec. Services LLC would be able to fix the tank. Mr. French stated that they should be able to start May 19, 2022 but he wasn’t sure.

Ms. Thompson made a motion to approve the service agreement for Splash Pad repairs with American Rec. Services LLC, not to exceed \$5,000 and Mr. Cornwell seconded.

Roll Call:

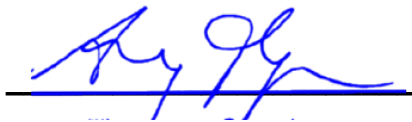
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Electronic</u>
Walter	X		X	
Goss	X		X	
Thompson	X		X	
VandeWiele	X		X	
Cornwell	X		X	

The motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Cornwell moved to adjourn the meeting and Dr. VandeWiele seconded.

Vice President Joe Goss adjourned the MCPR Board meeting at 5:01 pm.



Amy Thompson-Secretary

Minutes Prepared by Kay Medley

06/17/22

Date