

SEMI-MONTHLY PARK BOARD MEETING

DATE: FEBRUARY 23, 2022
TIME: 4:15 PM

LOCATION: BOARD ROOM, PARKS DEPT

PARK BOARD PRESENT: GARY BOWEN, GARY NOLLEY, TERIE ANDERSON,
TAMMY KNOX

OTHERS PRESENT: HANNAH GUNNELL - SHELBYVILLE NEWS
ANNA TUNGATE - ADDISON TIMES
NOAH HENDERSON - MORRISON PARK PROJECT

PARK STAFF PRESENT: ROB VAN TIL - DIRECTOR
TRISHA TACKETT - ASST DIR/REC DIR
CHRIS STEPHENS - SPORTS/MAINT DIR
AMY WISKER - ADMIN ASST

Gary Bowen asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 9, 2022 meeting. There were no claims presented. Terie motioned to approve the minutes, Tammy seconded. Gary Nolley abstained. Motion carried.

RECREATION REPORT

Trisha reported that she is almost done with the summer guide. It will go out the week of March 7th in the Savor Gator. Amy is getting all the information put in the computer.

We are still accepting summer applications for ages 15 and up.

We hired a special events coordinator. Tiffany Kredit. She will start March 7th.

Last Sunday was Mother/Son night. We had about 60 in attendance. The staff did a great job pulling everything together and it went well. This coming Sunday is Daddy/Daughter and we are expecting 80 to attend.

The next event will be the Easter Egg Hunt on April 9th. This will be Tiffany's first event.

Also coming up is Brownies and Bunnies on April 2nd.

SPORTS REPORT

Chris reported that the womens and coed volleyball leagues are going well and that the pickleball league is also going well.

Chris started the youth basketball camp Saturday and it is going well. There were only 9 or 10 that showed up, although a few had paid but didn't attend.

MAINTENANCE

Chris told the board they removed the wood shavings at Clearwick.

Chris updated the board on the pool slide piece. Chris got with John Day at Miracle and sent him several pictures to show what we wanted to do. John took our concerns to Miracle's engineering and safety team. They signed off on us moving everything where we want and will not void any warranties. Miracle may not be able to get to it until Spring now.

Chris got a quote from Mathies Landscaping for playground mulch. Their quote was a bit higher but they will deliver in tri axle loads to each park. In previous years the mulch was delivered to Blue River and a semi load dumped in the soccer parking lot, then loaded onto trucks and taken to each park.

Chris reported that the maintenance staff fixed the fence around the dumpster at the pool. Other upcoming projects include installing the playground mulch, move the frog and dinosaur at Morrison and reinstall in the playground area, the swing by Morrison shelter needs to be painted and installed, repair Morrison sign, paint Morrison shop and install racks, water line for new shute slides at the pool and install ceilings in Blue River bathrooms with insulation board.

Reservations at the parks will end at 9pm to give the staff plenty of time. The diamond groomer that was ordered should be in at the end of February.

Rob added that they are looking into additional cameras and other things to help prevent vandalism. One item they are looking into is getting all locks on a timed system. Right now it takes staff an hour to go around and lock every bathroom. He is looking into quotes that would allow staff to lock and unlock doors from their phones.

OLD BUSINESS

Noah Henderson told the board that the 9 square is shipping tomorrow. He also brought a sample of the information stations to be installed at Morrison Park. The board gave permission for him to move forward.

NEW BUSINESS

Marilyn O'Tain representing the Master Gardeners asked the board for permission to hold a Weed Wrangle at Blue River park along the trail to remove some invasive garlic mustard in order to improve the habitat. The board gave permission for them to hold this on April 9th from 10 am to 12 pm. Rob told her if she can get us the information we can put on our social media. Tammy said she would also mention it to the volunteer group at Horseshoe Indianapolis.

Rob told the board that they want to look into privatizing the softball concession. He hopes the right partner will help with the staffing issue and decrease expenses. Rob said one of the things that may come up with this is the partner wanting to serve alcohol. Chris checked with some other parks and found out that Franklin has a policy of not opening a concession unless there are 500 or more people attending. Columbus and Franklin have both privatized their concessions and liked it, but they both said they had a hard time collecting their part of the profit. Columbus is going to do it again this year and see how it goes. Rob spoke with Jenny Meltzer and she suggested doing an RFP so anyone interested could submit a proposal. Chris said one of their biggest complaints is that we don't offer a good variety of food. Gary Nolley has a cousin who runs a concession at Cera Land in Columbus, he can ask her what they do.

Rob said that the pool does not have the same issues. It is only open 10 weeks and the hours are consistent. Terie suggested not opening the concession during the week for leagues due to it not being used very much and losing money. Gary Bowen agreed. Chris said they could still run the Shelby County Girls Softball concession. Games are Monday through Thursday for that league. Leagues at Blue River however, do not make any money. Gary Nolley suggested moving the girls league to Blue River. This would allow for less staff and maintenance.

Rob told the board he has been approached by a couple different groups to rent out the dog park for a one time event. Amy called around and no one she spoke with did this with their dog parks. He asked the board if this is something that they wanted him to move forward with. Gary Nolley suggested that these events could help increase membership.

Chris is also looking into solar lights to light all the flags in the parks.

DIRECTOR REPORT

Rob told the board that he has been researching the Parks App that we currently pay \$1,400 a year for. He doesn't feel it has much utility as every part of it links back to our website. He would like to discontinue it when it expires in August. He would like to look into other options

like QR codes. The usage on this app is very low. It appears all that is being used is the maps, which are also on our website.

Rob told the board that he and Chris have also been looking into some internal maintenance work order software, inventory software and preventative maintenance software to help keep more organized. The money we save from this app could go toward some of these.

Gary Nolley asked if Chris still planned on taking the fence down around new basketball courts at Morrison. He said although most players he has spoken to want to keep it, he feels it would be beneficial. Some of it will have to be moved to install the goals.

Tammy asked if we had looked into food trucks as a possible solution to the softball concession. Terie expressed concern about being able to have an idea of what is being brought in to know if we are getting the correct amount. Chris said we could estimate from what we have brought in and set an amount. Other options were also discussed.

Adjournment at 5:26 pm
