

SEMI-MONTHLY PARK BOARD MEETING

DATE: MAY 11, 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
KRIS SCHWICKRATH - MASTER GARDENER

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

Gary Bowen asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 13, 2022 meeting and to accept claims as presented. Gary N. motioned to approve the minutes and claims, Tammy seconded. Motion carried.

RECREATION REPORT

Trisha told the board the staff has been at the pool cleaning, organizing storage rooms, and putting up screens on the gazebos. They are trying to get as much done on the outside, so they are ready to go when the contractor is done with his work on the pool. She hopes to be able to fill the pool next week. The new PA was installed. Opening is scheduled for May 28th. The splash pad is also scheduled to open on the 28th.

Preschool graduation is this Friday at Blue River Memorial Park at 6:00 pm.

With preschool over Friday, next week will be prep week to get ready for camp. Camp staff orientation is May 17th.

Teddy Bear Tumblers is over indoors, but will move to Kennedy Park in June.

Garage sale went really well last weekend. The attendance was good and we had people on a waiting list for booths. Several came on Monday to register for the next one in November. This was Tiffany's first sale and she did a great job with it.

The first concert for Music in the Park will be June 11th. They are still looking for a food vendor. Gary N. suggested the hot dog guy and Tammy gave her the name of Big Papa's BBQ that the track used. Trisha will have Tiffany reach out to them.

Rob told the board that someone has asked about having a food truck during a rental at Blue River. We do not have a policy regarding this. He asked the board if they want to allow this and if so, what fees should be charged. The board discussed setting a flat fee instead of a percentage. They also discussed what licenses are required.

Preschool registration for next school year is going on now as well as swim lessons and summer camp.

SPORTS REPORT

Rob reported to the board that the softball concession made about \$9,000 in sales last April. This April we have done \$22,000 in sales. He is not exactly sure what it is attributed to. Shawna is doing a really good job. Prices were increased, but not that much. Trisha said that they are selling slushies again, and did not last year. The pool sells a lot of slushies.

The draft for Shelby County Girls softball is this Friday.

The 40&over league is going well, but the Thursday night league has been rained out the last couple of weeks, they will begin tomorrow.

MAINTENANCE

Rob told the board that the staff did a great job getting fields ready for last weekend. Fields were pretty wet from the previous days of rain.

Rob told the board that the work on Clearwick's parking lot will begin tomorrow.

They are working with the street department to get the fitness equipment installed along the trail. The concrete is being poured Friday. Gary Nolley asked how they are getting the concrete back there. He is concerned if they use the big mixer it will damage the trail or the cross country course. Rob will find out.

Rob told the board that the pool is progressing and they should be able to start filling next week which is cutting it pretty short in comparison to previous years. The work the contractor is doing now is somewhat of a bandaid and there are other issues that could crop up. They will be working up a full report on what it will cost to do everything that needs to be done. There are a lot of concrete issues that could soon be an issue.

The parking lot at the pool is also being sealed and relined that work started today and will be finished by the weekend.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Kris Schwickrath spoke to the board about invasive species in the parks. She is a member of the Blue River Alliance for Native Conservation and Habitats (BRANCH). She asked the board to allow this organization to act as an advisory board for the parks. Kris gave the board examples of some invasive species and the dangers they can cause. Among these are the Japanese knotweed, purple wintercreeper, oriental bittersweet, bush honeysuckle and burning bush. She told the board some of these don't just take over, but can also change the pH of the soil. When the pH changes it prevents anything from growing. Some of these such as the Japanese knotweed and purple wintercreeper spread so quickly that if it were to get into the Blue River it would be difficult to control. Kris said the group's next step is to educate and advise the board on what species are safe to plant and what is not. They are working with a specialist who would also be willing to meet and discuss a plan for removing these. Gary Bowen asked if this is something we should train our maintenance staff on. Rob said that would be a good idea. Kris also told the board that when these plants are pulled, they must be placed in trash bags to go to the landfill. They cannot be chipped or mulched because they are so aggressive. Rob will check with the city attorney about partnering with BRANCH. He would be happy to form this alliance.

DIRECTOR REPORT

Rob told the board that the report from Cord Brothers about the civic center roof that he received indicates that the kind of insulation that was put on the roof has caused the condensation to create ripples in the roof. He will get the report to the city attorney tomorrow and get her advice on how to move forward. The quotes he has are for \$149,000 to do the insulation and \$113,000 for the roof.

Rob is currently collecting quotes for the pickleball courts. The former tennis courts at Morrison can hold four pickleball courts. The street department can save us about \$20,000. He has a

quote from Crim and Sons for \$75,000 to do the concrete work. AG Sports would come in and do the surfacing and paint the lines.

Rob told the board that as of June 1st Doug Conner will be starting to take over as maintenance director. Chris will no longer be responsible for maintenance, but will be able to focus full time on sports. Doug currently works for the street department. Rob told the board he should be able to do this within the budget guidelines for this year. They will be bringing on just two part-time maintenance instead of two part-time and two full-time. Chris did a good job keeping us afloat, but it was a lot on his plate.

Adjournment at 4:50 pm
