

PARK BOARD MEETING

DATE: FEBRUARY 14, 2024

TIME: 4:15 PM

LOCATION: BOARD ROOM, PARKS DEPT

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

OTHERS PRESENT: HANNAH GUNNELL - SHELBYVILLE NEWS
JEFF BROWN - GIANT FM

PARK STAFF PRESENT: TRISHA TACKETT - DIRECTOR
DOUG CONNER - MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR
AMY WISKER - ADMIN ASST
TIFFANY KREDIT - RECREATION DIRECTOR

Gary Nolley called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 10, 2024 meeting and to accept claims as presented. Terie motioned to approve the minutes and claims, Tammy seconded. Motion carried.

RECREATION REPORT

Tiffany told the board that she has been working on getting ready for Mother/Son and Daddy/Daughter. Daddy/Daughter is this Sunday, the 19th and Mother/Son is Sunday, February 25th. The theme is Rock n Roll and there are still spots left for both. Gary asked what the max is. Tiffany said we can take up to 40 couples. We are currently at 27 couples.

The summer guide is ready to be looked at internally, then she and Trisha will decide how to distribute. Trisha told the board that we are looking at distributing through Every Door Direct. We will also be doing the guide in house to give us more flexibility to make changes if needed. They are looking at doing Every Door Direct by sending a postcard with a QR code that will take them to the guide. We will still have some books printed to distribute. Trisha said she appreciates all the time and effort Tiffany has put into it. We will also advertise through the newspaper, radio and Savor Gator.

Tiffany reported that all bands are booked for the Music in the Park 2024. The dates are June 28, July 26, August 16 and September 23. Three tribute bands and a country/rock chart topper band. She will release the names once the final contract is signed.

Tiffany told the board we are still taking applications till the end of February for summer positions for camp, pool and softball. She is looking for an assistant camp director. She reported that about half of the staff are returning for camp and the pool.

The Garage Sale has a few booths left for May 4th.

The Easter Egg Hunt will be March 30th at Kennedy Park. Ms. Gardner's class will again be filling the goodie bags. Advantage Shelby County and National Honor society will have volunteers along with the Action Club.

Brownies and Bunnies painting class will be March 24th. There are still spots open.

Tiffany reported she had a meeting with the Highland Games committee last night and everything is on track for May 18th at the fairgrounds. We have more athletes and vendors this year. They are still looking for volunteers. Because it is so close to the end of school those groups are not available. There are currently 33 athletes from 8 different states registered. The cap is 60. Last year there were 26.

SPORTS REPORT

Trisha told the board that Chris is due to return on the 20th of Feb.

The men's basketball league is going well and will finish up March 6th.

The women's and coed volleyball leagues are also going well.

Shelby County Girls Softball is open for registration.

Adult softball league registration is also open. Leagues will start in April.

The Pickleball tournament in June is open for registration. This will be the first tournament on the new courts at Blue River. Registration needs to be done through pickleballbrackets.com. It will then redirect them to our website for payment. Terie asked what the date is for the tournament. Amy replied that it is June 21, 22, 23. Logistics will have to be worked out as there is also a softball tournament that weekend at Blue River. The softball tournament will be using Blue River, Sunrise and the high school fields.

Pickleball leagues registration opened Monday and are almost full. Trisha has been working with JD Martin who is president of the local club. They will be running these leagues and the

tournament. They have raised the number of people they can take in the leagues from 40 to 55. A league plays on Tuesdays and B&C leagues play on Wednesdays.

Trisha is also working with the pickleball group on signs for courts rules and etiquette of the game. Once she receives those, Trisha will bring them to the board for approval. Leagues will use 4 of the 8 courts.

MAINTENANCE

Doug reported that he has created a parks to do list per Trisha's request of what each park will need before opening. They will be painting the splash pad toys. If you see something let us know.

First tournament is March 30th. It is a one day tournament. Staff will be prepping the fields in March with dirt, top dressing and chalk to get ready for the season.

Created QR code signs for bathrooms if in need of servicing. The temporary signs used last year worked well, especially during softball tournaments. When someone leaves a message, it goes straight to Doug's email so he can assign someone to take care of it. Also had signs made to put on doors with QR code so people can find out bathroom availability. These signs will be magnetic. When scanned, people can find out if the bathroom is closed due to maintenance, vandalism or not open yet for the season.

Doug told the board that they have hired two new maintenance employees, Peyton Winkler and Lane Carrell. They will be working the 2 to 11pm shift, but right now since we are not in season they will work the 9am to 6pm schedule for training until about mid March. The part time maintenance staff is coming back this year as well. They are Riddick Dow and Aiden Holmes.

Doug told the board that we also have a part-time landscaper position open. Larry moved out of state. The hours are very flexible, 20 hours a week and pays \$15/hour from April through September.

DIRECTOR REPORT

Trisha told the board she is working with Mayor Furgeson on a solution for the Blue River Memorial Park lights. They have been an issue for eight to ten years. There are 80 to 90 lights in the park and several are out. They are working with Duke Energy to come up with some options of them taking over the lights. Duke will come up with some options, then bring them to council and park board for approval. Lights will have to be totally replaced for them to take over. This project will include Lee Blvd which has problems too. They are looking at cutting down the number of lights also. Duke agrees that with the new LED lights, not as many will be

needed. Gary asked if the soccer group would want lights? Trisha said she hasn't spoken to them about it.

Gary also asked if the fiber that is being put in would run back to the maintenance building. She has met with the fiber people twice and is meeting with them again next week to discuss where we have internet and where we would like to have it. She has given them an aerial of all the parks showing the ones that have it, and the ones that need it. Trisha circled soccer, softball, maintenance and cross country areas at Blue River. She would like to have internet access at all parks for cameras and other uses.

Betsy addressed the situation with the fairgrounds. She went out and took pictures and sent them to the Mayor and asked him to have a conversation with them about putting up a fence along the park and maintenance building. We want to be good neighbors as well.

Trisha told the board that a member of the 40 and 8 talked to her about being able to access their building on April 8th during the eclipse. Their address is Old Rushville road. The park took their drive when they expanded the softball fields. They usually enter through the fairgrounds, but since it is reserved that date, it will not be available. She told him we would work to make sure they had access to their building that day. They also offered to partner for some events by using their kitchen to prepare food. They have a kitchen that has been inspected by the health department.

Trisha told the board that BRMP will be a public viewing site. There will be food vendors, emergency management and merchants. Have to reserve spots through parks. Gates open at 8am. All parks staff will be at the park that day.

Trisha is still waiting on the contractor for the pickleball shade structures. They had talked like they would be out this week, but they have not been out yet. Hopefully it will be in the next week or two. Once these are installed we will then put out the picnic tables, benches and trash cans and schedule the ribbon cutting.

Ball State University Immersive Learning program is looking at Morrison Park. She and Adam Rude, Planning Commissioner met with the group of 26 students who are using this park as their project. They walked from downtown to Morrison Park. They had a lot of good questions. Trisha said she is excited when they are finished that we will have 26 different ideas. They were made aware of the issues we have faced with fighting and vandalism. Trisha went over some of the history of the park and who Laura Morrison was. A group planted trees for the 42 soldiers that did not return from World War I. She also shared the history of the shelter with the interurban rails. Told them about the band shell that was there for 75 years. They will meet a couple more times then they will do a final presentation here and one at Ball State.

Trisha told the board that she met with an architect today about the concession at Sunrise. It is old, outdated and needs a lot of work and no longer accommodates our needs. It was probably built in the 70's. She is collecting information about replacing this facility or remodeling. She would like to include a shelter with tables for people to eat and more restrooms. Trisha said they are looking at 3 bathrooms each for men and women. Gary suggested 4 for women and 2 for men due to the majority of users being female. Terie said the building was there when she played as a child.

Trisha reported to the board that she has hired a new special events coordinator, Nesha Anderson. She will start next Tuesday. She is from the Fairland/Triton area of Shelby County.

Trisha told the board that they are looking into painting the toys at the splash pad. There are 3 guns that have not worked properly for quite some time so they are looking at replacing them with something else that will be an easy install. Doug has been looking into this. Tammy said she could probably get a horse paid for.

Trisha met with the Blue River Foundation last week. They had some great ideas they would like to do in our parks. One is putting large bear statues painted by different artists around the area. They would like the park board's blessing to place one at the fishing node at BRMP. The goal would be to get people outside and going on a bear hunt. The foundation will cover all the costs. They would be placed around the county. It was discussed if the Storybook Trail is our as well. They try to paint them to the theme of where they are being placed.

Trisha said the foundation is also working on nature education signage along the Knauf trail. All signs will be paid for by the Blue River Foundation. This is in the early stages.

Trisha has a meeting tomorrow with Betsy, Adam, and Mayor on the Parks five year master plan. HWC has been hired to put it together. They will schedule the meetings. It will take 6 to 8 months to complete. They will have public input ways other than in person meetings. Betsy said they will use surveys and QR codes to collect input.

Trisha updated the board on the safety trails. She has been collecting information and getting proposals. She has met with Code Blue Systems, Night Scope Incorporated and ???.....Technology. She shared our vision with them and they will get back to her with a proposal. She told the board she would like their help sifting through this. Betsy suggested seeing if they have installed any locally and getting their input. She has also updated the Blue River Foundation on where she is since they have given \$20,000 for this project.

Trisha would like to get back to sending staff to the IPRA conference for knowledge sharing and networking.

Gary will be out of town for the February 28 meeting.....Tammy and Scarlett won't be here March 13th.

Adjournment at 5:20 pm
