



FORT WAYNE
PARKS AND
RECREATION

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SUMMARIZATION OF MINUTES FOR THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

The Board of Park Commissioners held their monthly Board meeting on Thursday, June 9, 2022. The meeting was held in the City Council Discussion Chambers Room 30 (garden level), Citizens Square Building, 200 East Berry Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. William Zielke, Board President, (was present via Zoom), Mr. Justin Shurley, Vice President, and Mr. Cory Miller, Commissioner.

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Steve McDaniel, Chuck Reddinger, Sandra Odisho, Steve Schuhmacher, Alec Johnson, Harlean Falls, Mike Gore, Chad W. Shaw, Kathy Pargmann, Nathaniel Cardelli, April McCampbell, Thomas Hegge, and Robert Hines.

Others in attendance were: Rick Schuiteman, Fort Wayne Children's Zoo, Andy Fenker from The League, and Pat Stelte of the Allen County Public Library.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Board President William Zielke welcomed all, and called the monthly Board meeting to order at 10:00 am via Zoom.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Board Vice President Justin Shurley moved, and Cory Miller, Commissioner, seconded the motion of accepting the meeting minutes from Thursday, May 19, 2022, for approval as submitted. The motion was duly carried. The approved and signed minutes are on file.
3. **PAYROLL & COMMERCIAL VOUCHERS:** Manager Odisho requested the Board's approval of payroll and commercial vouchers. Included in the report are the number of full-time and part-time employees, for pay periods ending 05/13/22, and 05/27/22 account payables payment vouchers #989 to #1257, and the totals in the Park General Fund, Park Trust Fund, Park Non-Reverting Operating Fund, Park Non-Reverting Capital Fund, Park Cumulative Building Fund, and Other City Funds; noted were the Capital lease payments for annual equipment leases. Noted was a payment to Sinclair Recreation for Franke Park Playground equipment. Commissioner Miller moved and Vice President Shurley seconded the motion to approve the payroll and commercial vouchers ending **May 31, 2022**, with a Payroll Sub-Total of \$816,386.72. Account Payables Sub-Total \$1,344,048.70, and a **Grand Total of \$2,160,435.42**. The motion was duly carried. The signed May 31, 2022 payroll and commercial voucher reports were approved and are on file.
4. **TRUST FUND DONATIONS:** Finance Manager Odisho navigated the Board members through a listing of the donors, amounts, and purpose, along with donations, endowments, and

grants received as of **May 2022**, which was a total of **\$3,995.00**. Noted were donations from Jim Sack II for tree replacement at Rudisill and south Harrison Street, (2/2022) \$50,000.00. Total Riverfront Development Reimbursements - \$50,000.00 and a Grand year-to-date Total including Riverfront Development of **\$733,833.53 YTD \$683,833.53** Vice President Shurley moved and Commissioner Miller seconded the motion to approve all donations and grants reported for December and the year-to-date total. The motion was duly carried. The motion was duly carried.

5. PARK PRIORITIES:

Planning/Landscape, Horticulture & the Botanical Conservatory, Deputy Director Alec Johnson

- Gave a brief update on the Franke Park Renaissance Project Phase I, and received a complete design set, will present for a contract approval to the Board around October. Scheduling a Franke Park Design unveiling to the public soon. On the Riverfront Phase IIA, park development, and construction are on schedule for the end of 2022. The City is pursuing a Bond for the completion of the construction. The RFP for the Comprehensive Plan will be reviewed in the next 3 weeks.

Lead Marketing Manager Kathy Pargmann and Deputy Director Chuck Reddinger

- Messaging on available jobs and looking for strategies for 2023. Will produce a recruitment video, to compete in August. Camps, summer programming, and pools opened with reduced Staff, reduced hours, elimination of 5 playground sites, and reduced capacities. Maximizing our services to the community to the best of our ability. Hiring adjustments and hours have been made with full-time staff. Seasonal hiring is below the annual 350, with acceptable public understanding.

Director Steve McDaniel – The 2nd Public meeting on Foster Park Golf Course, went well, with great feedback, and expectations of proceeding plans in the next few months.

- 6. FORT WAYNE CHILDREN'S ZOO UPDATE:** Rick Schuiteman, Director of Fort Wayne Children's Zoo, gave a brief update on the 58th season. 2021 was a record-breaking year. Trending wonderfully, in 2022, with the largest attendance ever, for a non-holiday week; with 20,000 over-budgeted attendance. One of less than 10 Zoos in the country that is still self-sustaining (not tax-payer dollars). Lots of colors happening in the ZOO, most noticeable is the red iconic sign, which is now the logo colors of teal, yellow, and orange. The Zoo officially opened on April 30th, (9 am -7 pm) and will close on October 30, 2022. Several bird exhibits are closed due to the recent Bird Flu. A change for the Guest is the detour around closed exhibits. Several babies have been born at the Zoo and will be out for Guests to see soon. New Saki (monkey) & Agouti exhibit, will have added attraction by the end of this season, located across from the North American river otters. The Rainforest room has been remodeled. World of Adventure Campaign will include; Red Panda Ridge, on the hill of the Zoo, which will complete Phase I of the renovations. A Natura; Bamboo maze and play area will be added, along with Seals as an addition to the Coastal Cove area. 22 Birthday parties have been booked at the Zoo, including one for a 97-year-old.

7. AGREEMENTS / FEES/ RESOLUTIONS / POLICY APPROVALS:

A. First Extension Lease/Agreement – Trubble Riverside, LLC. - Deputy Reddinger

presented. Vice-President Shurley moved and Commissioner Miller second the motion to

approve the agreement with a lease extension on a month-to-month basis, commencing on June 22, 2022. The motion was duly carried. On file is the signed agreement.

B. Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory MAP Membership Fees - Manager

Nathaniel Cardelli presented. Commissioner Miller moved and Vice-President Shurley seconded the motion to approve the fee recommendations for a membership rate increase, due to a rate increase by Science Central, in the MAP package agreement. The motion was duly carried. On file are the membership rates for the membership access pass (MAP).

C. Community Center (233 W Main Street) Electrical Utility Easement Agreement –

Superintendent Chad W. Shaw presented. Commissioner Miller moved and Vice President Shurley seconded the motion to approve the Electrical Utility Easement, which will overlap in part a previously approved Indiana Michigan power Company Easement at the same location. On file is the signed and notarized easement.

8. BIDS / CONTRACTS / CHANGE ORDER APPROVALS:

A. East Central Park Marina Design and Engineering Project #219016 – Superintendent Shaw.

Vice-President Shurley moved and Commissioner Miller seconded the motion to approve the contract with Engineering Resources, Inc., at a total cost of the contract to be paid using Local Income Tax (LIT) funding. The motion was duly carried. On file are the signed approval form, bid sheet, and contract.

B. Fourth Street/St. Marys Pathway Trestle Bridge Design and Engineering Project #0222051 – Superintendent Shaw presented.

Commissioner Miller moved and Vice President Shurley seconded the motion to approve a contract with Engineering Resources, Inc. The motion was duly carried. On file is the one proposal received, the contract and the signed approval form.

C. Buckner Park Trail Project #220052/ Quest #8182481 – Superintendent Michael Gore presented.

Vice President Shurley moved and Commissioner Miller seconded the motion to approve a contract with T. E. Incorporated for the scope of work, ending approximately 3/4 -a mile north of Bass Road. The motion was duly carried. On file are the bid sheet, contract, and the signed approval form.

9. PARKS HISTORY and HIGHLIGHTS – Deputy Director Steve Schuhmacher described and showcased the highlights of the following parks and facilities.

A. Daryl B. Corbin Memorial Park – The land, 6.3 acres, was donated in 2006 and the establishment of the park was in 2008 at 742 North Coliseum Blvd. Encompassed by Carrington Field Baseball Diamond, utilized by the North Side school Baseball Team, and the Fort Wayne Baseball Federation.

B. Jehl Park – Established in 1979 at 1805 Kendawa Drive, 3.7 acres, with the financial assistance of the Jehl Brothers, Inc., and a grant from the Land & Water Conservation Fund.

C. Johnny Appleseed Park – Established in 1973 – 1500 Coliseum Blvd. at Harry Baals Drive. Johnny Appleseed Park, including what was formerly known as Archer Park. It is named after the popular-culture nickname of John Chapman, better known as “Johnny Appleseed”, a famous American pioneer, who was buried on the site. Chapman's gravesite is accessible to public view through steel gates. The weathered tombstone says, "Johnny Appleseed He lived for others. 1774–1845." It also has a carved apple in bas relief. Johnny Appleseed Park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. The land for the park was donated to Allen County, Indiana by William T. McKay, to serve as a memorial park for the community. It became part of the Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation Department as the City grew and annexed the land. Johnny Appleseed Park serves as the home for Fort Wayne's annual Johnny Appleseed Festival. The current park. As of 2008, includes a large campground nestled in rolling meadows and woods along the St. Joseph River, the Vietnam War memorial, and the extreme northwest corner of the park including the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum and Exposition Center. For a complete review of the presentation listed go to: www.fortwayneparks.org/parks or <http://www.fortwayneparks.org/parks/parks-showcase.html>

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There was no public input during this meeting.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS: Director McDaniel and the Deputy Directors reported the following:

- ◆ Welcomed and hosted a breakfast for a delegation from our Sister City Gera, Germany
- ◆ Summer camps, programs, and services began this week
- ◆ Senior Games began June 6
- ◆ Bond issue Press Conference
- ◆ Concert Series – Air Supply begins on Saturday
- ◆ The 2021 Employee of the Year Award goes to Thomas Hegge – Botanical Conservatory
- ◆ Planning for the Falls programs has begun
- ◆ The Jennings Center and the Weisser Park Youth Center, came together to create a Cookbook
- ◆ Recruiting has begun for the Dragon Boat race team members
- ◆ Open positions in the Forestry Division
- ◆ 2023 Budget will Kick-Off, with final approval in October
- ◆ Foster Pavilion #3 project is moving along on schedule
- ◆ Salomon Farm Park Rental Barn will get a face-lift in July
- ◆ Work continues on Master Plans for neighborhood parks
- ◆ Riparian work every day on the rivers, with vital volunteers on the weekends
- ◆ The weather has pushed annual plantings back, somewhat
- ◆ Tree removals are set aside for contractors, as the Forestry Division is short-staffed
- ◆ The Marketing Team submitted an article to IPRA on Sweet Breeze
- ◆ Out Front Media donated 10 billboard messages for the Department, on a billboard located in Swinney Park

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS: Commissioner Shurley mention the great programming of the Lifetime Sports Academy (LSA)

There was no further business to come before the Board of Park Commissioners, on **Thursday, June 9, 2022**, in the City Council Discussion Chambers of Citizens Square (garden level) Room 30, 200 East Berry Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802. At 11:18 am, the meeting was adjourned.

**CITY OF FORT WAYNE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS**

William Zielke, President

Justin Shurley, Vice-President

Cory Miller, Commissioner

Richard Briley, Commissioner

Steve McDaniel, Director/Board Secretary

All documentation, correspondence and prints/site plans presented at this meeting are on file in the office of the Parks and Recreation Department. This meeting was recorded by the Park staff and videotaped by Pat Stelte, Government Access Coordinator, in Television Services of the Allen County Public Library.

Here is the electronic link to the **Thursday, June 9, 2022** Board meeting:
<https://acpl.viebit.com/player.php?hash=SKL2E8OZljVU>