

## SUMMARIZATION OF MINUTES FOR THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

**Public Comments** were accepted on the **proposed transfer of** the Board of Park Commissioner's **Freimann Square property** of approximately 0.17 acres adjacent to the Arts United Center. Immediately following the Public Comments, the **Board of Park Commissioners Monthly Board Meeting** conducted their monthly meeting on **Thursday, October 12, 2023, in the Red Room, McMillen Park Community Center, 3902 Abbott Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46806**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Justin Shurley, Board President, Mr. Cory Miller, Vice President, Commissioner Mr. Richard Briley, Commissioner, and Mrs. Jenna Jauch, Commissioner.

**PARKS STAFF PRESENT:** Steve McDaniel, Harlean Falls, Patti Davis, Scott Winling, Kathy Pargmann, Greg Reith, Chad W. Shaw, Daryn Schwartz, Mike Gore, Rob Hines, Andre Patterson, Percinta Hunter, and Jason Smith

***Others in attendance were:*** Dan Ross, Arts United, John Rogers, Arts United, Marion Lornee, Northside Neighborhood Association, Sam DeFilippo, Vice President of the Fort Wayne Rugby, Dan Wire, Maumee Watershed Alliance, Peg Maginn, Madelyn Kidd, Journal Gazette, Seth Weinglass, City Utilities, Judi Wire, Northside Neighborhood Association, and Patrick Stelte of the Allen County Public Library/Access TV.

**FREIMANN SQUARE PROPERTY TRANSFER:** **At 10:00 a.m.- President Justin Shurley opened the meeting for Public Comments on the proposed transfer of land to the Arts United Center.** Deputy Director of Planning and Development, Alec Johnson; explained the guidelines of the Department's Land Use Policy and the process for a proposed transfer of Land. Mr. Dan Ross, Executive Director of Arts United, gave a brief history of the Arts Campus, and an explanation of the project for expansion to modernize the Arts United Center; for accessibility to a mobility elevator. The purpose of the request from Arts United is for the transfer of land from the Freimann Square property, creating a stronger tie between Freimann Square and the Arts United Campus. The sidewalk and access, along the eastern edge of Freimann Square will be maintained. After a call for Public Comments, three times by Board President Shurley, there was no one forthcoming with comments, and the Public Comments on the **proposed transfer of land to the Arts United Center were closed at 10:11 a.m., on Thursday, October 12, 2023.**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Board President Justin Shurley opened the monthly Board meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners at 10:12 a.m.

2. **INTRODUCTION OF STAFF:** Mr. Andre T. Patterson, Manager of McMillen Park Community Center. (McMPCC). Mr. Patterson introduced Mr. Rene Franco Ayala, Facility Maintenance Technician, and Ms. Percinta Hunter, Facility Manager. Also, on Staff at, McMPCC is; Mr. Antonio Cannon, Program Facility Coordinator, Ms. Jasmine Harvey, Program Facility Coordination Neighborhood Programs, Mr. Nathan Thomas, and Seasonal, Mrs. Marilyn Williams, Mr. Timothy Hardy, Ms. Kimberly Robinson, Ms. Jenee Smith, and Ms. Loday Rise, Part-time employee.
  
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** President Shurley called for approval of the minutes from the *Thursday, September 14, 2023* meeting. Vice President Miller moved and Commissioner Briley seconded the motion of accepting the meeting minutes as submitted. The motion was duly carried. The approved and signed minutes are on file.
  
4. **PAYROLL & COMMERCIAL VOUCHERS:** Finance Manager, Sandra Odisho requested the Board's approval of payroll and commercial vouchers. Included in the report is the number of full-time and part-time employees, for pay periods ending 09/01/23, 09/15/23, and 09/29/23 account payables payment vouchers #2996 to #3328. The totals are in the Park General Fund, Park Trust Fund, Park Non-Reverting Operating Fund, Park Non-Reverting Capital Fund, Park Cumulative Building Fund, Park Bond Fund, and Other City Funds. ***Noted*** were six semi-annual vehicle lease payments, with the seventh payment due in October; and a very large payment toward the Franke Park Renaissance Project. Vice President Miller moved and Commissioner Briley seconded the motion to approve the payroll and commercial vouchers ending **September 30, 2023**, with a Payroll Sub-Total of \$1,510,720.17. Account Payables Sub-Total \$2,829,433.91, and a **Grand Total of \$4,340,154.08**. The motion was duly carried. The signed September 2023 payroll and commercial voucher reports were approved and are on file.
  
5. **TRUST FUND DONATIONS;** Finance Manager Sandra Odisho navigated the Board members through a listing of the donors, amounts, and purpose, along with donations, endowments, and grants received as of **September 2023**, which was a total of **\$420,119.00, and Riverfront Development Reimbursements: PNC Foundation, Inc. – Final Payment on 09/2023 - \$30,000.00**. Noted was a donation from Community Development for the Harvester Neighborhood Trees. The year-to-date total is \$1,030,164.47. By acclamation, the Board approved all donations and grants received and reported. The motion was duly carried. A record of all grants, donations, and financial contributions is on file.
  
6. **PARK PRIORITIES:** Deputy Director Alec Johnson gave an update on the progress of the Franke Park Renaissance Project Phase I, as construction continues, with the shaping of roads, trails, and cinder blocks for the foundation of the pavilion. Everything is on schedule and budget, even with unexpected soil issues. Riverfront Phase II is in progress with construction. An introduction of a Temporary Easement with City Utilities in Foster Park, trying to save as many trees as possible, was noted.  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5EXXwaV4B\\_Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5EXXwaV4B_Y)

**7. AGREEMENTS / FEE / PROPERTY / RESOLUTION / POLICY / APPROVALS:**

**Freimann Square Property Transfer – Deputy Director Alec Johnson** –

Commissioner Briley, moved and Commissioner Jauch seconded the motion to move forward with the proposed property from Freimann Square to the Arts United Center, with the understanding that City Council will need to approve the transfer of property. The motion was duly carried. On file is the transfer of property request letter, a detailed property line exhibit, and all correspondences associated with the land transfer.

**2023-2024 Winter (December/January/February) Fun Times Brochure Fees –**

**Deputy Chuck Reddinger** – Vice-President Miller moved and Commissioner Briley seconded the motion to approve the fee recommendations for the Winter (December through February) 2024 Fun Times Brochure.

**Carrington Field Agreement – Mr. Daryn Schwartz, Program Supervisor, Special**

**Events** – Commissioner Jauch moved and Commissioner Briley seconded the approval and terms for an extension and renewal for the Real Estate Lease agreement with the Fort Wayne Baseball Federation, Fort Wayne Community Schools, and the City of Fort Wayne Board of Park Commissioners/Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation Department. The motion was duly carried. On file is the signed lease agreement.

**8. PARKS & RECREATION HISTORY AND HIGHLIGHTS:**

Deputy Steve Schuhmacher narrated the following Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation Department’s facility, property, history, and highlights. For a complete review of the presentation, and location of all parks and amenities listed go to [Fun Facts - Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation](https://www.fortwayneparks.org/parks/parks-showcase.html) *or* <https://www.fortwayneparks.org/parks/parks-showcase.html>

**John Nuckols Memorial Park** – 1.09 acres, established in 1876, from a donation from John Hayden, known as Hayden Park. In 1986 the park was renamed for the first African American to serve on the Fort Wayne city council and represented the first district for 23 years from 1959 to 1982. To preserve his legacy, a bust of Nichols now stands in the park named in his honor at Harmar Street, and Maumee Avenue.

**McMillen Park** – located on land donated by Dale McMillen and family, established in 1937, home of the McMillen Park Golf Course, the Lifetime Sports Academy, the Fort Wayne Rugby Club, and the McMillen Park Community Ce

**REA Park** – in 1984, Rea Magnet Wire Company, acquired several small lots, across from McCormick Park, located between Holly Avenue, Pontiac Street, Woodside Drive, and Redmond Avenue. In 2002, the Rea Magnet Wire Company, and the Vann family donated the

land, featuring a soccer field, natural open space, and a paved half-mile walking path, to be maintained by the FW Parks & Recreation Department.

**9. MCMILLEN PARK COMMUNITY CENTER PROGRAMMING AND SERVICES:**

Mr. Patterson gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation of all services, programming, after-school services, Staff, Volunteers, and collaborative programs with various communities, agencies, seniors, companies, and national partnerships.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**Mr. Dan Wire**, spoke on behalf of the Maumee Watershed Alliance, with comments on the River City Ventures Project, land use, and the donation of private land.

[dwire@maumeewatershedalliance.org](mailto:dwire@maumeewatershedalliance.org)

**Ms. Peg Maginn** spoke about the River City Ventures Project, the land policy, and sustainability. [maginn965@gmail.com](mailto:maginn965@gmail.com)

**Mr. Sam DeFilippo**, VP of FW Rugby Club, came before the Board on behalf of the Fort Wayne Rugby Club, to express his gratitude to the Department for allowing the FW Rugby team to practice in Frank Park and McMillen Park since 2004. Mr. DeFilippo mentioned he had an opportunity to purchase property near the river off Parnell Avenue, but could not see the vision at that time. The Fort Wayne Rugby Club currently consists of men, women, and High School teams.

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

- ✚ Jennings Center – The team is working on solutions to have the center operational for youth and the neighborhood. Thanks to Mrs. Aitia Jennings for her comments at City Council
- ✚ Our newest revision of the Foster Park Golf Master Plan will be presented at a public meeting scheduled for October 25 - Sears Pavilion
- ✚ Staff continues to work to keep all 18 holes of the Golf Course open during construction
- ✚ Headwaters Park Ice Rink is in the process of opening, with several new positions available.
- ✚ Thank you to all the Commissioners, who participated in the Department's taping of the Podcast
- ✚ Thank you to the McMillen Park Community Center Staff for all they do for the community and for hosting the Board meeting

- # Hurshtown Reservoir will be closing this weekend
- # October 26 is the date to host 2 Fall Harvest events, at Weisser Park Youth Center and McMillen Park Community Center
- # As of 9/30/23, there are 6 full-time positions available
- # Fall registrations are ongoing
- # October 15 is the last scheduled Sweet Breeze excursion ride for the 2023 season
- # Grounds Crews are preparing for the Winter season
- # 9 Full-Time Park C's and the Relief Workers are now being supervised by Mr. Greg Reith
- # The comprehensive Plan has ended the Public Input phase
- # Landscape is busy designing for 2024
- # The 2023 Fall Tree Planting Project has been approved by City Council
- # Fall is a GREAT time to visit the Botanical Conservatory and to Shop in the facilities at Tulip Tree Gift Shop
- # The Marketing Staff is busy finalizing the Winter Fun Times, assisted with the Employee Meet and Greet for all employees
- # 2 Press Conferences were held in September
- # 4 Positions are available for Headwaters Park and the Jennings Recreation Center

# **COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:** President Shurley shared comments on the partnership and capital improvement plans and future development of the Arts United Campus, and the Community Development donation for a Chess Table on Kensington Boulevard. Commissioner Briley thanked all involved with the Goshen Road project, keeping the road open, signage, and all efforts to lessen the confusion of the project. Commissioner Jauch

thanked all of the Staff, especially, the McMillen Park Community Center Staff for hosting the Board meeting. The Board of Park Commissioners was invited to a private tour of the McMillen Park Community Center, after the meeting.

There was no further business to come before the Board of Park Commissioners, on **Thursday, October 12, 2023**, in the Red Room of the McMillen Park Community Center, 3902 Abbott Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana. At 11:30 a.m., the meeting was adjourned.

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

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**Justin Shurley, President**

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**Cory Miller, Vice President**

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**Richard Briley, Commissioner**

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**Jenna Jauch, Commissioner**

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**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 link to the **Thursday, October 12, 2023** meeting online:**  
<https://acpl.viebit.com/player.php?hash=iMFDQWWyaQojnVFH>