

Monday, February 26, 2024 meeting minutes

The Connersville Parks and Recreation board met in the council chambers of City Hall on Monday, February 26, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

President Amy Hammons presided with Vice President Angie McMullen, and board members, Ann Kirschner, Julie Fisher, Vane Lashua and Sasha Henderson. Park Superintendent Marla Steele, Park Assistant Superintendent Grace Williams, and Park Secretary Kelly Moffett were also present.

Board Member Ann Kirschner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary Kelly Moffett completed the roll call.

President Amy Hammons presented January 22, 2024 minutes for additions or corrections. Board member, Vane Lashua presented correction on the January minutes. The section regarding the invasive plants referred to the plants as “evasive” This correction has been noted and will be changed. Vice President Angie McMullen presented a motion to accept the January minutes. Vane seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Park Superintendent Marla Steele begins her monthly report with a report that we currently have 20 lifeguard applicants. Those who are not certified will go through the lifeguard certification class. We are currently taking applications for part-time maintenance/grounds keeping staff.

We currently have a survey going on we want the community to complete and share. This will give us a good read on what the community would like to see happen at the Parks. We will be having a public meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the Banquet Hall to give everyone a rundown so far.

Grace, our Assistant Superintendent, has been doing pool concession worker interviews. We have had a meeting with Jess and Brian with Community Relations at Reid Hospital, to talk about working with our Aging Well Living Well program Educational Services and Financial Support and Community Outreach. They will take it to their board for approval, it would be ongoing support, no need to reapply.

David Caldwell, Fayette/Union Water and Soil Conservation, received a grant from REMC. He is planning to purchase seeds to cover the ground. We do not have a scheduled opening date for the John Conner Nature Preserve as of yet, we will be meeting with Brad Colter regarding the opening.

The new park fee schedule was approved by the City Council and will be implemented on March 1, 2024. New sports fees will go into effect for the fall sports. Marla showed

pictures of our new picnic tables made by the High School Building Trades program. Each table ran between \$70-\$90, we received a total of 16 tables. Marla also showed pictures of the dugout our maintenance team has been cleaning up and it will be rebuilt. The High School baseball team offered to help. Lastly, she showed pictures of the bathroom at the baseball field, we have been tearing it down and cleaning up. We will fix the electric box.

Logan, our Sports Director, went to camp summit training day. He brought back ideas such as having junior counselors, who will still pay but will be in training to become counselors. We will encourage them to come to work for us when they turn 15. Our insurance policy will change on March 1<sup>st</sup>. It will cover players, managers, coaches, referees, and volunteers. Basketball is wrapping up, and spring soccer sign-ups will go until March 1<sup>st</sup>. Baseball, Softball, and T-Ball sign-ups are going on now until March 28.

We are looking for volunteers to help on April 8<sup>th</sup> during the Eclipse event. We will need help with parking, concessions, selling glasses, etc. We expect people to be arriving around 10 am with the event starting around 2 pm.

Roots Blower would like to partner with us at Industrial Ballpark. They are interested in putting a free library at the Ball Field.

We will be having a community meeting at Banquet Hall on March 12 from 6-7 pm. We will be hosting our Bunnies and Brownies event on March 21 from 5-7 pm, and our Breakfast with the Bunny event on March 23 from 9-11 am. April 8<sup>th</sup> is our Eclipse viewing event at Roberts Park and the Soccer Field. May 16<sup>th</sup> is the annual Elders Luncheon.

The Assistant Superintendent report was given by Grace. Lifeguard and Concession worker applications are due by Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. We will be notifying applicants by mail of the status of their application. Our Living Well Aging Well program has been successful. We have had great turnouts for our events and we are hoping that it grows even more. We have purchased some new games. She has also been in contact with Stephanie, from the Purdue Extension office about adding some new classes. We will be posting a March schedule on Facebook soon. We have had several donors for our Brownies and Bunnies event and our eclipse event. Our next goal is to get all the summer employees hired.

No Old Business.

New Business:

We would like to get a new Printer/Copier/Fax machine at our office. We do a lot of printing and copying of event flyers for the school and our own promotions. Rosemary's

office has been doing all of our bigger copying jobs in the past and we would like to make a motion for approval to purchase a new copier. We would be purchasing the same brand the rest of the city department use. Board member Anne Kirscher made a motion. Vane Lashua seconded it. All approved, motion carried.

Longwood Bridge installment is due for the bridge in claims. The bridge is moving along and making progress.

We are seeking a motion for approval to use some funds from the Chuck Lewis Scholarship Fund for a member of the community who would like to participate in baseball. Board member, Vane Lashua made a motion, Julie Fisher seconded it, all approved, motion carried.

Marla wanted to discuss the Park Hours, there is currently an ordinance that the park closes at 10 pm. She would like the Board to consider changing the park hours to be open later. We have cameras, the police always do a drive-through every shift, and we also have weddings that go later than 10 pm.

The next board meeting scheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup> will conflict with the winter sports banquet. We will be changing the March board meeting to an email meeting. The next in-person board meeting will be April 22, 2024, at 6:30 pm.

Miscellaneous Business: None

Julie Fisher made a motion to approve claims including payroll. Angie McMullen seconded it. Motion carried.

Public Forum: Timothy Scholte and his wife Beth attended our board meeting to discuss the accessibility of the park restrooms. They have concerns especially about the restrooms at Roberts Park stating it is difficult for someone's significant other to help if they are in a wheelchair. They are suggesting a family bathroom.

Angie McMullen entertained a motion to adjourn and Julie Fisher seconded it. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Scribed by: Kelly Moffett

February 27, 2023

Park Board Meeting approved minutes

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Amy Hammons, President

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Angie McMullen, Vice President

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Vane Lashua, Board Member

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Julie Fisher, Board Member

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Ann Kirschner, Board Member

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Sasha Henderson Board Member