W.L.P.R. Park Board Minutes

The Parks and Recreation Board met Monday, September 17, 2018, 4:30 pm, at the Parks office. Present at said meeting were Linda Eales, Karen Springer, Jim Pitoukkas, Brandt Patz and Park Board Attorney, Andy Gutwein. Kathy Lozano, Chris Foley, Bess Witcosky, Jon Munn and Cheryl Kolb represented the department. Council member, Gerald Thomas, also attended.

Linda convened the Board at 4:34 pm.

Consent Agenda Items

Minutes – provided online initially, then at meeting

Staff Management Report

EMPLOYEE MILESTONES:

- Ken Vanderhoff will receive backwash prevention training in collaboration with the facilities department
- Assistant Park and Recreation Director Position has been posted – we hope to have someone hired and on the job by the end of the year.

PROGRAMS:

Lilly Nature Center

- The Lilly Nature Center Display Task Force has completed Phase I of their plans to expand and improve the educational displays available to the general public. Approximately $10,000 in donated funds was utilized to feature an exhibit relating to the four ecosystems at the Celery Bog Nature Area. These include the wetlands, prairie, savanna, and woodlands. In addition to the 22' long display, a floor graphic was added to simulate a mulched path and a bridge that people would be walking on as they visited each of the ecosystems. Other new features include a “Sounds of Nature” board, a “Scope on a Rope” to see nature up-close, and a bird wingspan display
- The Task Force is now moving to Phase II and has met with curators from the State Museum, Purdue exhibit and technology individuals and product vendors. One of the ideas for the future includes an interactive display on the history of this property from the glacier to today, while incorporating how the Nature Area acquired its name.

Morton Community Center

- Family Fun Day was held on Sunday, August 16 from 1p-4p in partnership with the West Lafayette Public Library. Over 900 people of all ages attended and participated. Every child under the age of 12 received a free book, popcorn, snacks, and a drink. Entertainment and education opportunities were provided by Morton instructors, Civic
Youth Theatre. Special thanks to the West Lafayette Police and Fire Department for attending!!

- Morton kicked off their fall classes on Tuesday, September 4.

**Parks**

Special events are scheduled for every weekend for the month of September:
- Sept. 1 - Connection Point Church Freedom 5K – walk through Celery Bog Nature Area
- Sept. 9 - Roundtable Wellness Walk – in Cumberland Park
- Sept. 14 – Naturalization Ceremony at White Horse Christian Center
- Sept. 15 - Hunger Hike walk through Celery Bog Nature Area
- Sept. 15 – Make it Happen Run/walk - Cornerstone Autism Foundation through Cumberland Park
- Sept. 15 – Global Fest – Morton Center
- Sept. 23 – Cupcake Run – in Cumberland Park
- Sept. 23 – Art on the Wabash – City event in Tapawingo Park

**Municipal Pool**

- Over 18,000 citizens enjoyed the pool over the past summer
- Over 1,500 kids and adults improved their swimming skills in 2018

**Park Maintenance**

Keeping our parks clean and attractive takes hard work and diligence. Aside from normal activities like mowing, cleaning and mulching our parks department accomplished the following list of projects in the past month:
- Installed concrete pads and park benches (2) on the 231 trail
- Made repairs to vandalized door locks at Tapawingo Park storage building
- Completed soffit and fascia repairs and painting at the Morris Schoolhouse
- Began plaster wall restorations at Morris Schoolhouse
- Removed 6 dead ash trees along trail up Happy Hollow Road
- Removed hazardous, partially fallen tree, over trail at Celery Bog trails
- Completed electrical boring to provide electricity to the Heron sculpture, work continues to complete the project
- Replaced circulation pump at the pool
- Assisted WLFD in loading firetruck on trailer for shipping to Wisconsin
- Installed temporary lighting in gumball alley in preparation for breakfast club 8/30/18
- Completed new roof on shelter #4 at Happy Hollow Park
- Received INDOT Right of Way permit to install park benches on the trail at the intersection of SR 231 and Cumberland Ave
- Sign for Lincoln Park was vandalized this past weekend and had to be removed, with a new sign to be installed in the future

**Claims** – provided online initially, then at meeting.
Karen motioned to approve the Consent Agenda Items as presented. Brandt seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
Old Business

Recreation Center / Morton Community Center
- Kathy provided an update, noting interviews for the Architect Engineering Firm and Construction Manager as Constructor (CMC) were recently conducted. The candidates chosen will be announced on Wednesday at the Redevelopment Commission meeting at 8:30 am. The Owners Rep Firm, Veridus, was hired previously at a special Redevelopment Commission meeting. A representative from Veridus joined the committee and was involved in the interview process for the Architect Engineer and the Construction Manager as Constructor. Discussion followed.

Karen asked if anyone had the opportunity to go to the open house for the new Faith Northend Community Center. Linda and Chris both attended. Discussion followed.

New Business
- N/A

West Lafayette School Board
- Karen reported a Ribbon Cutting & Open House for West Lafayette Intermediate School will take place on Wednesday, October 10. A parade from Happy Hollow Elementary School to the West Lafayette Intermediate School will begin at 3:30 pm, with the ribbon cutting at 4:00 pm. Following the ribbon cutting, there will be an open house for tours. On Tuesday, October 16, the school will open for occupancy.

Wabash River
- Jon reported about the Wonders on the Wabash, explaining about the group and their activities along the way.
  - (Wonders on the Wabash is a program created by the Tippecanoe County Partnership for Water Quality for 6th grade classrooms. The program allows students to experience the Wabash River during a 4.5 mile rafting trip from Tapawingo Park to Fort Ouiatenon. Along the way, students will have the opportunity to participate in education sessions to test water quality, study native mussels, observe the fish of the Wabash and learn the history of the river. The floating classroom exposes the students to the wonderful Wabash and all it has to offer while teaching them the importance of water quality and how our everyday lives impact the water and environment around us.)
  - Jon noted the program will be taking place the next few weeks and we’ll make sure we have the restrooms open for them, and will be helping them to get their rafts in and out of the water safely.

Other

Consideration of Special Request
- Chris presented the following request received from Becky Canine, requesting use of the Lilly Nature Center on April 27, 2019.
I am a painter living and working in Lafayette. I received a grant from the Indiana Arts Commission for a project to bring awareness to the plight of the Hellbender Salamanders. I am doing this by working with Dr. Rod Williams of Purdue University to learn about and observe the salamanders. I am then creating a series of paintings based on what I learn. I will be exhibiting the paintings to help raise awareness. I would like to hold this exhibit at the Lilly Nature Center on April 27, 2019 from 6-9 pm. The paintings and giclee fine art prints of the paintings will be for sale at an exhibit. A portion of the proceeds of sales will go to the “Help the Hellbender” conservation effort led by Purdue Universities Agriculture department.

Morton staff generally handles the reservations for Lilly Nature Center. Both Bess and Tammy have said we do not generally allow this, or the sale of items at the nature center. The fee would be $50.00/hour, the after hours fee, which includes the rental of the entire facility. Discussion followed. The item is tabled until further information is available.

Global Fest
• Bess provided an overview of Global Fest, which took place on Saturday, September 15, 2018. She went on to thank all of the sponsors of Global Fest individually.

Thanks to Our Sponsors:

Gold: Indiana Arts Commission

Silver: Purdue Federal Credit Union • Wessler Engineering Inc

Bronze: Butler, Fairman & Seufert • Purdue Research Foundation • Duke Energy • O.W. Krohn & Associates, LLP • Bowen Engineering Corporation • DeFouw Chevrolet and BMW • MBAH Insurance • American Water • Sunbelt Rentals • Houston Electric • Arni’s • Comcast

International Food Bazaar: Haley’s Lock, Safe and Key • Kumon West Lafayette • Bridging the Gap In Communication • Crestview Apartments

Committee Members: Mike Armintrout • James Dekle • Linda Eales • Tiffany Lyle • Wendy Medbourn • BJ Moyars • Karen Moyars • Caressa Oorloff • Nick Schenkel • Sooyeon Shin • Karen Springer • Scott Tracey • Capt. John Watson • Todd Wetzel • Bess Witcosky

Hosted By: City of West Lafayette • International Center of West Lafayette

Extended Entertainment By: Purdue Convocations

Community Partners: West Lafayette Parks & Recreation • West Lafayette Public Library • Morton Community Center • CILMAR
Cumberland Park

- Andy presented additional information regarding the property at Cumberland Park. The Redevelopment Commission has requested that we verify that no federal funds were used with respect to Cumberland Park before they deed the property back to us. We are in the process of having a title search done this week, which will verify all of the different parcels and we can verify how it is owned, etc. We will add to that a reference of what funding sources were used and start to develop some data for the area. Discussion followed.

Adjourn

- Brandt motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jim seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 5:09 pm.

Next Meeting Date

- The next Park Board meeting will be Monday, October 15, 2018, 4:30 pm, Riverside Skating Center