The Parks and Recreation Board met Monday, January 28, 2019, 4:30 pm, at the Happy Hollow Complex. Present at said meeting were Linda Eales, Jim Pitoukkas, Karen Springer, Brandt Patz, Pat Flannelly and Park Board Attorney, Andy Gutwein. Kathy Lozano, Greg Mitchell, Bess Witcosky, Dan Dunten, Kevin Noe and Cheryl Kolb represented the department. Council member, Gerald Thomas also attended. Absent were staff members Chris Foley and Jon Munn.

Linda convened the Board at 4:31 pm.

First on the agenda was Clerk, Sana Booker, swearing in Brandt Patz as a member of the Park Board.

Consent Agenda Items

Minutes – provided online initially, then at meeting

Staff Management Report

EMPLOYEE MILESTONES:
New Team Member: Please welcome to the Parks and Recreation Team a New Assistant Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, Greg Mitchell. Greg comes to us from Parke County where he has served as the Director of Parks for the past several years. He will be a much needed addition to our team as we work toward our new Health and Wellness Center opening in 2021.

Resignation: It is with mixed emotions that we announce the resignation of Bess Witcosky. Bess has spent the past five years dedicated to the successful development and operation of the Morton Community Center. In her tenure, the community center welcomed City offices to the building, successfully navigating the difficult relationship of city business and recreation. She has maintained quality programming and been an integral part of the revitalization of Global Fest. Her final accomplishment has been the seamless move to the new space. She tirelessly made sure that each and every instructor was set up for success. It was no easy task. She will be leaving us to accept a position in the private sector and will be missed. Please join us in wishing her well.

PROGRAMS:
Morton Center Programs move to City Hall: You will be pleased to know that all of the former Morton Programs have successfully relocated to their new temporary home at the former Happy Hollow Elementary School. Everyone is settling in, classes are running, and aside from a few logistical blips, all is well. All staff dug in and made the move as smooth as possible. Special thanks should go to Bess Witcosky, Jon Munn and the Maintenance Techs, Ken VanderHoff, Tom James, John Heitmiller, John Muller, Nick Rawles, Bob Cheever and Eric Reifel. Not only did the guys move all of the parks staff and equipment and the Morton Programs, but they willingly leant a hand to all other City departments with the move. They deserve a big thank you.

New Program Highlight: Adult Ballet with Nicole Bealand and Christina Cichra. During the Summer of 2018 Bealand and Cichra began looking for a new home for their ballet classes and students. They found a great fit at the Morton Community Center and recently made the
move to the new City Hall at 1200 N. Salisbury. Their depth of knowledge and experiences have made them an instant favorite with West Lafayette Parks and Recreation patrons.

**LILLY NATURE CENTER**

Sam Postlethwait Passes Away – Sam turned 100 years old last spring and has been a regular volunteer at the Lilly Nature Center. He has taken thousands of pictures, assisted with events and led educational walks on Tuesday mornings. He was a tremendous supporter and ambassador of the Celery Bog Nature Area and will be truly missed.

Pollinator Exhibit – The Lilly Nature Center was able to obtain a large educational exhibit relating to pollinators and their importance to the world. This normally rents for about $7,000, but we were able to secure it for free. It will be available for the public to see until April.

General Public Volunteers – 200 youth and adults from churches, Purdue groups, corporations, scouts, and AmeriCorps contributed 500 hours mulching trails. This is an additional value of $12,345.

**Parks and Recreation**

- The design phase of the Health and Wellness Center and the new Community Center at City Hall continues.
- Cason Park Design also continues and is beginning to develop a theme for the park
- 2nd and 3rd Grade Basketball is in full swing.

**Skating Rink**

- The Skating Rink is open and operating thanks to the cold weather – enrollment is up over the past two seasons.

**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:

- Demolition is completed for the installation of the Happy Hollow Playground/installation will begin the week of January 22 with target for completion by the first week of February.
- The Parks Department continues to help with settling in of the City Hall offices and the Parks and Recreation programs at the former Happy Hollow School, as it transitions to City Hall/Community Center – Happy City Hall(ow)

**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**

**Health and Wellness Center/City Hall Update**

- Larry Oates, along with Erik Carlson, provided a visual presentation of the Health and Wellness Center with a complete overview of the facility. Larry also discussed they are working on the details for a new Parks maintenance barn.
Happy Hollow Playground Update

- Kathy provided an update, noting the footings were poured last week and the staff will be piecing together equipment during the cold weather days. Providing the weather cooperates, the playground should be able to come together in a couple of weeks.

New Business

New Hire – Greg Mitchell

- Kathy presented information regarding the hiring of the new Assistant Superintendent, Greg Mitchell. Pat motioned to approve the hiring of the Assistant Superintendent as presented. Jim seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Resignation – Bess Witcosky

- Kathy announced the resignation of Bess Witcosky, noting her last day of employment with the City will be Friday, February 1, 2019. Bess will be moving on to become the Director of Joyful Journey, an adult day service facility. Bess noted it has been a pleasure, and an honor, to work for West Lafayette Parks and Recreation. It has allowed her an opportunity to meet and work with many individuals in the community, hear great stories, make many friends and have many experiences.

Cason Park Design Steering Committee

- Kathy noted the group has met again and they are going in a wonderful direction. In the next few months, they will be coming to the Park Board to do a presentation about where we are on the steering committee. There will be a couple of public meetings scheduled, and then by June, there should be a design followed by raising money to help fund the project.

Engage Nature, Inc. Facility Use Agreement

- Kathy presented the agreement, noting Engage is a nature educational program that has had a name change and consists of the Junior Nature Club. The agreement allows the use of Lilly Nature Center along with the Celery Bog Nature Area for a user fee of $250.00 for the calendar year, an increase of $50.00 from last year, with payment due on or before April 1, 2019. Karen motioned to approve the Facility Use Agreement as presented. Brandt seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Kathy announced 2019 is the 80th Anniversary of the West Lafayette Park Board.

Pottery Request for Clay Bowl Giving Project

Gail Johnston, a pottery instructor through the West Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department, provided some background information regarding the YWCA Greater Lafayette’s Clay Bowl Giving Project, scheduled for Thursday, April 18, 2019. She is requesting to use the pottery studio located at the Happy Hollow Complex to make the bowls that will be contributed to the event and to advertise (email or postcards) through the department. The days she is looking at hosting the event would be early March, first or second week, on a
Friday or a Saturday. There would be no charge and she has access to donated clay. Discussion followed. The Board requested more information, tabling the item until next month’s meeting.

West Lafayette School Board
- Karen reported, over the weekend, West Lafayette became the 2019 State Debate Champions.

Wabash River.
- n/a

Other

Surplus Items from Parks and Recreation Office – 1101 Kalberer Rd
- Kathy presented a request to surplus a list of multiple items, no longer needed, from the Parks office on Kalberer Rd. Brandt motioned to approve the surplus items as presented. Jim seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Adjourn
- Pat motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jim seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 5:25 pm.

Next Meeting Date
- The next Park Board meeting will be Monday, February 25, 2019, 4:30 pm, at Happy Hollow Complex

Presiding Officer
Secretary
File:Cheryl/2019ParkBoardMinutes/Minutes#01/January2019