

MUNSTER BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
5:00 p.m. Regular Meeting
Munster Town Hall, Main Meeting Room
June 20, 2023

MINUTES

Park Board Members present: Robyn Paulsen, President; Dan Repay, Vice President; Mike Sowards, Board Member; Scot Pierce, Board Member; Ken Schoon, Town Council Liaison.

Park Staff present: Mark Heintz, Director of Parks and Recreation; Kevin Dark, Superintendent of Operations; Janice Uram, Recording Secretary.

Others Present: Dustin Anderson, Town Manager
Wendy Mis, Clerk-Treasurer
Mack Pierson, CSK Architects
Tom Kuhn, CSK Architects
See Attachment A

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Paulsen called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. PUBLIC INPUT:

No emails were received by the Director.

Ken Schoon, Town Council Liaison to the Park Board, wanted to bring to the Board's attention that a resident came to the previous night's town council meeting claiming she has observed a large increase in the number of people driving to Kiwanis Park and the surrounding area, using offensive language, parking in no parking areas, blocking resident driveways, drinking alcohol and grilling. She asked for signage to be put up with the rules about no alcohol or grilling. She also requested resident only parking in the area.

Jan Tillema, 8240 Howard Avenue, lives near Grove Park. She wanted to make a complaint about the constant noise, vulgar language coming from the basketball court at Grove Park. While removing one of the hoops has shown some improvement, the environment in and around the park is not positive or suitable for children to be around. She would like to see the other hoop removed.

Thomas Ryan, 8119 Madison, lives near Grove Park. He agrees that the language, conduct and noise can be heard clearly through open windows. He would like to see the remaining hoop removed.

Nikki Burke, 939 Ridgeway, lives near Grove Park. She would like us to continue to keep the one hoop down, but prefer both hoops be removed. She indicated that at any given time there are between 15 and 20 adults on the court, and she doesn't consider that safe with the many kids in the neighborhood.

Dan Burke, 939 Ridgeway, lives near Grove Park. He agrees with everything the previous commenters have said, and added that this activity goes on seven days a week and even holidays. He is concerned because he has heard talk of guns and the possibility of drug deals. He suggested putting a court in a more business or commercial area or lot away from a park setting.

No one else rose to claim the floor.

3. **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

a. Approval of previous meeting minutes

May 16, 2023 Minutes

It was motioned by Board Member Sowards and seconded by Vice President Repay to Approve the May 16, 2023 minutes. The motion carried by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed and the minutes were approved.

b. Confirmation of Voucher Register(s)

i. Approval of Voucher Register 23-6A dated 06/20/2023 totaling \$61,632.61

ii. Confirmation of Voucher Register 23-6B dated 5/1-31/2023 totaling \$266,070.73

iii. Confirmation of Voucher Register 23-6C dated 6/5/2023 totaling \$236.50

iv. Confirmation of Voucher Register 23-6D dated 06/19/2023 totaling \$1,961.50

It was motioned by Vice President Repay and seconded by Board Member Pierce to approve Park Voucher Registers 23-6A, 23-6B, 23-6C and 23-6D. The motion carried by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed and the voucher registers were approved.

c. Reports

June Board Report

The June Board Report was included in the agenda packet for the Board's perusal.

4. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION**

a. Grove Park Basketball Court Discussion

The Director discussed with the Board the Staff's decision to remove one of the basketball hoops recently. The decision was made after several complaints from neighbors at Grove Park who live on Howard Avenue of loud vulgar language, people staying late and trash around the court. Also, people coming to the park from neighboring communities are trespassing on private property. Since the hoop has been removed and signage posted, improvements have been noticed. The Director asked for the Board's input. Discussion was had and it was decided to continue to have only one hoop on the court and address this in the new Master Plan the Department will begin working on.

b. Hospice of the Calumet Area Request

Hospice is hosting their annual fundraising event on Sunday, August 27. In a letter to the Director they asked to hold the event at Heritage Park at no charge. The Director recommended the Board approve the request.

It was motioned by Vice President Repay and seconded by Board Member Sowards to approve the use of Heritage Park at no cost by Hospice of the Calumet Area. The motion carried by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

c. Humane Indiana Paws in the Park Request

Humane Indiana is celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Paws in the Park fundraiser on September 9th at Community Park. In a letter to the Director, they advised that Three Floyds Brewing has offered to host a beer tent at the event and asked permission to do so. The Director recommended the Board approve the beer garden request pending receipt of a certificate of insurance by the Town prior to the event and with the stipulation that all State and local rules are followed for the appropriate permit to have a beer garden at the event.

It was motioned by Board Member Sowards and seconded by Vice President Repay to approve of Three Floyds Brewing having a beer garden at the Paws in the Park event with the stipulation that a certificate of insurance will be provided and all State and local rules and regulations are followed. The motion carried by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

d. Family Christian Center Park Use Request

By letter, Family Christian Center asked about utilizing the north end of West Lakes Park on Wednesday, June 21st, for a fireworks display at an event honoring their Senior Pastor. They have completed all the requisite paperwork, permits and insurance, and a map of the area to be used, copies of which were included in the agenda packet. The Director recommended the Board approve the request to use the north end of West Lakes Park as indicated on the map.

It was motioned by Vice President Repay and seconded by Board Member Pierce to authorize Family Christian Center to use the north end of West Lakes Park as indicated on the map provided, for a fireworks display on June 21 with the stipulation that some notice is provided to residents in the area. The motion carried by a vote of 3 in favor and 1 opposed.

e. Frank H. Hammond Park Sport Court Improvements

The Repair and Replacement Scheduled called for crack filling and re-coloring of the tennis, volleyball and pickleball sport courts at Frank H. Hammond Park in 2023. Proposals were sent to three contractors. Perm-A-Seal was the only one to submit a bid for the project. They submitted two proposals, each with alternates to give flexibility for the project with funds budgeted. The two projects with recommended alternates total \$45,624; the project was budgeted in the 2021 GO Bond for \$40,000. The cost increase is attributed to rising material costs and can be paid with surplus bond funds. The Director recommended the Board approve Perm-A-Seal completing the sport court improvement project to Perm-A-Seal as described in their proposals including the alternates in the amount of \$45,624.

It was motioned by Vice President Repay and seconded by Board Member Sowards to award the Frank H. Hammond sport court improvement project to Perm-A-Seal as proposed with alternates in the amount of \$45,624. The motion carried by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

f. Centennial Park Golf Buildings Award

Two bids were received and publicly opened at Town Hall on June 13th. The bid document results were reviewed compiled in a recommendation letter from CSK Architects which was included in the agenda packet. The Town Attorney has reviewed the bid documents and the recommendation letter. Per the Clerk-Treasurer's office settlement funds remain available to fund the project leaving no reason for the project to move forward. Seeing that the bids are within the available financing for this project it was recommended the Board award the Centennial Park new pro shop and cart storage facility project to the contractor, Hasse Construction Company, as recommended by CSK Architects.

It was motioned by Vice President Repay and seconded by Board Member Sowards to award the Centennial Park new pro shop and cart storage facility project to Hasse Construction Company. The motion carried by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

Janice Uram, Secretary

Date

Robyn Paulsen, President

Date

ATTACHMENT A

Attendance Munster Board of Parks and Recreation June 20, 2023 Meeting

Nikki Burke, 939 Ridgeway
Tom Ryan, 8119 Madison Avenue
Rebecca Greaney, 600 Superior Avenue
Dan Burk, 939 Ridgeway Avenue
Jan Tillema, 8240 Howard Avenue
Mark Tillema, 8240 Howard Avenue
David Mena, 8009 Hohman Avenue
Johnathan Sparks, 340 Mayfair Court
Jaylyn Fassoth, 8619 Madison Avenue
Pratham Patel, 216 Knightbridge Place
Elijah Lukas, 1916 Bluebird Lane
Riley Kazaragys, 8215 Parkview Avenue
Elena Crocker, 9217 Birch Avenue