

## SUMMARIZATION OF MINUTES FOR THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Following the conclusion of the Annual Organizational Meeting, the Board of Park Commissioners held their monthly Board meeting on Thursday, May 8, 2023. The meeting was held in the City Council Discussion Chambers Room 30 (garden level), Citizens Square Building, 200 East Berry Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802

**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, Chuck Reddinger, Sandra Odisho, Steve Schuhmacher, Alec Johnson, Harlean Falls, Mike Gore, David Weadock, Chad W. Shaw, Tim Byers, April McCampbell, and Robert Hines.

***Others in attendance were:*** Denny Coverstone, Rick Schuiteman, Fort Wayne Children's Zoo, and Pat Stelte of the Allen County Public Library.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Board President Justin Shurley called the monthly Board meeting to order at 10:00 am.
  
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** President Shurley called for approval of the minutes from the *Thursday, April 13, 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.
  
3. **Park Priorities:** Deputy Director of Planning and Development Alec Johnson, updated the Board on the Brewer Park Redevelopment. The design process has begun, and hand-drawn renderings by Chad W. Shaw were shared during the meeting. We now have funding for the Packard Park project and will start the process for the RFPs. The estimated completion of construction for both the Brewer Park and Packard Park project is early in 2024. Phase I construction of the Franke Park project has begun and earthwork will begin on 5/5/23, with the other trades following behind. Planned coordination meetings with the Contractors and surrounding entities impacted by the project. MKS will install a camera, to show time-lapse at the site. Riverfront 2A will open sometime in June, Phase 2B, is wrapping up, as Deputy Johnson shared a fly through, from the MLK Bridge through to North Lawn Amphitheater, the proposed new Brewery, and the North Lawn Dock, and concluding Harrison Street and the addition to the Tree Canopy Trail, with connection to a floating dock on the north bank of Promenade Park. There is a packet for potential funders for name rights of the new spaces, in the. In addition to the approval of the 5-year Board approve Master Plan, there has been a formulation of an Advisory Committee, with a

Public Input meeting scheduled for May 24 and 25, with a push for a general Survey, to get a good pulse from the public.

**4. AGREEMENTS / FEES/ PROPERTY / RESOLUTIONS / POLICY APPROVALS:**

**A. I & M Easement Foster Park – Deputy Director Steve Schuhmacher, Park Maintenance –**

Commissioner Briley moved and Commissioner Jauch seconded the motion to approve the distribution easement number IN230512, at 3900 Old Mill Road associated with a parcel of land, close to Foster Park, for the installation of underground electrical utilities, to keep the area clear of future development, with Indiana Michigan Power Company, with specifications as listed in the agreement. The motion was duly carried. On file are the signed and notarized easement agreement, and location map.

**B. Foellinger Theatre Concert Season Fee Recommendations –Tim Byers, Manager, Foellinger Theatre -** Vice President Miller moved and Commissioner Jauch seconded the motion to approve the Foellinger Theatre 2023 fees and pricings for the Lead Sound Technician, Lead Lighting Technician, and the 2023 Concert/Performance Ticket prices. The motion was duly carried. On file are the fee recommendations and pricing for the 2023 Foellinger Theatre Season.

**5. BIDS / CONTRACTS / CHANGE ORDERS – APPROVALS**

**A. Botanical Conservatory Fire Alarm System Project – Chad Shaw, Superintendent -** Commissioner Briley moved and Commissioner Jauch seconded the motion to approve the alarm system, entering into a contract with Simplx Security, for the replacement of an antiquated and imminently failing fire alarm system, with servicing and parts no longer available through Silent Knight system. The motion was duly carried. On file are the bid tabulation sheet, the contract, and the signed Purchasing approval form.

**B. Annual Botanical Conservatory Roof Glass Project – David Weadock, Manager, Project Administration –** Vice President Miller moved and Commissioner Briley seconded the motion to approve the scope of work, to include the replacement of twenty panels of tempered glass in the Conservatory’s roof structure in the Showcase and Tropical rooms; a contract with O’Neils Glass, Park Project #2023011. The motion was duly carried. On file are the signed Purchasing Approval Form, and the original contract.

**C. Change Order No. 1 Community Center Flooring Project – David Weadock, Manager, Project Administration –** Vice President Miller Commissioner Jauch moved and seconded the motion to approve a decrease to the original contract with Jack Laurie Floors LLC, Inc. The motion was duly carried. On file are the Purchasing Approval Form, the contact, and the RFQ Bid Tabulation sheet.

**6. PARKS AND RECREATION HISTORY AND HIGHLIGHTS – Deputy Schuhmacher**

- ✓ **Bloomingtondale East and West Park – established in 1916 – is 11.5 acres in size, located off the intersection of Sherman Blvd., and Wells Street, 46808.**

- ✓ **Wells Street Bridge** (*aka Dearborn Trail*) – established in 1884 – is 0.10 acres in size, located adjacent to Promenade Park, surrounded by the St. Marys River, Canopy Trail, Rivergreenway, Superior Street, and Wells Street. located at the corner of Gay Street, Hugh Street, and Lewis Street.
- ✓ **Headwaters Park**- established in 2000 – is 30.00 acres in size and is located on the East and West sides of Clinton Street, bordered by Barr Street, Calhoun Street, and the (*aka the thumb*) St. Marys River, 46802. Drew national attention during the great flood of 1982.

For a complete review of the presentation, and location of all parks and amenities listed go to: [www.fortwayneparks.org](http://www.fortwayneparks.org) OR [parkswebmaster@cityoffortwayne.org](mailto:parkswebmaster@cityoffortwayne.org)

7. **FORT WAYNE CHILDREN’S ZOO** – Director Rick Schuiteman – Updated the Board with a detailed visual presentation on the Zoo’s Season 59<sup>th</sup> opening ceremony, and hours of operation. Along with the introduction of new animals, wages, renovations, and new technology, for a wireless, cashless system. Highlighted were; the projection of a 25,000 visitor increase for 2023, Guest Services improvements, with a new service of purchasing a lost child risk band. Additional changes include a new Kiosh system (Zoo Bucks) for animals, constructions, exhibits, projections, chicken feeding, the expansion of the new Asian Trek exhibit, and Red Panda Ridge. Mr. Schuiteman concluded the presentation with information involving visitor surveys, future constructions, donor events/fundraising, a playground, goals, revenue, camps, accreditation process, events for adults only, and projects.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** The following individual names listed were in attendance at the meeting and requested to address the Board of Park Commissioners, with comments as highlighted.

**Denny Coverstone**, SWAP - 2609 Ladue Cove, Fort Wayne, IN 46804 – Commented on the Riverfront accessibility, in parks.

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

- ✚ We are 34 days into the transition of the lead operations of Headwaters Park.
- ✚ The Department is struggling with filling Seasonal Staff hiring
- ✚ Senior Games begin on June 5<sup>th</sup> with activities for individuals over the age of 50
- ✚ Golf Courses, camps, and the Sweet Breeze operations are NOW OPEN
- ✚ Salomon Farm exhibit and interactive events with the Highland calves
- ✚ The Community Center 2022 Volunteer Recognition event has been scheduled

- # Open positions are posted, with a waiting list for Franke Day camp, eliminated with sufficient staffing hired
- # On May 1, all Pavilion became available for rentals
- # Help from volunteer groups to assist with Spring cleaning and mulching the playground sites
- # All floating docks have been installed and are available for use.
- # Riparian crane has been very use
- # Rob Hines has submitted grants to support our Forestry efforts
- # Media sponsorships have been confirmed for many of the Foellinger Theatre performances
- # We launch the Sweet Breeze canal boat is set to be in the river next week

# **COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:** President Shurley mentioned that the Promenade Park development is something we can be proud of, as a contribution to the City and an enticement for other developers. Commissioner Jauch expressed how impressed she remains with the work that Rick Schuiteman has done at the Zoo, as well as the amount of work that is accomplished in our Parks. Commissioner Briley questioned if sufficient Staff has been hired for the operations in Headwaters Park, and Director McDaniel answered with a confirming, yes. Furthermore, President Shurley stated, because of the early meeting date, the finances that would normally be reported by Sandra Odisho, Finance Manager; for May were not available in time for the meeting and will be reported in June.

There was no further business to come before the Board of Park Commissioners, on Thursday, May 4, 2023, in the City Council Discussion Chambers of Citizens Square (garden level) Room 30, 200 East Berry Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802. At 11:16 am, 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, May 4, 2023** meeting online:**  
<https://acpl.viebit.com/player.php?hash=NNA5hXqMGF2c>

