



**CITY OF GARY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS**

Board of Commissioners
Rev. Dwight Gardner, President
Willie Cooke, Vice President
Renee Ceaser Patterson
, Alan Harrell

Jerome Prince
Mayor, City of Gary

Dharathula T Harris
Superintendent of Parks & Recreation

**Board of Park Commission
Regular Park Board Meeting
Tuesday April 26, 2022
455 Massachusetts Street
10:00 A.M.
Minutes**

Call to Order

Certification: Let the record reflect there was no executive session held and therefor no items were voted on.

Vice-President Cook called the board meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Roll Call: The following were present: Commissioner Willie “Bill” Cook, Commissioner Alan Harrell

A quorum was established.

Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance Recited.

Approval of Parks Board Minutes

Commissioner Gardner entertained a motion approve the Park Board minutes as presented for April 12, 2022. Commissioner Cook moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded.

Roll call vote: Commissioner Gardner, Yes. Commissioner Cook, Yes, Commissioner Harrell, Yes,

Motion carried 3-0.

Approval of Parks Claims Listing:

Commissioner Gardner entertained a motion to approve claims ratification list as presented for April 26, 2022. Commissioner Cook moved to approve the claims list. The motion was seconded.

Roll call vote: Commissioner Gardner, Yes. Commissioner Cook, Yes, Commissioner Harrell, Yes.

Motion carried 3-0.

Approval of Payroll:

Commissioner Gardner, entertained a motion to approve the Parks Board payroll for April 10,2022 as presented. Commissioner Cook moved to approve the payroll. The motion was seconded.

Roll call vote: Commissioner Gardner, Yes. Commissioner Cook, Yes, Commissioner Harrell, Yes

Motion carried 3-0.

Legal: There were 2 contracts to be approved.

The approval of contracts was tabled until YSB Director, Atiya Muhammad presented.

Administrative Reports

Director of Hudson Campbell: Christine Gooden- Mrs. Gooden gave her revenue report for Hudson Campbell for first quarter. The revenue for the first quarter was \$30,664.00. This does not include the Invoices for Silver Sneakers, RBI, and Thea Bowman High School that are still being processed.

A Basketball fundraiser will be held May 21,2022 from 9am-6pm.

A list of equipment and prices have been submitted to Superintendent Harris for the wish-list.

Superintendent and Mrs. Gooden have been trying finding out why the images that were purchased from a previous project for the Hudson Campbell were never placed. Commissioner Gardner asked that the Legal Department get involved with solving this issue.

Mrs. Gooden mentioned that a few AAU teams are interested in using the Hudson Campbell for their basketball practice. She is working on the scheduling for fall and winter.

Commissioner Patterson arrived.

Youth Services Bureau Director: Atiya Muhammad-

Legal: There were two contracts that were presented.

Mrs. Muhammad presented Mr. Holmes of I-9 Sports. I-9 will host the summer sports program and mentorship for the Youth Services Bureau. The program is for ages 5-13. Mr. Holmes gave an overview of the programs he has ran for I-9.

Brief Discussion.

I-9: A professional services contract to provide summer activity services for The Youth Services Bureau. The term of the contract begins June 1,2022 thru July 31,2022 for an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00. Commissioner Gardner entertained a motion to approve the contract. Commissioner Harrell moved to approve the contract. The motion was seconded.

Roll call vote: Commissioner Gardner, Yes. Commissioner Cook, Yes, Commissioner Harrell, Yes, Commissioner Patterson, Yes.

Motion carried 4-0.

One Heart One Soul: An arts program that supports the nature camp program. This program will be on Wednesday at the Douglas Center. Participants must be ages 5-13. Participants will receive a lunch and snack.

Ranger Kipton Walton was presented for further explanation.

Brief Discussion.

One Heart One Soul: A professional services contract to provide summer activity services for The Youth Services Bureau. The term of the contract begins June 1,2022 thru July 31,2022 for an amount not to exceed \$1,200.00.

Commissioner Gardner entertained a motion to approve the contract. Commissioner Patterson moved to approve the contract. The motion was seconded.

Roll call vote: Commissioner Gardner, Yes. Commissioner Cook, Yes, Commissioner Harrell, Yes, Commissioner Patterson, Yes.

Motion carried 4-0.

Mrs. Muhammad also mentioned an academic enrichment camp that will be hosted this summer. Youth Services Bureau will be partnering with Steel City Staffing to provide a free IT program to participants ages 13-18. The program will also include basic reading, math, and life skills.

Youth Services Bureau will also be partnering with Project Rebuild and Lake County Juvenile Division to provide job readiness skills.

More information is to come regarding the upcoming summer programs.

Commissioner Gardner inquired about certification and background checks for the individuals working with the youth during these programs. Mrs. Muhammad stated that all vendors, volunteers, and employees will have to go through a background check with the City of Gary.

Mrs. Muhammad asked for permission from the board to accept donations for transportation as well as sponsorships for children who are unable to afford the summer programs.

Commissioner Gardner entertained a motion to grant permission to YSB to accept donations and sponsorships for the summer youth programs. Commissioner Patterson made a motion based on the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant permission to YSB for donation acceptance. The motion was seconded.

Roll call vote: Commissioner Gardner, Yes. Commissioner Cook, Yes, Commissioner Harrell, Yes, Commissioner Patterson, Yes.

Motion carried 4-0.

Mrs. Muhammad asked for permission from the board to accept a \$1,000 donation from NIPSCO for the nature program with One Heart One Soul.

Commissioner Gardner entertained a motion to grant permission to YSB to accept a \$1,000.00 donations from NIPSCO for the summer youth programs. Commissioner Patterson moved to approve the motion. The motion was seconded.

Roll call vote: Commissioner Gardner, Yes. Commissioner Cook, Yes, Commissioner Patterson, Yes, Commissioner Harrell, Yes,

Motion carried 4-0.

Mrs. Muhammad asked permission to accept a promise donation from Horizon Bank. She was advised to wait until the funds were official and appropriated.

Mrs. Muhammad was granted permission to receive free tickets from the Railcats Stadium.

Public Comment was made.

Parks Manager: Don Plogh- The Parks Department has been working to get the election sites ready. Friday, April 29th US Steel and the Railcats will send approximately 70 volunteers to completely refurbish bleachers, dugouts and netting at Roosevelt Sr. field. Mr. Plogh said they will complete the entire project in one day.

Mr. Plogh made a plea for the community to use the trash cans in the parks the help the community.

Mr. Plogh spoke with a pool company and Lake County Solid Waste Management Department and was told that any chlorine that was sealed was still good. He is going to move the chlorine at Borman to the storage at Gleason where the exhaust fans are.

On Monday, May 9th a mowing schedule will be ready.

The Parks Superintendent: Dharathula Harris- Superintendent Harris stated that the buoys have been repaired and paid for. The Parks Department is waiting for better weather to place the buoys. She is going to check with the provider for a specific date/ range of dates for placement. She is expecting for the buoys to be placed before or by May 15th. According to Superintendent Harris, the Parks Department is in their season.

Superintendent Harris attended some meetings in the 4th district. Superintendent Harris noted that 4th district has a lot of community members that come out to meetings to sow their concern and willingness to volunteer.

Howe Park: The clean-up of debris has started at Howe Park. One of the chief concerns is what to do with the pool. Superintendent Harris' recommendation was to fill the pool and cover it with dirt to alleviate the danger to adults and children. Quotes have been received for replacement or repair for the roof. She is waiting on a third company to provide a quote.

There is a licensing issue for the boat ramp. A surveyor is needed. Superintendent Harris is working with the Law Department to get this issue resolved.

Superintendent Harris has reviewed the recommendations for the lifeguard manuals.

Building Maintenance: Superintendent Harris is getting estimates roof repair for the Hudson Campbell. The roof has exceeded its "life-time." She is looking to have a HVAC Maintenance program in place for all of the pavilions and the Hudson Campbell. Superintendent Harris hopes this will prevent the Parks from experiencing large service cost in the future.

The website is currently being updated.

Brief Discussion.


Public comments were received by:

Public comments were received by Michelle Robinson, Doreen C., Carol Smith, Maryann Best

Brief Discussion.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Gardner entertained a motion to adjourn the Board of Parks, Commissioners Meeting of the Department of Public Parks, City of Gary, Indiana held on April 26, 2022; The motion was moved by Commissioner Patterson.
Meeting was adjourned.

BY: 
Dwight Gardner, President

BY: 
Willie Bill Cook, Member

BY: 
Renee Patterson, Member

BY: 
Alan Harrell, Member