



**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 March 8, 2022  
455 Massachusetts Street  
10:00 A.M.  
Minutes**

**Call to Order**

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

**President Gardner** called the board meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**Roll Call:** The following were present: Commissioner Dwight Gardner, Commissioner Renee Patterson, Commissioner Willie "Bill" Cook.

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 February 22, 2022. Commissioner Patterson moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded.

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

**Motion carried 3-0.**

**Approval of Parks Claims Listing:**

There was no claim report due to the retirement of the Park Department's Account Tech.

**Approval of Payroll:**

Commissioner President Gardner, entertained a motion to approve the Parks Board payroll for February 25, 2022 as presented. Commissioner Cook moved to approve the payroll. The motion was seconded.

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

## **Motion carried 3-0.**

**Legal:** There were 5 contracts to be approved.

**Ecoreal LLC:** An amendment was done for the plant management services contract. The original contract was for \$15,000. An invoice for December 2021 was submitted and exceeded the contracted amount. President Gardner entertained a motion to approve the amendment. Commissioner Gardner advised that in the future, any vendor who projects their work to exceed the contracted amount, first obtain approval before proceeding. Commissioner Cook moved to approve the amendment. The motion was seconded.

**Chairs Covers by Slwia:** Commissioner Gardner entertained a motion to approve the contract for linen and specialty chairs. Commissioner Patterson moved to approve the contract. The motion was seconded.

**Service Sanitation (Marquette):** Commissioner Gardner entertained a motion to approve the contract for professional services by Service Sanitation for one year. Commissioner Patterson moved to approve the contract. The motion was seconded.

**Service Sanitation (Parks Department):** Commissioner Gardner entertained a motion to approve the contract with Service Sanitation for the Parks district for Gary, IN. Commissioner Cook moved to approve the contract. The motion was seconded.

**American Eagle Security:** President Gardner entertained a motion to approve the contract for fire and alarm system electronic security services for several Park locations including Marquette. Commissioner Patterson moved to approve the contract. The motion was seconded.

## **Administrative Reports**

**Executive Director Marquette Park Pavilion:** The month of February was pretty slow. For the month of February, the total revenue was \$3,322.50. Thus far, the bookings have picked up for March and the revenue is expected to surpass February. Christopher Murray (Vice President for American Structure Point,) came to access the three bridges at Marquette. A full scope of his finding will be emailed to Kamishia. The findings should be available by the next board meeting. An executive session will be held to review the findings.

**Aquatics Manager: Tawanna Lyons-** Ms. Lyons spoke with Calumet's coach to get the pool to teach lifeguarding classes. A million-dollar insurance policy was needed. That information was forwarded to Superintendent Harris. Ms. Lyons is waiting on a quote for the insurance policy. Ms. Lyons is working with Erin Hayes to get a grant for the education and safety signs for Lake Street Beach. The signage will be placed at the kiosk. The kiosk will obtain additional information for the winter months. An estimate of installation cost will be provided after signs dimensions are confirmed.

### **Parks Foreman: Willie Barnes- Update on the Pavilions.**

Roosevelt- The floors have been completed and it has been painted. The next step is remodeling the bathroom and kitchen.

Glen Ryan- The floors have been completed. The kitchen and bathroom has to be completed.

Ambridge- The doors have come in. Ambridge is ready to be a warming center for next year.

Ironwood- There has been some recent dumping. They are working to get those items that have been dumped, picked up.

Summer Plans- They are working on the job postings to be sure they have all of their summer employees trained and ready.

## **Brief Discussion.**

**Parks Manager: Don Plogh-** Mr. Plogh has been doing site visits at the Jewel Parks. He has been doing assessments to see what we can do to best maintain them. There is a lot of garbage, fallen trees, old bleachers, unfinished projects etc., The plan is to remove all of those items.

**Greenhouse-** AJ from Re-development has allowed the fertilizer to be moved to the Gleason maintenance barn. It is a locked storage room with an exhaust fan.

**Baseball-** The little leagues are starting next week with practice. We are trying to get some fields ready for them. All of the infields need to be tilt. The only field that is in good shape, is the field in Miller (Gibson Park.) Roosevelt is the only field that is near usable for a high-school field.

Commissioner Gardner mentioned that the signup for Gary Metro Baseball had begun. It is half price until the end of the month.

**Repairs to Equipment:** Mr. Plogh is going through all of the mowers. There are currently 3 out of 6 that are running. A repair parts list was done. The estimated cost is \$4,500 for the parts for all 6 riding mowers. The plan is to have them all running by May 6<sup>th</sup>.

## **Brief Discussion.**

**Youth Services Bureau- Atiya Muhammad-** YSB will be partnering with I9 Sports to provide an 8-week summer sports camp for children ages 5-14. The location for the program is yet to be determined. A possible location is the Hudson Campbell. A sponsor request of \$20,000 was sent to Dicks Sporting Goods.

YSB will also be partnering with Bitwise Industries to provide scholarships for introductory IT program students interested in tech. The program will be a 6-week program for high school students that want to enter the information technology field.

YSB will have a Summer Nature Program at the local national park for ages 5-13. The tentative dates are June 6<sup>th</sup> until August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

YSB will also be partnering with Clark Road Genesis to prepare meals for the summer food program. This is based on what pavilions will be available. The partnership will be under contract.

YSB is also working with Deputy Mayor McCain, Superintendent Harris, and an executive board group to bring summer jobs to teens and college students.

Volunteer, Ladonna Petty will be starting next week. Her duties will be based on the needs of the summer program.

The number of summer jobs that will be available is yet to be determined. Ms. Muhammad is working on the marketing plan.

**Manager of Hudson Campbell: Christine Gooden-Williams-**

Update for tennis program- The Hudson Campbell was able to accommodate the tennis program up until the 13<sup>th</sup>. A discussion will be held to for a future schedule. Two days were added to the schedule.

Commissioner Patterson asked how close the Hudson Campbell was to becoming their own revenue stream. Ms. Gooden-Williams stated that the Hudson Campbell is doing better than they have in the last two years, but new exercise equipment is needed. The Hudson Campbell is looking for a grant to purchase new equipment.

**The Parks Superintendent: Dharathula Harris-** Site visits were done at The Roosevelt Baseball Fields, Ambridge Park, and the Ironwood Park area. From observation, the parks have been neglected. Projects have been started but not completed. The parks department is going to work on the baseball fields this year.

Superintendent Harris did reply to the OSHA complaint by the deadline. OSHA is now requesting information in regard to when the roof will be fixed. Superintendent Harris has been in contact with a roofing contractor based in Gary, IN. The company is expected to come out within the next few days to do an evaluation and provide an estimate. A quote for Brunswick was also requested.

There is 1.1 million dollars allotted for the Summer Youth Employment Program. Each department is asked to see how many employees they can accommodate. The parks department plans to have about 15 summer employees.

Superintendent Harris presented Alice Pickford to the board. Alice Pickford asked for permission to move the sand back to Wells Street Beach twice per year, spring and fall, or as conditions require. Ms. Pickford asked for permission for a period of four years with a letter stating that she has this permission.

Commissioner Gardner entertained a motion to approve the repositioning of the sand at Wells Street Beach by Ms. Pickford and associates through 2026 and that a letter be provided from the law department. Commissioner Patterson moved to approve the motion. The motion was seconded.

A quote has been received for the building maintenance for the Hudson Campbell. The quote is being reviewed to ensure that the amount is within range for the work. A schedule of rates for the baseball field rental is being worked on. The updating of the website is still in progress.

Beach parking rates were proposed. A resolution has to be to vote on the parking rates. The Law Department will prepare the resolution.

Superintendent Harris plans to work with the councilmen to see what their visions are for their Jewel Parks.

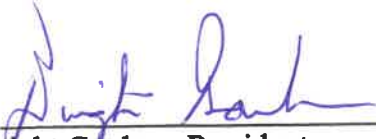
**Brief Discussion.**

Christine Gooden provided information for baseball signup for the City of Gary. Baseball signup will be at the Hudson Campbell Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, at 6pm. Interested parties may also go online at [www.calumetregion.org](http://www.calumetregion.org) to sign up.

**Public comments were received by:**  
Carl Davis, Maryann Best, and Michelle Robinson.

**Adjournment:**

Commissioner President Gardener entertained a motion to adjourn the Board of Parks, Commissioners Meeting of the Department of Public Parks, City of Gary, Indiana held on March 8th, 2022; Moved by both Commissioners.  
Meeting was adjourned.

BY:   
Dwight Gardner, President

BY:   
Willie Bill Cook, Member

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Renee Patterson, Member

BY:   
Alan Harrell, Member

