



**CITY OF GARY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS**

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

Jerome A. Prince
Mayor, City of Gary

Marianetta L. Barber, SHRM-CP, MSM
Interim Superintendent

**Board of Park Commission
Regular Park Board Meeting
Tuesday May 10, 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.

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

Roll Call: The following were present: Commissioner Rev. Dwight Gardner, Commissioner Willie “Bill” Cook, Commissioner Alan Harrell, Commissioner Renee Patterson.

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 26, 2022. Commissioner Patterson moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded.

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

Motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Parks Claims Listing:

Commissioner Gardner entertained a motion to approve the claims ratification list as presented for May 10, 2022. Commissioner Patterson moved to approve the claims list. The motion was seconded.

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

Motion carried 4-0.

Legal: There were no legal reports presented.

Approval of Payroll:

Commissioner Gardner inquired about 2.5 hours of overtime for an employee at Marquette Park. Marquette Manager (Kamishia Jackson) explained the reason for the overtime.

Commissioner Gardner, entertained a motion to approve the Parks Board payroll for the period of April 11,2022 thru April 24,2022 paid on May 6,2022 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, Commissioner Renee Patterson, Yes.

Motion carried 4-0.

Administrative Reports

Marquette Park Director: Kamishia Jackson- Mrs. Jackson gave the overview for April. During the month of April, Marquette had 5 events, 11 facilities tours and a total month revenue of \$10,535.79. The year to date revenue was about \$42,000.00. The revenue last year for the same time was about \$25,000.00.

Per Ms. Jackson, several things have been done in preparation for the summer. The porta johns have been delivered. The water meters for the playground fountain and concession stands have been placed. An estimate was done by Gluth Brother for the leaking gutters around the Marquette Park facility. She is waiting to obtain a few additional quotes. The batteries were also put inside the parking meters.

Ms. Jackson stated that over the weekend an accident occurred and caused damage light pole and fence at area 5. Traffic Control was informed that the light needed to be removed and replaced. Plans are being made to replace the fence. A police report was done for the accident.

Brief Discussion.

Ms. Jackson announced that Marquette was still hiring for ticket specialists. Commissioner Harrell inquired about the hourly salary for the position. Ms. Jackson responded with \$8.75. The low hourly rate was said to pose an issue with hiring. Commissioner Gardner asked if it were possible to work with the Gary Youth Summer Program to hire ticket specialists since the hourly rates are much higher. Ms. Jackson expressed that while they love the high school students, at the end of the summer students are back to school and they are left without staff.

A brief discussion was held in regard to ways to improve the pay rates for the summer while also incorporating summer youth workers.

Director of Hudson Campbell: Christine Gooden- Mrs. Gooden stated that the basketball event that was scheduled for May 21st was cancelled by the organization due to low participation.

Mrs. Gooden has been working with BSN Sports to get an adequate divider net to separate the batting cage to the tennis court. She plans to have this done by the fall.

On June 4th the city of Gary is using the Hudson Campbell parking lot to host its Annual Household Hazardous Collection & Environmental Day. The Hudson Campbell will still be open.

The Hudson Campbell has open its schedule for fall and winter season room rentals.

Youth Services Bureau Director: Atiya Muhammad-

Mrs. Muhammad has been working on the marketing for the summer programs. Mrs. Muhammad has advertised with an interview on the radio station at 88.7. She also went to Power 92. She is working with the IT Department to place an infomercial on gary.gov as well as create an online registration for parents. Next week she plans to meet with the deans and counselors at Gary Public Schools.

Registration packets can be picked up at the Hudson Campbell. YSB is accepting donations and sponsorships for children for the summer program.

Mrs. Muhammad asked for permission from the board to accept a \$1,000.00 donation from Horizon Bank.

Commissioner Gardner entertained a motion to approve the acceptance of the \$1,000.00 donation from Horizon Bank. Commissioner Cook moved to approve the donation acceptance. The motion was seconded.

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

Motion carried 4-0.

YSB is currently looking for volunteers to help with the summer camps. Those that are interested are asked to call 219-881-5270. Volunteers must be able to pass a background check.

Mrs. Muhammad asked for permission from the board to accept a 3D printing machine for the Academic Enrichment Camp for the duration of the summer program.

Commissioner Gardner entertained a motion to approve the acceptance of the 3D printing machine. Commissioner Cook moved to approve the donation acceptance. The motion was seconded.

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

Motion carried 4-0.

Mrs. Muhammad announced that the last day to turn in applications for the Mayor's Summer Youth Job program was May 13th.

Brief Discussion.

Mrs. Muhammad stated that she was working with the legal department to see if it is possible to use a church bus for transportation. Commissioner Patterson suggested obtaining a bus for YSB. Mrs. Muhammad stated that she would love to have a bus for YSB, but right now it is not feasible with the current budget.

Aquatics Director- Tawanna Lyons- The first round of lifeguard classes finished yesterday Monday May 9th, 2022. The class started with 14 students and 9 students successfully completed the class. Due to that number being so small she going to do another class that will start Saturday May 14, as the lifeguards are expected to start on May 21st. She currently has 6 students interested in taking the class. Ms. Lyons stated that she had several lifeguards contemplating working for the City of Gary this summer due to surrounding cities paying significantly more.

Commissioner Gardner asked for Ms. Barber to request for either an increase pay for the lifeguards or summer workers through the Mayor's summer youth employment program.

Two electrical companies have come out to look at Roosevelt. Midwestern Electric is willing to do the electrical repairs, but an additional quote has to be obtained. Once the electrical repairs are made the pumping system will be able to function correctly.

Commissioner Gardner asked if the plans were to open Roosevelt as a wading pool. Ms. Lyons said they are planning to open the wading pool this summer by Mid- June if she is able to get the lifeguards.

Ms. Lyons has been working closing with the Mayor's Water Safety Advisory Board to get the proper signage, training and equipment needed for the lifeguards and the beach.

Commissioner Gardner inquired about the buoys. Ms. Lyons informed Commissioner Gardner that the buoys should be in my Memorial Day weekend. There has been delays with the contract as well as shipment causing the date for the placement of the buoys to be pushed back.

Brief Discussion.

Park Foreman- Willie Barnes- The parks were cut for the election sites and the inside of the buildings were managed.

The new hire process has started.

Mr. Barnes provided a cutting schedule for the Board to review.

Ms. Barber requested that the cutting schedule be revised to the old cutting schedule. The old cutting schedule provided cutting days as well as garbage days on one document.

Brief Discussion.

Parks Manager: Don Plohg- Mr. Plohg explained the current cutting schedule. According to Mr. Plohg the goal of the schedule was to have each district cut within two weeks when they were fully staffed. Mr. Plohg was under the impression that all of the parks were to be cut, active and non-active. Mr. Plohg and the Park Board Commissioners discussed revising the cutting list to use the limited resources more efficiently by focusing on active parks.

The Parks team worked alongside with USS, Gary Railcats, and Little League to finish Roosevelt Park. The work included mowing, trash removal, and fence line clearing.

The Parks team also mowed, trimmed, cleaned, and set up all the voting locations that were the responsibility of the Gary Park Dept.

Commissioner Gardner inquired if there was a custodial maintenance person responsible for cleaning the pavilions. He was informed that the maintenance crew were also responsible for the cleaning as well.

A plan is being implemented to resolve this issue.

Mr. Plohg met with Mary Ann Best of the Shoreline Committee to address problems with the safety signs installed on the beach at Lake St.

Gary's City-Wide cleanup will be held May 13th -14th. Park Dept. responsibilities will include Gateway Park and the Greenlink Parks, Jackson and Ambridge.

Mr. Plohg gave an update regarding Howe Park. He is working with Audubon. The Parks Department crew is going to make a path by cutting and trimming trees. The fire department is going to bring their tanker trucks to drain the pool. AJ Bytner from Redevelopment advised that the fencing by the old baseball field be used to secure Hatcher Park. Audubon would like to start nature classes in June.

Brief Discussion with Officer Lillie regarding the recent accident as well as equipment.

Interim Superintendent: Marianetta Barber- Ms. Barber mentioned that there was a council meeting held on May 10th. She asked for the support of the Park Board. The Parks had a list of items that were requested.

There was a parking rate increase request that went before the committee that was sent back due to a lack of presence during the hearing. The council advised that Ms. Barber be given a chance to review the increased parking rates that were requested. On June 7th, the parking request will go back before the council. Attorney Monroe suggested that the parking rate increase be tabled until next season, due to time constraints with the upcoming season.

Commissioner Gardner entertained a motion to table the request for the parking rate increase and revert to the previous rates. Commissioner Cook moved to approve the motion to withdraw the parking rate increase request. The motion was seconded.

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

Motion carried 4-0.

Ms. Barber met with a representative from the Hard-Rock Casino about interest in Sea Burger Park to provide community service for their employees. During the visit, it was noted that the skating rink needed to be drained. Park Manager Don Plohg, was asked to look into draining the rink. The Park Board Commissioners requested that Ms. Barber ask if they would consider a comparable park, due to Sea Burger Park already being clean.

Ms. Barber highlighted an issue with the location for the park maintenance equipment. The original plan was for the Parks to use the greenhouse to store their equipment once security measures were put in place. The maintenance crew was said to lose a lot of time daily traveling back and forth from the Parks Department to Miller. Ms. Barber suggested using the greenhouse as a central location.

Brief Discussion.


Public comments were received by:

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

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 May 10, 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