



**CITY OF GARY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS**



Board of Commissioners

Rev. Dwight Gardner, President

Willie Bill Cook, Vice-President

Renee Patterson-Member

Alan Harrell-Member

Jerome Prince
Mayor, City of Gary

Jazmyn Thomas
Parks & Recreation Director

**Board of Park Commission
Regular Park Board Meeting
Tuesday October 25, 2022
455 Massachusetts Street
10:00 A.M.
Minutes**

Call to Order

Certification: Let the record reflect there was no executive session held.

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

Roll Call: The following were present: Commissioner Dwight Gardner, Commissioner Willie Cook, Commissioner Alan Harrell.

A quorum was established.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Pledge of Allegiance Recited

Due to time restraints, the agenda was changed per Commissioner Gardner.

Legacy Taste of The Garden LLC., presented before the Board.

Mr. John M., referred to an MOU from the Legacy Taste of the Garden LLC. Per John, the MOU states that the Legacy organization has agreed to seek out grants in order to revitalize the greenhouse for operation of the "Food Hub Cooperative."

John stated that they have spoke with members of the Sanitary District in terms of logistics and water in the area. The plan is for the facility to be an inclusive area for those that are already into farming and those that want to learn.

The Legacy organization has already met with some of the other farmers and would like to form a co-op with the children to come and learn about farming.

John Jamerson, CEO of Legacy Taste of the Garden LLC, spoke and gave a brief overview of their history, current, and previous works. Mr. Jamerson worked with the City of Gary throughout the pandemic by giving loads of food for the community. The organizations he works with also provides training with aquaponics and food safety.

The goal is to work with farmers and growers in the community to help them utilize the green house facility to be able to grow food, have farmers markets and get training. The Legacy Organization is in favor of whatever the community wants. Mr. Jamerson said they would like to “provide resources to the community and connect the community to the resources.”

Commissioner President Gardner asked if Mr. Jamerson had been to the greenhouse. Mr. Jamerson responded yes.

Commissioner Gardner asked if Mr. Jamerson thought it could serve that purpose. Mr. Jamerson said yes.

Commissioner Cook asked to what degree, could a person who wishes to learn aquaponics could become proficient.

Mr. Jamerson said that they were starting into their 4 year with the Life Project, which was just renewed this month through the USDA. One of the partners through that program, goes out and trains people for aquaponics. If there is a need for him to come to the City, he will do so. Training is also available online and in person. The goal is to make sure the farmers are successful.

Mr. Cook asked how the Legacy Organization would use the greenhouse.

Mr. Jamerson said they would use the land around it for opportunities to grow. The facilities inside would be used to have training. The storage or garage area would be used for aquaponic.

Mr. Jamerson is aware of the issue with the water supply. He mentioned the possibility of a hoop house or high tunnel on the property. There is a grant for that through the USDA to help put water to those kinds of locations.

Mr. Cook asked if Mr. Jamerson was aware of the issue with sanitation in regard to the toilets.

Mr. Jamerson said he was made aware today. He said they would do the best they could to put what is needed there. If the Co-Op of farmers are interested in doing that, Mr. Jamerson is not opposed.

Mr. Cook stated that he sees sanitation being a main issue. Commissioner Cook asked to what degree would the dollars from the grants and scholarships be amenable to correcting the situation.

Mr. Jamerson said after he finds out what the need is, he goes and finds grants to meet those needs. The same thing would be done for this project.

Commissioner Harrell asked if they had any locations in close proximity.

Mr. Jamerson said there are locations in Indianapolis, IN and Evansville, IN. One of their partners has a cop-op in Fort Wayne, IN. There is nothing local, though they have worked with local farmers.

Commissioner Harrell asked if there was an interest from people in the community. Mr. Jamerson said he has been contacted from individuals in the community. Prior to the pandemic, June Dale reached out to ask about doing a problem for their baseball group. Mr. Jamerson said although there is an interest, the most important part is that there is a need.

The Board will review the MOU once received.

Approval of Parks Board Minutes

President Gardner entertained a motion to accept the minutes for Tuesday October 11, 2022 as presented. Commissioner Cook so moved the motion. Commissioner Harrell seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried 3-0.

Approval of Parks Claims Listing

President Gardner entertained a motion to ratify the claims listing for October 12, 2022 thru October 21, 2022. Commissioner Cook so moved the motion. Commissioner Harrell seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried 3-0.

Legal: There was an MOU, three contracts, and a leasing agreement presented.

MOU: The MOU was tabled for review.

Richardson Disposal: A professional services contract for the necessary construction and cleanup at Ironwood Park. The term of the contract begins October 1, 2022 –April 30, 2023 for an amount not to exceed \$28,845.00.

Commissioner Gardner entertained a motion to approve the professional service contract with Richardson Disposal. Commissioner Cook moved to approve the contract. Commissioners Harrell seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried 3-0.

C.N.B Construction- Amendment: An amendment to the current contract to include two outstanding invoices for work completed before the August date of the contract. The two invoices total \$4,260.00 and should be paid in excess of the \$10,000.

Commissioner Gardner entertained a motion to approve the contract for C.N.B Construction in the amount articulated for the final payments on the maintenance of the parks. Commissioner Cook moved to approve the motion. Commissioner Harrell seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried 3-0.

Roman INC.-A professional services contract for Christmas decorations at Marquette Park Pavilion. The term of the contract begins November 1, 2022 –January 31,2023 for an amount not to exceed \$3,000.00.

Marquette Pavilion Manager, Kamishia Jackson said that this is the same vendor that was used in the past. The vendor does an awesome job and she would like to make sure they come back.

Commissioner Gardner entertained a motion to approve the professional service contract with Roman INC for Christmas decorations at Marquette Park. Commissioner Cook moved to approve the contract. Commissioners Harrell seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried 3-0.

LAMAR Leasing Agreement: A lease agreement for 10 years on the various Park properties. The amount is \$7,000 annually or 20% of advertising revenues, whichever is greater.

Commissioner Gardner entertained a motion to approve the contract for LAMAR advertising for the billboard they have on Park property for the amount of \$7,000.00 annually or 20% of the designated lease, whichever is greater. Commissioner Cook moved to approve the contract. Commissioners Harrell seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Cook asked if the amount every exceeds \$7,000.00. Attorney Monroe said it sometimes does exceed \$7,000.00 and the company usually sends an itemized list. The check is sent once a year.

Administrative Reports:

Parks Manger: Don Plohg-October 11th thru 17th, De-Vine Landscaping came out and provided hands on training for mowing and maintenance for the Park staff. Each individual on the team will now be responsible for their assigned mower. This will allow for accountability for equipment. The pre and post of trip checklist received by De-Vine Landscaping will now be used to track the upkeep of equipment.

Commissioner Cook recommended implementing an evaluation system for the Park employees. Commissioner Harrell recommended contacting HR to inquire about the procedures to properly evaluate the staff and ensure that they are doing their jobs.

Elections are in two weeks. All of the pavilions have been checked and the heat is working inside the buildings. Cleaning has begun and will take place this week and next week.

Staging for Howe Park began yesterday and the material to fill will start being hauled. Don spoke with Dave of 1st American Construction. He estimated that he will be done by the end of next week.

New vehicles and equipment have been purchased. Don is working with Vehicle Maintenance Superintendent, Harlan Smith to start a complete inventory of all of the Park's equipment.

Commissioner Cook asked if there was a current accurate inventory. Don said there is old equipment that does not work that is still listed on the inventory.

Ms. Thomas said they are working an action plan for inventory checks.

Ms. Barber said there is an inventory sheet that is current as of last week. She is going to email a copy to be shared with the board.

Commissioner Cook as if they know what needs to be disposed of.

Ms. Barber said that Harlan has planned with her, to get with Don to clean out some of the items from Gleason and other places. During the disposal process, items will be identified by their tags. The tags will list which department they belong to. If any items are able to be auctioned, they will be. This process is handled by Vehicle Maintenance.

Commissioner Harrell asked if the vehicles were checked in and out or if employees were able to drive the vehicles home.

Don answered saying no.

Ms. Thomas said they were going to be implementing pre-checks before the start of the shift, and upon return. The report will be given to Foreman Barnes, and Don will sign off.

The temporary fencing has been installed around the pool at Hatcher Park.

All 5 mowers are up and running.

Youth Services Bureau- Atiya Muhammad: YSB attended Young and gifted event at St. Timothy Church 10/14/22 to support local youth and talents.

YSB is currently in the process of having communication with local organizations that host Gary youth after school programs to provide students with scholarship opportunities as a part of the 2022 Community Development Block Grant. YSB is also working with the Hudson and Campbell to provide the students that visit, an opportunity for the scholarships.

YSB is partnering with Gary Community Partnership organization to host a movie day at AMC. There will be a special guest, Mark Spencer, and local talents to expose Gary youth to careers in performing arts. The Movie Day will take place on Saturday, November 12, 2022. YSB was invited to host 20 students. All slots are full.

Next week YSB will be attending the Day of Leadership and Career event at Gary Light House Prep Academy.

Parks & Recreation Director: Jazmyn Thomas: The buoys were all pulled.

Ms. Thomas asked the board with sign they were in agreeance to. There difference between the two was the size of the letter kit. One letter kit was 200, and the other had 300.

Commissioner Harrell said a decision had to be made on which logo.

Commissioner Gardner stated that both the Parks and City logo will be used.

The Warming Center at Ambridge will start in November. There will be housing for the homeless on days where the temperature is below 32 degrees.

The Energy Assistance Program with NWICA will be here on Tuesday to do a tour to see where the program can be housed. The program is expected to start in November. The time will be from 9am until 3pm.

ASW Foundation: Dr. Parker-Wright of Infinity Counseling and Wellness Center, presented on behalf of Aaliyah Stewart.

Ms. Stewart wanted present a proposal to the board to host an afterschool program at Reed Park Pavilion. Infinity Counseling and Wellness Center will be providing mental health services to the children. ASW will provide the after-school program.

Commissioner Gardner recommended working with the Director of the Youth Services Bureau to move forward.

Brief Discussion.

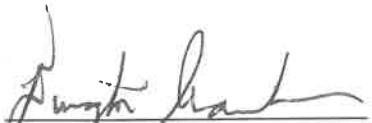
Public Comment was received by Linda Jones and Sandy O'Brien.

Ms. Jones submitted another proposal the necessary repairs needed to the Gary Land Company building.


Old Business/New Business: None

Adjournment:

Commissioner President Gardener entertained a motion to adjourn the Board of Park Commissioners Meeting of the Department of Public Parks, City of Gary, Indiana held on October 25, 2022, moved by Commissioner Cook, and seconded by Commissioner Harrell. Meeting was adjourned.

BY: 
Dwight Gardner, President

BY: 
Willie Bill Cook, Vice President

BY: 
Renee Patterson, Member

BY: 
Alan Harrell, Member