



**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 February 14, 2023
455 Massachusetts Street
10:00 A.M.
Minutes**

Call to Order

Certification: Let the record reflect there was an executive session held and 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 Willie Cook, Commissioner Alan Harrell, and Commissioner Renee Patterson.

A quorum was established.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Pledge of Allegiance Recited

Approval of Parks Board Minutes

President Gardner entertained a motion to accept the minutes for Tuesday January 24, 2023 as presented. Commissioner Patterson so moved the motion. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Parks Claims Listing

President Gardner entertained a motion to approve the claims listing as presented for January 24,2023 through February 14,2023. Commissioner Cook so moved the motion. Commissioner Patterson seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Payroll

Commissioner President Gardner requested an explanation of overtime with the future payroll report, detailing what the overtime was for.

President Gardner entertained a motion to approve the payroll as presented. Commissioner Cook so moved the motion. Commissioner Harrell seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried 4-0.

Legal: There were four contracts presented for YSB.

Per Atiya Muhammad, YSB Director, the contracts are being paid through the Community Development Fund. The contracts will pay for low income families to participate in the programs. The funding is already in place for the contracts.

Minkah's Martial Arts: A professional services contract for Minkah's Martial Arts to provide martial arts classes. The term of the contract begins February 15,2023-December 31,2023 for an amount not to exceed \$3,000.00.

Home Mentoring and Tutoring: A professional services contract for Home Mentoring and Tutoring to provide tutoring classes. The term of the contract begins February 15,2023 - July 31,2023 for an amount not to exceed \$3,000.00.

Bridging the Gap Tutorial and Aftercare Program: A professional services contract for Bridging the Gap Tutorial and Aftercare Program to provide tutoring classes. The term of the contract begins February 15,2023- May 31,2023 for an amount not to exceed \$4,000.00

Schuler's Boxing Stable Athletics: A professional services contract for Schuler's Boxing Stable Athletics to provide boxing classes. The term of the contract begins February 15,2023- December 31,2023 for an amount not to exceed \$3,000.00.

Commissioner President Gardner asked to confirm that the funds were already precured. Ms. Muhammad said yes.

Commissioner President Gardner entertained a motion to approve all four contracts as submitted by the Youth Services Bureau. Commissioner Cook so moved the motion. Commissioner Patterson seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried 4-0.

Administrative Reports:

Christine Gooden-Williams: Hudson-Campbell- Mrs. Williams gave a break down for revenue sales for the month of January. The total revenue was \$10,198.20.

Commissioner Patterson asked how the numbers compared to last year. Mrs. Williams said that the numbers for this year exceeded last year and that membership numbers had gone up.

All of the quotes have gone in and been approved. There were two po's for equipment that had missing items. The quotes were resubmitted for the remaining items.

Commissioner Cook as what equipment was left off. Mrs. Williams said the flooring for the HIIT Room and 3 treadmills were left off.

Commissioner President Gardner asked if there was anything that needed to be approved as it pertained to new form for daily cash turnover.

Mrs. Williams said she believe that the old fee schedule had to be approved. Ms. Thomas said once the old fee schedule was approved, the new form would be discussed.

Commissioner Cook asked what has been done with security after the unfortunate event.

Mrs. Williams said that she has received a quote from a security company. A meeting is scheduled for the next day at 10:00am.

Commissioner Cook asked what the outcome of the discussion to secure the back door.

Mrs. Williams said that was apart of the discussion for tomorrow. The discussion will include where to have security, how much security, and funding for the security. The Parks will try to collaborate with some of the other departments in the building.

Ms. Thomas added that they will also discuss a better lock system for the building and cameras.

Mr. Cook asked if there had been any thoughts about the people coming through the doors and how to prevent persons from coming in with weapons.

Mrs. Williams said that will also be apart of discussion, as there are many doors that need sensors and alerts. Previously there was discussion and quotes done for the doors and sensors and decision was made not to move forward.

Commissioner Cook asked who made the decision. Mrs. Williams said that there was grant funding and the options were to pay for the cameras or the sensors. Now that they have already purchased cameras, Mrs. Williams hopes she can get funding for the sensors.

Commissioner President Gardner asked if it were possible to look into the requirements for a metal detector for the front door.

Mrs. Williams said yes.

Commissioner Patterson asked if Mrs. Williams had looked for another vendor for the open space.

Mrs. Williams said she sent a proposal to Judge Monroe to discuss how to move forward with the process.

Atiya Muhammad: Youth Services Bureau-Ms. Muhmmad announced that YSB was awarded the DOH grant funding. Ms. Muhammad asked for permissions to accept the DOH grant funding.

Commissioner President Gardner granted Ms. Muhammad permission to accept the funding.

Ms. Muhammad said YSB received \$127,419.00 from the Department of Health to support the YSB initiative starting in August to address food insecurities and increasing physical activity with the youth.

Ms. Muhammad said she has submitted another grant application with DOH that focuses on professional development and youth programming. Ms. Muhammad said she should receive a response for that grant in March.

The contracts that were approved will be for the recreation program that will run through the remainder of the year.

Ms. Muhammad shared the flier and sponsor letter for the Gala on the Lagoon for approval.

Commissioner President Gardner requested that when the funding becomes available, that she and Ms. Thomas works to have summer workers come to the Parks Department.

Ms. Muhammad said that she and Ms. Thomas are already brainstorming ideas for summer positions.

Commissioner Cook asked why so much information and detail had to be provided on the application for the programs.

Ms. Muhamad said the information is required to qualify for the programs. Families have to be low-income and on some form of public-assistance. The information on the application is a requirement from Community Development, which funds the program.

Jazmyn Thomas, Parks Director: Ms. Thomas announced the last day to pick up a bid package for the Jewel Park Project was Friday, February 17,2023. The pre-bid meeting will be held Friday, February 17th at Brunswick. The last day to drop off bid packets is Monday, February 27,2023.

Mr. Prewitt emphasized that all contractors that plan to bid the Jewel Park Project, should attend the pre-bid meeting. There is no substitution for a visual on the job site.

Old Business/New Business: Damien Miller spoke on behalf of his company Dapper Eats.

Commissioner Gardner said that in the past, they have had good caterers, but not good business. Commissioner Gardner said that they are excited to work with him and would like for the business to be just as efficient as food.

Mr. Miller said that he comes from a corporate leadership background, and although the contract is separate, he plans to operate as one unit with Marquette. He understands that it is hard disassociate the catering from Marquette, and that they must be a team.

Commissioner Gardner said that was excellent.

Commissioner President Gardner entertained a motion to approve a contract between the Gary Park Board and Dapper Eats for catering services at Marquette Park Pavilion. Commissioner Cook so moved the motion. Commissioner Patterson seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried 4-0.

Public Comment: Public comment was received by Carol Smith, and Sandy O'Brien.

Carol Smith: NIPSCO will have a team out to after the next Park Board meeting at noon to discuss the tree location and the types of trees. Ms. Smith invited the board to come to the meeting. Ms. Smith said they were looking into low growing trees. The power lines near those trees are very significant and supply power to entire neighborhood.

Ms. Smith said she spoke to NIPSCO and asked why weren't the stumps taken out and the area where they worked finished. She was told that there was change in personnel and that no one seemed to care, so the ball got dropped. She then asked what happens in most communities. She was told that typically the City is on top of NIPSCO to get the work done. Ms. Smith recommended that people be vigilant in other areas to help make sure this doesn't happen elsewhere.


Ms. Smith asked if the Friends of Marquette would receive a copy of the bridge assessment. Ms. Thomas said that she was waiting on Deputy Mayor to review it.

Sandy O'Brien: Ms. O'Brien asked what happened with the Fish and Wildlife Grant.

Ms. Thomas said it was recently discussed. She is waiting on Judge Monroe to review and approve it.

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 February 14, 2023, moved by Commissioner Patterson, and seconded by Commissioner Cook. Meeting was adjourned.

BY: 
Dwight Gardner, President

BY: 
Willie Bill Cook, Vice President

BY: 
Renee Patterson, Member

BY: 
Alan Harrell, Member