



**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 28, 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 14, 2023. Commissioner Cook moved to approve 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 Payroll

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

Approval of Ratified Claims Listing:

President Gardner asked what the window tinting was for.

Ms. Thomas said the window tinting was for the police cars.

Commissioner Patterson asked about the halogen lights.

Don said that the halogen lights were for the snow plow.

Commissioner Harrell asked for clarification on the halogen lights.

President Gardner entertained a motion to approve the claims listing as presented for February 14,2023 through February 28,2023 with clarification on that particular item. 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 two contracts presented.

Southshore Marina: A professional services contract for South Shore Marina to provide buoy work at the beaches, including placement, retrieval and repair. The term of the contract begins February 15,2023-December 31,2023 for an amount not to exceed \$21,545.00.

Commissioner Cook said that there were questions before about who was responsible for the buoys in terms of lost and repair. He asked if that situation had ever been resolved.

Tawanna Lyons, Aquatics Manager said that until there is different verbiage in the contract the Parks are responsible for the buoys that are broken, damaged, or missing. In order to have the buoys placed on time, she advises that they go with what they have until a new plan is made.

Commissioner Patterson asked if they were able to salvage at least half of the buoys.

Ms. Lyons said they were able to salvage less than half.

Commissioner Harrell stated that he doesn't understand how the Parks Department is being held responsible for the buoys that come up missing year after year. The company provides the anchor system and should be held accountable for them if the buoys break free or are damaged. The company should be at a loss for installing the buoys in an insufficient way. Commissioner Harrell stated that the tough conversation needs to be had.

Ms. Lyons said she agrees.

Commissioner Cook asked what steps she is taking to correct the situation.

Ms. Lyons said she is communication with South Shore Marina. She is also looking into getting another vendor. She has spoke with someone from the State Park to see what anchors are used there. She was told that recycled tires with concrete are being used. She thinks it may be a good idea to use the same type of anchors.

President Gardner requested a letter, that he will sign as President of the Park Board that questions the issue of replacing buoys when the anchors failed. He also requested that Ms. Lyons starts looking for a new vendor immediately.

President Gardner entertained a motion to approve the contract with South Shore Marina for the placement and removal of the buoys on the Lake Shore.

Commissioner Cook moved to approve the motion. Commissioner Patterson seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried 3-1.

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program Landowner Agreement:

President Gardner entertained a motion to approve the contract with Partners for the Fish and Wildlife Program for the control burn of lots 2 and 6.

Commissioner Cook recommended that the motion be approved. 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.

Administrative Reports:

Jazmyn Thomas, Parks Director: Ms. Thomas announced that the bid packages will be opened on tomorrow, March 1, 2023 at 2:00pm in the Board of Works office.

The Eppley Institute Master Plan liaisons will be here for about 5-7 days beginning March 6, 2023 to do their assessments on the parks. The Eppley Institute staff would like to meet the Park staff and Board Members.

A survey will be sent out to the community to gain community input about the parks. The goal is to have at least 300 responses.

Old Business/New Business: President Gardner wanted to address the request regarding the bridge report. President Gardner said the board has not received the bridge report back into their possession yet. The board does intend to make the report available to the party that is requesting the report.

Public Comment: Public comment was received by Charles Prewitt, and Sandy O'Brien.

Charles Prewitt: Mr. Prewitt said he recently attended an event at Marquette. Everything was perfect except for the parking. Mr. Prewitt asked if the Board would consider extending the parking areas to accommodate more people.

Kamishia Jackson, Marquette Pavilion Manager, said parking is an issue. Whenever there is an event over 62 people, there are parking issues. The lot can only hold 62 spaces.

The Board asked if he had any recommendations. Mr. Prewitt said he would ask some of the people he knows.

Sandy O'Brien: Ms. O'Brien asked what happened with the approval for burning at Brunswick Park unit A.

Ms. Thomas stated that Brunswick Park is being assessed along with Marquette through the Environmental Affairs Department.

Ms. O'Brien asked if she should do firebreaks.

Ms. Thomas said not right now.

Ms. O'Brien gave a handout to the Board for a possible addition to Brunswick Park. There is 33 acres of native dune and swell.

Commissioner Gardner asked if the property was considered a wetland.

MS. O'Brien said it is definitely a dune and swell wetland.

Commissioner Gardner questioned if the acquisition of the mentioned area would help resolved the MC Bennett issue.

Ms. Thomas said she would give her recommendation, but the issue is currently looking into the issue.

Ms. Patterson asked if this issue could be added to the call of action document.

Attorney Monroe said they are waiting on a letter to come from the State saying that the Parks are no longer being penalized. Wendy Vachet from Redevelopment is following up on this issue.

Commissioner Patterson asked for an update at the next meeting.

Attorney Monroe said she would contact the company to ask about donating or purchasing the land.

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 28,2023, moved by Commissioner Patterson. Meeting was adjourned.

BY: 
Dwight Gardner, President

BY: 
Willie Bill Cook, Vice President

BY: 
Renee Patterson, Member

BY: 
Alan Harrell, Member