



**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

Rachelle Morgan-Ceaser
Interim Parks Director

**Board of Park Commission
Regular Park Board Meeting
Tuesday April 25, 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 Rev. 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 approved the minutes for April 4, 2023 as presented. Commissioner Cook moved to approve 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.

Ratification of Payroll Expenditure

President Gardner entertained a motion to ratify the payroll as presented for April 21,2023. 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:

Commissioner Cook asked who the uniforms were purchased for.

The administrative assistant answered, stating that the uniforms were for the outdoor maintenance workers. The department heads also received 1 black polo and 1 white t-shirt with the Parks logo.

Commissioner Gardner inquired about the training at Northwestern.

It was explained by the administrative assistant, that the payment was for training for the Parks Security Manager, Simon Lillie.

President Gardner entertained a motion to ratify the claims listing as presented for April 11,2023 through April 25,2023. 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.

Legal: There were two contracts presented.

Champion Foundation: A professional services contract for The Champion Foundation. to provide dances classes for the youth through the Youth Services Bureau. The term of the contract begins May 1,2023-December 31,2023 for an amount not to exceed \$3,000.00.

Commissioner Cook asked if those were the same dancers from the Gala on the Lagoon. Ms. Muhammad confirmed that they were.

Commissioner Gardner entertained a motion to approve the contract with Champion Foundation for dance classes not to exceed the specified amount. Park. 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, Yes.

Motion carried 4-0.

Service Sanitation- Parks: A contract for portable restroom services at various parks throughout the city. The term of the contract is from January 1,2023- December 31,2023 for an amount not to exceed \$32,400.00.

Commissioner Patterson asked if the portable toilets were going to be provided from Memorial Day through Labor Day, and why the contracts were dated for the entire year.

The administrative assistant said that restroom will be put in place on Election Day at the voting sites, and that the general time frame was Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Commissioner Patterson asked if the restrooms in the pavilions would be useable once the pavilions are opened.

The response given was that the restrooms would be useable.

Commissioner Harrell asked if there was a list with the various parks and the numbers for each park.

The administrative assistant said she was given a list with the number of units to order at the specific parks.

President Gardner entertained a motion to approve the contract with Services Sanitation to supply portable toilets throughout the parks system, not to exceed the specified amount.

Commissioner Cook moved to approved 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.

Administrative Reports:

Marquette Pavilion, Kamishia Jackson- Mrs. Jackson thanked every organization that decided to come out and volunteer to clean up the beach. The Dunes Calumet -Audubon came out Sunday. They started cleaning the beach at Lake Street.

Today, Sam's Club will start cleaning the beach at noon.

NIPSCO chose two days, May 24th and June 22nd.

If any organization is interested in volunteering to clean the beach, please call Marquette.

Marquette is currently hiring for ticket takers. The ticket takers will start on Memorial Day weekend.

So far 48 people have applied. Mrs. Jackson attributed the amount of applications to the rate increase to \$14.66 an hour. The rate was previously \$8.25 and hour.

Mrs. Jackson said she added a calendar of events to the packets for the Board. There is a first district meeting scheduled for tonight, that is not on the list.

On May 28th, Marquette will have the second "Social Soul Food Sunday."

Saturday July 22,2023 will be the 3rd Food Truck Block Fest. Anyone that has a food truck and would like to be a vendor can call Marquette Pavilion.

Commissioner Cook mentioned that he likes receiving the calendar of events. It keeps them informed on the events that are happening.

Hudson-Campbell, Christine Gooden- Mrs. Gooden said they had an event at the Hudson-Campbell. Power Light Church rented the lower part of the Hudson-Campbell. They hosted a basketball game for their members. Mrs. Gooden said that since Covid has lessened, they are starting to have more programs use the facility during the day. The evenings are booked. This the 3rd event they have had this year.

The Hudson-Campbell is currently working with the Youth Services Bureau. The plan is to put a net up a volleyball net to have games in the summer. There is already a team, but they are working towards getting a league together.

The RFPs for the vacant space are now closed. There were three vendors that responded. They are moving forward with the process.

Lastly, they are working on their fall and winter daytime activities. The evenings are already starting to book, but they are focusing on more things during the day.

Mrs. Gooden said that she is going out to schools that do not have gyms, and suggesting the use of the Hudson Campbell.

Commissioner Cook asked for an update on the vents from the previous walk.

Mrs. Gooden said there was only one vendor that came in. They are trying to find the funding to have the service completed.

Commission Cook asked who the vendor was.

Mrs. Gooden said she could not recall the vendors name, but that she has the information in her email. To clean the vents is \$6,000 and any additional labor is \$85 per hour.

Youth Services Bureau, Atiya Muhammad- On Saturday, April 15th the Youth Services Bureau hosted Gala on the Lagoon. The keynote speaker was Butta the Preacher. The Mayor also came and spoke. It was a night of youth talent and fund raising.

Ms. Muhammad thanked Dapper Eats for the food and Marquette.

Fellowship and Partnership awards were given out to community organizations that have worked with YSB. One of those partners was the Hudson Campbell.

Ms. Muhammad thanked everyone for participating.

With the gala the Youth Services Bureau was able to raise \$16,500.00. Ms. Muhammad asked for permission to accept all donations.

Commissioner Gardner entertained a motion to approve the acceptance of all donations to Youth Services Bureau that were generated or connected to the Gala on the Lagoon.

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

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

Ms. Muhammad announced that with the donations from the gala and the grant from the Department of Health, YSB has received approximately \$145,000 and just the first quarter.

YSB has their summer camps coming up. The volleyball camp will start at the Hudson Campbell June 5th and end on July 28th, Monday through Thursday from 10 AM until 2 PM.

The final flyer and registration packet will be available next week.

The Gary Nature Camp is returning this summer at the Paul H Douglas center for youth ages 5-13. The camp will run Monday thru Thursday from 10:00am-2:00pm.

Registration will be available next week.

Commissioner Gardner asked if transportation was going to be provided for the summer camps.

Atiya said that some of the funds used from the donations would be used for transportation. Last summer, transportation was the number one issue.

The Field Museum and Museum of Science and Industry has offered a bus for the visits.

Commissioner Cook asked if she had the dates for her trips to the museum. Ms. Muhammad said she did not have the dates yet. She plans to have them next week along with a calendar.

Commissioner Patterson asked if she could keep the board updated with the numbers for participation.

Ms. Muhammad was applauded by the Board for her good work.

Aquatics, Tawanna Lyons- The Aquatics Department is still hiring for lifeguards. Great responses were received thanks to Mrs. Ceaser getting the flyer on the Re-Imagine page. From that post alone, they had 5 interests.

The hiring process is a bit different because you have to ensure that everyone can swim. Classes are still being held at the Calumet pool on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 4:30 until 6:00PM. Ms. Lyons is accepting phone calls at [219-702-7714](tel:219-702-7714).

Park Maintenance, Don Plohg- The Maintenance Team assisted Constituent Services with Earth Day in the Gleason area.

The kickoff at Hatcher Park was this past Saturday. Mr. Plohg said the team did a stellar job.

Daniel Suarez announced that the NOAA received another grant of \$300,000 to keep the clean trails moving along.

The Parks Department will be cleaning all of the voting sites next week. After elections, they will go back to their regular cutting schedule. This year they will be cutting by district. Monday will be the dedicated Marquette Park day.

The maintenance staff will continue cutting Jewel Parks until the contractors begin cutting.

Interim Director, Rachelle Ceaser- Mayor Prince, the City, and a host of partners, had a city-wide Earth day clean up on Saturday. Gleason was the footprint, but in addition to that there were people working all across the city. This initiative has really grown over the past three years. The whole idea is that everyone can do something. There was a tremendous participation from the Faith based community. There was about 500 people at Gleason alone.

Mrs. Ceaser, publicly, thanked Don and the team for the hard work.

There's no update for the master plan. The assumption is that everything is on track. There are no to do items indicated. Mrs. Ceaser believes that a draft should be completed by mid-May.

Mrs. Ceaser said she planned to meet with the remaining councilmen who have not chosen their playground equipment.

Mrs. Ceaser intends to provide the council with a complete update, including financials at the next meeting in May.

Commissioner Garner, asked if all of the contracts were started for the project.

Mrs. Ceaser said that all of the contracts were ready with the exception of one. There was one contractor who did not have their business license. Mr. Prewitt has put in a request for the next contractor. The contract will be given to the next lowest bidder.

The playground installation was started at Ironwood on Monday.

TMC started on yesterday.

JMD started work at Howe park on yesterday.

Myers started yesterday as well. The only outstanding contract is for the previous contractor that did not have the business license.

The project manager recommended TMC.

Commissioner Gardner asked if there was a start date for the roller rink at Roosevelt.

Mrs. Ceaser said she was unsure but would get the information.

Old Business/ New Business: None

Public Comment: Carol Smith, Emmet Mosley, Gina Gaston, Sandy O'Brien and Timothy Johnson.

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 April 25th moved by Commissioner Patterson. Commissioners Cook and Harrell seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned.

BY: 
Dwight Gardner, President

BY: 
Willie Bill Cook, Vice President

BY: 
Renee Patterson, Member

BY: 
Alan Harrell, Member