



**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, March 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 approved the minutes for March 14,2023 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 approve the payroll as presented for March 24,2023. 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.**

**Legal:** There were six contracts presented.

**Simmons Landscaping:** A service contract for Simmons Landscaping to provide lawn care services at Roosevelt and Brunswick Park, for a total of 20 cuts. The term of the contract begins March 28,2023-September 30,2023 for an amount not to exceed \$54,000.00.

Commissioner Gardner entertained a motion to approve the contract with Simmons Landscaping for lawn care services at Roosevelt and Brunswick. Commissioner Harrell moved to approve the motion. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion.

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

**Motion carried 4-0.**

**Rough Hands Landscape LLC:** A service contract with Rough Hands Landscape, LLC to provide lawn care services at Glen Ryan and Tolleston Park, for a total of 20 cuts. The term of the contract begins March 28,2023-September 30,2023 for an amount not to exceed \$52,000.00.

Commissioner Gardner entertained a motion to approve the contract with Rough Hands Landscape, LLC for lawn care services at Glen Ryan and Tolleston 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.**

**Honey -Do Experts, LLC:** A service with for Honey- Do Experts, LLC to provide lawn care services at Howe and Ironwood Park, for a total of 20 cuts. The term of the contract begins March 28,2023-September 30,2023 for an amount not to exceed \$27,500.00.

Commissioner Gardner entertained a motion to approve the contract with Honey-Do Experts, LLC for lawn care services at Howe and Ironwood 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.**

**TMC Contractors LLC.:** A service contract with TMC to provide roofing services at Brunswick and Howe. The contract shall terminate on December 31,2023, for an amount not to exceed \$202,000.00.

Commissioner Gardner entertained a motion to approve the contract with TMC Contractors, LLC for roofing services at Brunswick and Howe Pavilion. Commissioner Cook moved to approve the motion. Commissioner Harrell seconded the motion.

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

**Motion carried 4-0.**

**TMC Contractors LLC.:** A service contract with TMC to replace the sidewalk and remove the tennis court fencing at Ironwood Park. The contract shall terminate on December 31,2023, for an amount not to exceed \$21,400.00.

Commissioner Gardner entertained a motion to approve the contract with TMC Contractors, LLC for the replacement of the sidewalk and removal of the tennis court fencing. 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.**

**EC Babilla LLC.:** A service contract with TMC to provide shelter roofing services at Brunswick, Glen Ryan, Ironwood, and Tolleston Park. The contract shall terminate on December 31,2023, for an amount not to exceed \$25,908.00.

Commissioner Gardner entertained a motion to approve the contract with EC Babilla, LLC provide shelter roofing services at Brunswick, Glen Ryan, Ironwood, and Tolleston Park.

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

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

**Motion carried 4-0.**

### **Administrative Reports:**

**Kamishia Jackson, Marquette Pavilion:** The total revenue for January and February were the following:

Lease of Pavilion \$8737.50

Security fees \$1020.00

Marquette shelter \$730.00

Miscellaneous revenue \$3769.60,

For a total of \$14,257.10.

The year to date is \$26,487.10. This time last year, the year to date was \$22,187.81. Marquette is ahead of last year.

On Sunday, April 2 Marquette and Dapper Eats will have “Soul Food Sunday” from 12 PM until 6 PM. Table reservations can be made through Eventbrite.

On Saturday, July 22, 2023 Marquette will host their third annual Food Truck Block Fest. If anyone is interested in becoming a vendor, please call the Marquette office.

**Atiya Muhammad, Youth Services Bureau-** The Youth Services Bureau will host Gala at the Lagoon event at Marquette Park. The event is on April 15,2023. If anyone has any questions or would like to donate, please call 219-881-5270.

Ms. Muhammad asked for permission to accept the following donations related to the Gala, and amended the previous amount from Gary Community Partnership. The amount for Gary Community Partnership was stated as \$200, and was amended to \$120.

- **Attorney Monroe: \$350.00**
- **IUNW: \$500.00**
- **Prewitt Construction: \$150.00**

Commissioner President Gardner entertained a motion to accept the donations as presented to the Youth Services Bureau for 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.

**Motion carried 4-0.**

**Jazmyn Thomas: Parks Director**

Ms. Thomas stated that she would on maternity leave starting Monday, April 3, 2023. Mrs. Caeser will be the Interim Director, while Ms. Thomas is on maternity leave. Ms. Thomas stated that she had created a binder with all of the necessary information for Mrs. Morgan-Caeser.

Ms. Thomas presented her plans to change the titles and job descriptions of the Grounds Keepers to Event Services. Ms. Thomas said that the Event Services team would work within the pavilion to set up, break down, and clean the pavilions. The Event Services team would also be responsible for helping the maintenance crew as needed. The Event Services position would report to the Reservations Specialist and Park Manager.

Ms. Thomas also presented a change the position of the Rec Aide to the Assistant to the Reservation Specialist.

Commissioner Patterson asked what the role of the assistant reservation specialist will be.

Ms. Thomas stated that the Reservation Specialist Assistant would assist with making reservations taking phone calls, and working with consumers for the smaller reservations. This would allow more time for the Reservation Specialist to work on the larger projects. There will be four pavilions open, and multiple shelters being rented at the same time.

Ms. Thomas was advised by Attorney Monroe, that the changes in the positions will likely not be able take place until 2024. Ms. Thomas would have to seek approval from the City Council before changing the positions and job descriptions.

Ms. Thomas stated that she had received a proposal from AFLAC in regards to donating a bench and a high traffic area within the city parks. The AFLAC bench proposed will be blue with the AFLAC logo on the bench. Ms. Thomas said that an ideal location would be near the walking trail at Marquette Park.

Attorney Monroe stated that Marquette already had a bench program. The benches throughout the park are all the same and have the same color. A blue bench would be on uniformed.

Attorney Monroe advised against the approval of the bench in the park, because of the large logo on the bench. Attorney Monroe advised that approval be sought from the law department, because of the advertisement on city property.

**Old Business/New Business: None**

**Public Comment:**

**Mary Ann Best**-Ms. best presented the Loaner Life Jacket program on behalf of the Miller Beach Water Safety social group. Ms. Best stated that the Life Jacket Loaner program would provide loaner life jackets to the public, and would be near the concession stand at Marquette Beach.

The program will be supported by donations. A variety of life jacket sizes will be provided. Instructions on the use of the life jackets would be posted on signage. The public will be encouraged to borrow and return the lifejackets. The life jackets will not be monitored full-time. Ms. Best stated that the persons over the program do live nearby and can easily check on the jacket station.

Commissioner Harold asked how the lifejackets would be replaced if people did not put them back. Ms. Best stated that the program would replace the life jackets at no cost to the City.

The Board plans to review the information presented.

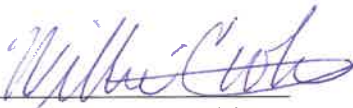
Public comment was also received by Linda Fisher, Carol Smith, and Otis Laverne Seawood.

**Old Business/New Business: None**

**Public Comment: 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 March 28,2023, 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