

**Board of Park Commissioners  
Meeting Minutes  
June 12, 2023**

**Call to Order:** Mrs. Galka called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was held open to the public and a call-in number for remote public participation.

**Roll Call:** Commissioners in attendance: Mrs. Galka, Mr. Kara, Mr. Such, and Ms. Grabczak. Council Representative Mr. Huddlestun, School Board Representative Mrs. Hillan. Also present: Park Board Secretary Ms. Montes and Park Director Mrs. Goodpaster.

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion by Mr. Kara, seconded by Mr. Such to approve the agenda as presented. All aye, motion carried. (4-0)

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Ms. Grabczak, seconded by Mr. Kara to accept the April 10, 2023 minutes as presented. All aye, motion carried. (4-0)

**Approval of Register of Claims:** Motion by Ms. Grabczak, seconded by Mr. Kara to accept the register of claims. All aye, motion carried. (4-0)

**Correspondence:** nothing under correspondence

**Director Report:** Mrs. Goodpaster reported that the Summer Market on the Lake has started and we are now Events and Parks. It has been going really well just a lot more office work, planning, and the powering through the execution.

Parks hosted the Country Jam and had a great turnout with beautiful weather. We were just in charge of garbage and our crew did a really great job.

The bathroom project is moving along, just waiting for Nipsco to do the relocation. The office will be closed and we are going to have to work remotely on July 10, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> because they will turn the power and water off.

Mrs. Goodpaster also mentioned that she had a meeting in regards to the playground at the pool. They will start breaking ground at the end of August and potentially have it fully wrapped up by the fall. However, the pool is open and ready to go for the season.

Arts in the Park has also started at City Ball Park, there were a lot of kids at the park for it, and what a great way to end their day with a free school lunch. The Hobart Tri Kappa sponsored the Arts in the Park; they gave us a donation to purchase all the materials.

In the gym at the MRC the floor is being replaced; they have started taking the bleachers apart. Bleachers will be out at the end of this week and walls will need to be painted. If all goes as planned the gym floor will be done the last week of June.

**Plan Commission Report:** nothing under the plan commission report

**Common Council Report:** Mr. Huddlestun reported that there is a Comp plan section with the plan commission to go over the Master Plan. The council is working hard to help with the mall situation; the legislation was passed which allows to take out some money from Indiana Bond

bank from the treasurer's office at a very low rate for an extended period of time to help relieve some of the mall debt. Mr. Huddlestun also mentioned that the code enforcement officer and team are working hard to all the number of complaints they are receiving in regard to the tall grass.

**School Board Report:** Mrs. Hillan announces the end of another school year. Graduation took June 4<sup>th</sup> and everything was perfect. The lunch programs take place in the Parks and the grilling lunch has been a great hit. The lunches are free and for parents and adults cost is \$5 dollars. This is a way to promote kids to eat healthier, unfortunately for some of the kids this is the only meal they will get is very important that is done right.

Mrs. Hillan touched on strategy 4 in the Master Plan: "Offer thoughtful and unique programming opportunities that appeal to the demographic makeup of Hobart and provide the opportunity for socialization and engagement". Mrs. Hillan expresses that our youth are in dire need of this skill right now; she explains that after covid they have seen the fallout of middle kids not having the socialization skills that are required. The middle school kids are struggling due to not being in person during some very key socialization development time, which is why it makes sense, middle school kids are the ones causing the most problems at the parks.

Mrs. Hillan also announced another Hobart State Champion Cody Johnston. He cleared a height of 17'1.25 for the win and set a new meet record. He broke records throughout the state and was named number two in the nation.

**Old Business:** nothing under old business

**New Business:** Mrs. Goodpaster mentioned that mudd volleyball wants to come back this year. They have all their paperwork and insurance turned in. It will take place at Hillman on August 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> and they have the same layout. We never have a problem with them and it is a great fundraiser for them. Motion by Mr. Such, seconded by Mr. Kara to approve the mudd volleyball. All aye, motion carried. (4-0)

Mrs. Goodpaster and Mayor Snedecor had a discussion about land for a potential dog park at the Main Lift Station. The City and the Parks have contracted with BF&S to draw a conceptual plan of options for a dog park. If everything gets finalized in the next couple of weeks the build will start in the fall, seed it, and let everything winter over. There will be potential to open the park spring of 2024. The money would not come out of the Park Department but it will be added as one of our parks. Mayor Snedecor also mentioned that the land is big enough to have two separate areas, one for small dogs and one for large dogs. It will also have parking and put in fencing.

Mayor Snedecor also mentioned that Becknell wants to donate 20 acres of land South of Liverpool. The mayor explains is unbuildable because the pipeline goes through there. The water is a borrow pit that they used during construction and it is no longer needed. The sanitary district will fill that borrow pit and the land can then be a dual purpose for potential storm water detention and also park-related activities. A discussion took place with ideas for the land for a BMX track along with Frisbee golf and maybe some bathrooms along with some shelters and a future playground. Again, the Park Department won't be responsible for all costs. This donation would benefit the city in so many ways now and in the near future. There was a consensus by the commissioners to allow the Mayor and Mrs. Goodpaster for accepting the donation from Becknell.

**Announcements:** Mrs. Goodpaster is hoping for the playground at Robinson to be put in in two weeks. Once the playground is put in the memorial benches will follow. The fence has been put in the extended parking lot and is now available for parking.

Mayor Snedecor also announced that on June 21<sup>st</sup> a ceremony for Linda M. Buzinec will take place. The downtown lakefront clock tower will be named in her honor.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn by Mr. Kara, seconded by Ms. Grabczak. All aye, motion carried. (4-0)

*Wm. H. ...*

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