

Carmel/Clay Board of Parks and Recreation
Tuesday, February 10, 2015, 6:00 p.m.
Monon Community Center

Members Present: James Engledow, James Garretson, Wendy Franklin, Kathie Freed, Joshua Kirsh, Jenn Kristunas, Linus Rude

Members Absent: Richard Leirer, Rich Taylor

Others Present: Mark Westermeier, Director; Michael Klitzing, Chief Operating Officer (COO); Debra Grisham, Park Board Attorney

Roll Call, Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Board President Engledow welcomed everyone to the Park Board Meeting, and asked Mr. Kirsh to call the roll. Mr. Kirsh stated that there was a quorum, at which time Board President Engledow called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Presentation: Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation Master Plan created by PROS, Consulting, LLC – Michael Klitzing

COO Klitzing presented an overview of the 5-year comprehensive master plan. After two years, it is now close to its final draft for adoption by the Park Board. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources requires that there be a final public presentation prior to its adoption. After this evening's presentation, PROS Consulting, LLC will work with staff and incorporate any appropriate feedback. The revised final draft will be presented to the Park Board in March for adoption.

A discussion followed regarding Mr. Garretson's questions on statistical data, the Department's priorities, funding, and naming policy. Mr. Kirsh voiced his concerns about inadequate parking and acquisition of parkland. Ms. Franklin followed up with justification for priorities, specifically as it relates to adaptive programs. COO Klitzing stated the comp plan priorities are based upon the consultant and his subjective assessment from survey results, stakeholders, etc. Board President Engledow added that the Park Board has determined that adaptive programs are extremely important.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Staff Reports

COO Klitzing welcomed Park Board Members to attend the three upcoming special events commemorating the Department receiving the National Gold Medal Award. The public is welcome to attend.

- Tuesday, February 24, 2015, 6 p.m., John W. Hensel Government Center, Presentation of Grand Plaque to Clay Township Board;
- Friday, March 6, 2015, 3 p.m., Reading of House Resolution 9 by Jerry Torr, Indiana House of Representatives, Monon Community Center; and
- Monday, March 16, 2015, 6 p.m., Presentation of Grand Plaque to Carmel City Council, City Hall.

As reflected in the staff reports, COO Klitzing stated that the new Silver Sneakers and PRIME programs have shown tremendous support with 164 PRIME and 256 Silver Sneakers new members. The full impact of the new members (total of 420) will be determined later as the Department receives compensation for the actual visits to the Monon Community Center.

Ms. Freed asked about the membership passes as reflected on the graph. COO Klitzing said that the Fitness and Aquatics/Gym passes are old legacy passes and at the end of 2014 rolled over to Escape passes.

Board President Engledow said he was impressed with the staff donations to the Jeans Friday program totaling almost \$2,000.

Committee Reports

Personnel Committee – Rich Taylor

In Mr. Taylor's absence, Board President Engledow stated that the Personnel Committee will meet on Wednesday, March 4, 2015, at 5 p.m. in the Administrative Offices.

Finance Committee – Jenn Kristunas

Ms. Kristunas said the standing meeting date is the third Monday of each month; however in February, that Monday is Presidents' Day. Ms. Kristunas will send out an email to check availability on Tuesday the 17th.

Properties Committee – Joshua Kirsh

Mr. Kirsh announced that the Properties Committee met and established some goals for the year. He hopes to convene a meeting next month (March) to come up with action plans to achieve those goals.

Action Items

Minutes – January 13, 2015 Annual and Regular Park Board Meeting

Mr. Kirsh made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Garretson, and unanimously passed 7 – 0.

City of Carmel Financial Report for January 2015

Ms. Kristunas made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the City of Carmel Financial Report for January 2015, seconded by Mr. Kirsh, and unanimously passed 7 – 0.

Clay Township Financial Report for January 2015

Ms. Kristunas made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the Clay Township Financial Report for January 2015, seconded by Mr. Kirsh, and unanimously passed 7 – 0.

CCPR P&L Statements for January 2015

Ms. Kristunas made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the CCPR P&L Statements for January 2015, seconded by Mr. Kirsh, and unanimously passed 7 – 0.

Claim Sheet February 10, 2015

Ms. Kristunas made a motion to approve the Claim Sheet as presented, seconded by Mr. Kirsh, and unanimously passed 7 – 0.

Clay Township Claim Sheet February 10, 2015

Ms. Kristunas made a motion to approve the Clay Township Claim Sheet as presented, seconded by Mr. Kirsh, and unanimously passed 7 – 0.

Monetary Gifts, Grants, Partnerships, and Sponsorships for January 2015 – Michael Klitzing

COO Klitzing requested that the Board accept two donations. Forest Dale Elementary school received \$2,000 from Bright House Network through the Afterschool Alliance for winning the Lights On Afterschool 2014 photo contest. The money will be used to create a computer lab for the afterschool program. The second donation was \$175 from CCPR Staff for the Jeans Friday scholarship program. A motion was made by Mr. Kirsh to accept the donations as presented, seconded by Ms. Kristunas, and unanimously passed 7 – 0.

Consideration of Resolution G-2015-001 regarding the Donation of Real Estate – Mark Westermeier

Director Westermeier said that the family who sold the property for the Sunrise development is donating this particular piece of land (9.754 acres) to the Department. Director Westermeier continued with an overview of the land and its proximity to Westfield Boulevard and the Monon Trail. At this point in time, the land will be considered a preserve with possible future development. Further information was provided regarding a Lenape Park loop trail (1.6 miles) and how additional properties will connect, including the Monon Lake development. The Monon Lake developers are using their own funds to develop land that may be donated to the Department in the near future.

Mr. Rude asked how people will know who owns what. Director Westermeier replied that this is not an issue right now since this particular piece of land will be left in its natural state. Mr. Kirsh elaborated on other neighborhoods in the general area and how they intend to connect to the Monon Trail.

Director Westermeier assured the Park Board that the Department is taking all necessary steps to keep the neighbors informed on possible future development. Mr. Kirsh stated that the gas pipe has the potential to cause problems. Director Westermeier said there are other issues at hand as well including an updated environmental study and survey. It is also important to note that we are dealing with substantial grade changes so connections to the Monon Trail may be difficult. Discussion followed regarding Lenape Park, pedestrian traffic crossing Westfield Boulevard, and future improvements of 96th Street.

Mr. Kirsh made a motion to waive the reading of Resolution G-2015-001 and enter it into action, seconded by Ms. Kristunas, and unanimously passed 7 – 0.

Mr. Kirsh made a motion to approve Resolution G-2015-001. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kristunas, and unanimously passed 7 – 0.

Board President Engledow thanked the family for its gracious donation.

Consideration of Resolution G-2015-002 regarding an Interest in the Purchase of Real Estate – Mark Westermeier

Director Westermeier spoke about a piece of property owned by the Matilda Haverstick Family and the resolution of interest necessary to move forward. This is the first stop in the process, which includes obtaining approvals from the Park Board, Clay Township Board, and the City Council. Director Westermeier showed the location of the 5.16 acres close to River Road, Prairie Trace School and along the White River. This land would allow the White River Greenway Trail to connect to Conner Prairie. Director Westermeier showed a short video of the land providing an overview of its proximity to White River, Conner Prairie, and the White River Greenway Trail.

Mr. Garretson asked about the land being in the 50-year or 100-year flood plain and its impact on the price. Director Westermeier stated that the Department is limited on its purchase price by paying the average amount of two appraisals. As the City of Carmel is currently working on a right-of-way in this area due to the River Road development, we have a general idea of the cost, which is estimated to be less than \$500,000.

Mr. Kirsh made a motion to waive the reading of Resolution G-2015-002 and enter it into business, seconded by Ms. Kristunas. Board President Engledow reminded the Board that this is a Resolution of Interest only. After a brief discussion, the vote was called and the motion was unanimously passed 7 – 0.

Mr. Rude asked what would happen if the Department did not purchase this land. Director Westermeier stated there would be no guarantee that we could use the land and most likely would have to go around this particular piece of property for our connection to Conner Prairie. Discussion followed.

Mr. Kirsh made a motion to adopt Resolution G-2015-002 as presented, seconded by Ms. Kristunas, and unanimously passed 7 – 0.

Consideration of Resolution P-2015-001 Restating and Amending the Park Acquisition, Development & Disposal Policy – Michael Klitzing

COO Klitzing explained that during last year's accreditation process by the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), the Department asked the Park Board to formally adopt a Park Acquisition, Development & Disposal Policy. Upon going through some actual considerations of property acquisition, it was determined that there were some areas of the policy that needed to be enhanced. Debra Grisham, the Park Board Attorney, contributed to the revisions by strengthening the policy as it relates to state law and authorizing the Director and/or Chief Operating Officer to address preliminary investigations (due diligence reviews) of property. Ms. Kristunas asked if the previously approved resolutions follow this policy upon which COO Klitzing responded yes.

Mr. Kirsh made a motion to waive the reading of Resolution P-2015-001 and enter it into business, seconded by Ms. Kristunas, and unanimously passed 7 – 0. Mr. Kirsh made a motion to adopt Resolution P-2015-001 as presented, seconded by Ms. Kristunas, and passed 6 – 0 (Mr. Garretson was briefly absent and did not vote).

Consideration of Matters regarding Central Park Dog Park – Mark Westermeier

Director Westermeier said there was nothing to report at this time. Ms. Freed spoke of the recent news coverage about dogs and DNA. Discussion followed.

Attorney's Report

Tort Claims

Ms. Grisham stated that no new tort claims have been filed since the last report in January.

General

Ms. Grisham said that the CRC (Carmel Redevelopment Commission) rescheduled its January public hearings to February due to lack of a quorum.

Trustee Doug Callahan has reappointed Dr. James Dillon as his Deputy Trustee.

Director's Report

Director Westermeier stated his report was included in the packet. As a follow up to the report on the comprehensive master plan, the City of Carmel has determined that when a Homeowners Association builds a pocket park, the park has to be open to all members of the public.

Director Westermeier stated that there are major parking problems at the Monon Community Center as individuals are parking in unauthorized areas resulting in blocked vehicles. The Department will paint yellow stripes and install proper signage so vehicles can be towed if necessary. In fact, we may look at the possibility of valet parking. Mr. Kirsh agreed. Discussion followed.

DB Engineering, The Schneider Corporation, and Gregg Calpino of SEH met to discuss the playground (West Commons). The real problem is the amount of dirt that needs to be moved. Discussion centered on how we can accomplish the original vision by moving the dirt, but keeping it onsite. Most interesting was that after that conversation, Mr. Calpino sent Director Westermeier a doodle reflecting the original concepts of Central Park. This doodle, which will be archived, shows a small sledding hill.

Board President Engledow asked about the road at West Park. Director Westermeier said that temporary repairs have been made, but we may need to close the park for further work.

Discussion Items

Mr. Kirsh and his son are enjoying their walks in the park including feeding the ducks.

Mr. Kirsh said there is expressed interest in community gardens using open green space or possibly a greenhouse. He feels that there is a need for future food production through sustainable urban agriculture. The Department has beautiful wild and manicured space, but we may want to consider adding more value to our community.

Mr. Garretson spoke of his parks tour with Director Westermeier and COO Klitzing. He knew very little about the Department and was impressed with the quality of maintenance of the restrooms, shelters, etc. He felt good about what he saw and credited the staff and leadership of the parks.

Mr. Garretson voiced his concern about seeking alternative funding, especially for capital projects. There needs to be some direction from the Board and what it (the Board) thinks would be a viable target for outside funding in addition to establishing a relationship with the (Parks) Foundation. Everyone needs to be on the same page, and the Foundation needs to know the Board's highest priority.

Mr. Garretson spoke of his involvement with two local foundations – the Education Foundation in 1966 and the Library (Foundation) in the 80s and reinvented in the 90s. There was leadership from the community and no one knew what they were doing. Mr. Garretson provided a brief history of these endeavors, their current situations, and what the Board should consider.

Mr. Rude spoke of the possibility of making people happy by changing Cherry Tree Park to Cherry Tree Park and Gardens.

Ms. Kristunas brought up the bylaws, which was a hot topic last November, and asked where the Board was on this, especially since it (the Board) is meeting once a month now. Board President Engledow said he had no answer.

Board President Engledow thanked Mr. Garretson for his perspective and comments, especially as they related to alternative funding. There are only nine years left on the bond. Director Westermeier added that this is the biggest issue as the Department needs to purchase land, yet there may be no money to develop it. Future funding is a critical area for the Board.

Mr. Garretson said the parks are no different from any other public entity and spoke of the revenues that could be generated by naming rights. He continued with many examples.

Information Items

Plan Commission – Joshua Kirsh

Mr. Kirsh said he had nothing to report as the last meeting was cancelled.

School Board – Kathie Freed

Ms. Freed said the School Board met last night. The redistricting report was amended and challenged, and it is open for discussion next Tuesday (February 17, 2015). This affects about 100 students and involves realigning the middle schools and College Wood Elementary for a more balanced population.

Ms. Freed was extremely proud to report the results of the PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) exam. PISA is part of OECD that selects various schools around the world for testing. Last spring, 73 freshmen took this exam and were very comparable to Shanghai students. This is the first time that Carmel has been compared internationally and did very well.

Parks Foundation – Wendy Franklin

Ms. Franklin said the Foundation will be meeting soon, but she will not be able to attend. In a meeting about a week ago, Tania Moskalenko, Executive Director of the Pallidum, spoke about a program regarding an "on loan" sculpture program. Mark Varnau had set up the meeting to explore avenues for sculptures in Central Park. Mr. Garretson spoke of a situation that happened at Ball State and offered words of wisdom to be careful.

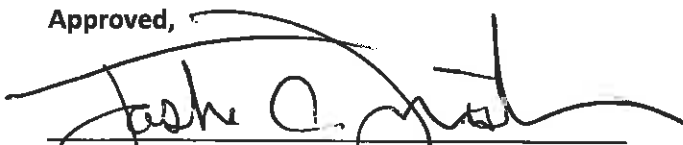
Board Comments

There were no further comments.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Kirsh made a motion to adjourn, with no objections. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Approved,



Signature

3-10-15

Date



Signature

10 March 2015

Date