

**Carmel/Clay Board of Parks and Recreation  
Tuesday, September 8, 2015, 6:00 p.m.  
Monon Community Center**

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

**Members Absent:** Wendy Franklin, Richard Leirer, Rich Taylor

**Others Present:** Mark Westermeier, Director; Michael Klitzing, Chief Operating Officer (COO); Audrey Kostrzewa, Business Services Director; 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 Comments**

The following individual addressed the Park Board voicing concerns regarding the allocation of dog park memberships.

- Ed Berbari; 14501 Quail Pointe Drive; Carmel, Indiana 46032

**Staff Reports**

COO Klitzing stated that some of the standard staff reports and the financial statements were not available at the time of packet assembly and will be included in the next board packet. One item of special note included was a copy of the article from the *P&R* magazine (50<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition) that featured the Department's inclusive playback troupe created by Michelle Yadon, Inclusion Supervisor. We are very proud and fortunate to have coverage in a national publication. Coincidentally, this article appeared about the same time as our ADA access audit and transition plan. In addition to the playback troupe mentioned in the magazine, we are excited about the coverage of Lindsay Labas as a New and Young Professional and the Department receiving the Barb King Award.

Mr. Kirsh asked about SilverSneaker memberships. COO Klitzing replied that the actual number of SilverSneaker memberships is 670 and 874 for Prime. The number of visits for the month was 2,777.

**Committee Reports**

There were no Committee Reports.

**Minutes**

**July 28, 2015 Park Board Special Meeting**

Mr. Kirsh made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Kristunas, and passed 5 – 0 with 1 abstention (Mr. Rude).

**August 11, 2015 Park Board Meeting**

Mr. Kirsh made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Kristunas, and unanimously passed 6 – 0.

**August 11, 2015 Park Board Special Meeting**

Mr. Kirsh made a motion to approve the minutes, and seconded by Ms. Kristunas. Mr. Garretson asked for a clarification on the minutes and was assured that this action item was to approve the minutes, not the bylaws. The motion was unanimously passed 6 – 0.

**Financial Reports**

**Consolidated Financial Report for August 2015**

The Consolidated Financial Report for August 2015 was not available, but will be in the packet for the next meeting, as well as the P&L Statements.

**CCPR P&L Statements for August 2015**

*See note above.*

**Claims**

**Claim Sheet September 8, 2015**

Ms. Kristunas made a motion to approve the Claim Sheet as presented, seconded by Mr. Kirsh, and unanimously passed 6 – 0.

**Clay Township Claim Sheet September 8, 2015**

Ms. Kristunas made a motion to approve the Clay Township Claim Sheet as presented, seconded by Mr. Kirsh, and unanimously passed 6 – 0.

**Monetary Gifts, Grants, Partnerships, and Sponsorships for August 2015 – Audrey Kostrzewa**

Ms. Kostrzewa requested that the Board accept the monetary gifts, grants, partnerships, sponsorships, and donations received in August. A motion was made by Mr. Kirsh to accept all as presented, seconded by Ms. Kristunas, and unanimously passed 6 – 0.

**New Business**

**Accessibility Audit and Transition Plan: Presentation by John McGovern, RAC (Recreation Accessibility Consultants, LLC)**

COO Klitzing introduced John McGovern, President of Recreation Accessibility Consultants (RAC), who presented the 2015 Access Audit Report to the Park Board.

**Sunrise on the Monon: Consideration of Resolution G-2015-004 regarding the donation of Real Estate – Mark Westermeier**

Director Westermeier spoke about the Sunrise donation where the Hinshaw family gave the Department 9.754 acres referred to as the "Park Tract." The developer, Old Town (*Old Town Design Group*), is donating 1.978 acres to the Department. Although unusual, the Department will allow the developer to make improvements to the Park Tract.

Mr. Kirsh made a motion to waive the reading of Resolution G-2015-004 and enter it into action, seconded by Ms. Kristunas, and unanimously passed 6 – 0.

Mr. Kirsh made a motion to approve Resolution G-2015-004, seconded by Ms. Kristunas. Mr. Garretson asked if this resolution was to accept the land. Director Westermeier answered that the Department will accept the land with improvements. Discussion followed. The motion was unanimously passed 6 – 0.

**Old Business**

**Park Board Bylaws: Consideration of Resolution G-2015-005 regarding amendments to the Bylaws – Debra Grisham**

Ms. Grisham indicated she provided options in the cover sheet. Mr. Garretson pointed out there were only 6 Park Board Members present and no action could be taken.

Mr. Kirsh made a motion to waive the reading of Resolution G-2015-005 and enter it into action, seconded by Ms. Kristunas, and unanimously passed 6 – 0. Discussion followed. Mr. Garretson asked about the duties of the Park Board. Ms. Grisham replied that state law and the Interlocal clearly define the duties. Ms. Grisham said she would verify the marked (redlined) version of the bylaws attached to the cover sheet and advise the Park Board Members accordingly. The clean document attached to the Resolution and titled Exhibit A is correct.

Mr. Kirsh made a motion to follow the process in Section 7.1 of the Bylaws and consider Resolution G-2015-005 at the next regular meeting of the Park Board, currently scheduled for October 13, 2015. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kristunas and unanimously passed 6 – 0.

**Central Park West Commons: Updates – Mark Westermeier**

Director Westermeier announced that the project has started, and we are still waiting on permits. Discussion followed.

**Attorney's Report**

Ms. Grisham reported that there are no new tort claims. The investigation is still underway regarding the injured, nine-year old camper. The claim that was filed by the man who tripped and fell in the Fitness Center has been denied. The woman who sprained her ankle in the gymnasium has yet to provide any claim for damages.

Ms. Grisham said that due to the delay on the Monon Trail Rehabilitation, the contractor terminated the agreement, elected not to pursue any damages against the Department, and requested their original performance and payment bonds be returned, which has been done. Discussion followed. Director Westermeier announced that the Department plans to bid the project in the spring of 2016 once all necessary documents are secured.

**Director's Report**

Director Westermeier said that his report was included in the packet. He also highlighted the first kick-off meeting with the team on the West Park Master Plan. This team is the same one that was involved in building Central Park and the Monon Community Center. Director Westermeier spoke to the team about the success achieved in building one national award winning park, and now they have the opportunity to build a second.

Director Westermeier announced that the 2014 annual report is now available.

Mr. Rude asked if there were any updates since the CRC's presentation to the Park Board (*regarding improvements along the Monon Trail at Main Street*), especially regarding the comments, observations, and suggestions that came from the Board's overview. Director Westermeier said it was his understanding that those changes were going to be incorporated into the plans. Mr. Garretson expounded that the terms of the Resolution must be met to receive the funds.

### **Information Items**

#### **Plan Commission**

Mr. Kirsh remarked that the subcommittee is working on a couple of projects which are PUDs. Basically, by using this type of zoning, the Commission has the opportunity to look at details that it ordinarily would not be able to see, e.g., greenspace, construction materials, natural buffer around the water retention, etc. The discussion is that PUDs are not bad, bad developers are bad. PUDs can be a good mechanism to continue to get the great products that we continue to get around Carmel.

Mr. Kirsh also spoke about the new Midtown project and its specific type of development. It will be a magnificent project; not the same level of detail as the City Center, but more of a utilitarian type of feel or post-industrial approach. The plan incorporates a market of some sort; it will not compete, but rather will complement the Farmers Market.

#### **Parks Foundation**

COO Klitzing provided an update on the Parks Foundation as he was invited to attend an executive committee meeting.

There is a strong interest for developing a master plan or strategic plan to help them develop a consensus as to their long-term responsibilities and goals. A big component of that is going to be a funding plan so they actually have the resources to contribute to the park system over the long run. They are looking for a consultant to help lead them through the process, and we are trying to help them identify some people who could work with them.

There might be some opportunities of a partnership with the Foundation to do a larger strategic funding plan that incorporates not only the Foundation and their fund raising, which is certainly an important component, but also works with the Park Board and our fiduciary bodies to come up with how the funding is going to happen, both from the taxpayers, user fees, as well as the Foundation.

The Parks Foundation has also made a commitment to continue their invasive species control program, which will help continue our efforts to eradicate garlic mustard, honey suckle, and a variety of other invasive species primarily in Central Park, but also in West Park.

The Parks Foundation has a continued interest in providing some funds to the summer camp scholarships. This year they provided \$3,000 for summer camp scholarships, and we anticipate funds at a similar level next year.

Director Westermeier announced that Dan Dutcher is now the Parks Foundation President.

**Park Board Comments/Discussion**

Mr. Garretson asked if Mr. Berbari's concerns would be addressed regarding the dog park membership. Director Westermeier said there is really nothing to look at in this particular case. We based membership on residency requirements and distance was the primary factor. We did not advertise this to the public as we wanted to hear from all individuals interested in the dog park. Discussion followed.

Mr. Kirsh announced that his son loved the Touch-A-Truck event.

Mr. Kirsh met some professional skateboarders who really like our skatepark and commented that our transitions could be a little steep or a little flat. The skateboarders recommended that we keep this skatepark and seek funding to build on to the existing skatepark or possibly consider an additional one. Director Westermeier stated that we are going to consider making some changes in the transitions next year.

COO Klitzing announced that group fitness programming has expanded to include more variety. Therefore, there has been an influx of fitness classes with some located in MCC East. Also, due to the refinishing of floors in the West building, several group fitness classes have temporarily relocated to the East.

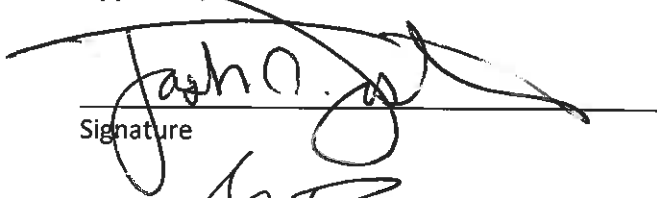
Mr. Rude asked that when considering another skatepark, the Department should think about making it hover board compatible.


Mr. Rude announced that Ms. Freed added the monetary gifts with a grand total of \$20,374.52!

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Mr. Kirsh made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Kristunas, and with no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Approved,

  
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Signature

  
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Signature

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