



A-1 March 2025

Minutes

City of Bloomington Board of Park Commissioners

Regular Meeting: Thursday, February 27, 2025 5:00-6:30 p.m. Council

Chambers, 401 N Morton St, Bloomington, IN

Zoom

CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Kathleen Mills at 5:02pm

Present: Kathleen Mills, Ellen Rodkey, Jim Whitlatch and Israel Herrera

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

A-1	Approval of Minutes of January 30, 2025 Regular Meeting
A-2	Approval of Claims Submitted January 30, 2025 through February 26, 2025
A-3	Approval of Non-Reverting Budget Amendments
A-4	Review of Business Reports
A-5	Review/Approval of Credit Card Refunds
A-6	Approval of Surplus
A-7	Approval of Agreement with McCain Roofing for 2025 Services
A-8	Approval of MOU with ITS for SYP Stage Rewiring
A-9	Approval of Template Agreement for A Fair of the Arts
A-10	Approval of Template Agreement for Performance & Entertainment activities
A-11	Approval of Template Agreement for Concessions
A-12	Approval of Template Agreements for Farmers' Market vendors
A-13	Approval of Template Agreements for Farmers' Market food and beverage artisans
A-14	Approval of Service Agreement with KingSnake Sound Company
A-15	Approval of Agreement with KCI for invasive plant removal
<i>Ellen Rodkey made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Jim Whitlatch seconded the motion. Vote taken: motions unanimously carried 4-0.</i>	

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS/APPEARANCES

B-1	<p><u>Emily Buuck, Community Relations Coordinator</u> presented Eve Cusack with the February Bravo Award. Eve was an outstanding volunteer with the Adopt-a-Greenspace program, primarily at Clear Creek Trail. Eve had brought in many volunteers to help remove invasive species. Eve helped to start an urban forest in our greenspaces by learning the full cycle of collecting and planting acorns. Staff was grateful Eve was part of the team.</p> <p>Eve thanked the Board and staff. The work was rewarding. The Board thank Eve for her time and volunteer hours.</p>
B-2	<u>Ella Thompson, Urban Greenspace Intern</u> was a senior at Indiana University – Parks, Recreation, and the Outdoors. Ella hoped to learn more about parks administration and learn what types of jobs she would like to do after graduation.
B-3	Lukas Redmond, Urban Greenspace Intern was a senior at Indianan University majored in Parks Recreation, and the Outdoors, and minored in Public Health. Lukas focus was to learn how nature and parks played a role in human health outcomes.
B-4	Emerson Wells, Urban Greenspace Fellow was in second semester MSES/MPA dual-degree candidate with Paul H. O'Neill Leadership Program. Emerson looked forward to developing stormwater management plans and supporting existing programs.

C. OTHER BUSINESS

C-1	<u>Daren Eads, Sports Facility Coordinator</u> presented the agreement with City Glass. Staff wished to keep facilities in good working condition, and required a professional contractor to provide glass,
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	<p>mirror, and door repair services on an as needed basis throughout 2025. Staff recommended approval of the contract with City Glass, in an amount not to exceed \$6,000. Funding source would be from various Parks General Fund and Twin Lakes Non-Reverting Fund.</p> <p>BOARD COMMENTS: <u>Jim Whitlatch inquired:</u> how it was determined what agenda items were listed on the Consent Calendar Agenda. <u>Tim Street, Director responded:</u> agenda items under \$5,000 were included on the Consent Calendar. The City recently changed the competitive quoting requirements from \$5,000 to \$25,000. The Consent Calendar agenda would need to be assessed, and revisited later in the year.</p> <p><i>Ellen Rodkey made a motion to approve the agreement with City Glass. Jim Whitlatch seconded the motion. Vote taken: motions unanimously carried 4-0.</i></p>
C-2	<p><u>Crystal Ritter, Community Events Coordinator</u> staff wished to provide the community with various types of entertainment throughout the 2025 season, and recommended approval of the Parks Noise Permit, which would allow for amplification of music and sound at those programs.</p> <p>BOARD COMMENTS: <u>Kathleen Mills inquired:</u> if the list was longer than previous years. <u>Crystal Ritter responded:</u> the list was longer due to the new Hopewell Commons Park, and additional events were listed in case changes were made to those events that would include entertainment or amplified sound.</p> <p><i>Ellen Rodkey made a motion to approve the Parks Noise Permit for 2025 Events. Jim Whitlatch seconded the motion. Vote taken: motions unanimously carried 4-0.</i></p>
C-3	<p><u>Joanna Sparks, Urban Greenspace Manager</u> presented the Agreement with Eco Logic. To continue to maintain greenspaces, staff wished to have Eco Logic perform follow up vegetation management activities on previous work they performed at three properties, Miller-Showers Park (MSP), Rogers Family Park (RFP) and Switchyard Park (SYP). The MSP project would be the seventh year they would perform vegetation management activities since implementing the 10 Year Management Plan initiated in 2018. The RFP project would be a continuation of new prairie installation and maintenance begun in 2021. The SYP project would be a continuation of maintenance services for the riparian/reforestation and wetland basin plantings begun in 2018. Staff recommended approval of the contract with Eco Logic, in an amount not to exceed \$64,687.07. Funding would be from Urban Greenspace General Fund.</p> <p>BOARD COMMENTS: <u>Jim Whitlatch inquired:</u> if the Bradford Pear was the pear tree we've been removing. Poison Ivy was also listed. Where there any redeeming qualities to the plant. <u>Joanna Sparks responded:</u> yes, the Bradford Pear was a tree we had been removing, and it was a very invasive species. If Poison Ivy was allowed to vine, it was able to flower and produce fruit which was highly nutritious, and a valuable winter food source for birds. Internally it's was managed if it would come in contact with people, otherwise it is left to grow.</p> <p><i>Ellen Rodkey made a motion to approve the agreement with Eco Logic for invasive management services. Jim Whitlatch seconded the motion. Vote taken: motions unanimously carried 4-0.</i></p>
C-4	<p><u>Cody Martin, Sports/Facility Coordinator</u> presented the partnership with Monroe County Senior League Baseball. Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department and Monroe County Senior League Baseball association (MCSLBA) wished to provide an opportunity for the Bloomington/Monroe County community to participate in specialized recreation programs that were designed to meet the needs of teenagers and adults in the community and promote health and well-being through participation in cooperative and competitive recreational baseball programs. Staff recommended approval of the partnership with MCSLBA. Estimated revenue from the partnership would be approximately \$4,000.</p> <p>BOARD COMMENTS: <u>Jim Whitlatch inquired:</u> how many participants were in the program. <u>Cody Martin responded:</u> there were approximately 80 participants.</p> <p><i>Ellen Rodkey made a motion to approve the partnership with Monroe County Senior League Baseball Association. Jim Whitlatch seconded the motion. Vote taken: motions unanimously carried 4-0.</i></p>
C-5	<p><u>Leslie Brinson, Recreation Services General Manager</u> presented the proposed policies changes. The</p>

	<p>Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department used the Policy Manual as a way to guide processes and procedures related to staffing, facilities, programing and more. Due to the new Risk Management/Emergency Plan, staff recommended the elimination of six policies. To meet the changes to processes and procedures, staff recommended updates to five policies.</p> <p>BOARD COMMENTS: <i>Kathleen Mills inquired:</i> if we let people know what sites they cannot use metal detectors. <i>Leslie Brinson responded:</i> there were no on-site signage, but would be one of the forward facing policies that would be included in the external policy manual. <i>Tim Street Director commented:</i> Parks policies were being eliminated, if there was a City policy for the same thing, and we would just refer to the City policy. A lot of things were moved to the Risk Management Manual so it would be in one place and not competing with other policies.</p> <p><i>Ellen Rodkey made a motion to approve the policy updates to #2180 #6010 #6020 #6050 #6070 #6080 #7150 #10090 #13160 #13240 and #1325. Jim Whitlatch seconded the motion. Vote taken: motions unanimously carried 4-0.</i></p>
C-6	<p><i>Leslie Brinson, Recreation Services General Manger</i> presented the Risk Management and Emergency Plan. Staff wished to centralize the risk and emergency procedures followed by all Parks and Recreation staff members. The newly developed Rick Management and Emergency Plan combined several policies, facility manuals, and general procedures concerning all aspects of risk and emergency management into one document. Staff recommended approval of the Risk Management and Emergency Plan.</p> <p><i>Ellen Rodkey made a motion to approve the Management Emergency Plan. Jim Whitlatch seconded the motion. Vote taken: motions unanimously carried 4-0.</i></p>
C-7	<p><i>Rebecca Swift, Operations & Development Division Director</i> presented the agreement with Centerstone. Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department, City of Bloomington Public Works, and Centerstone wished to cooperate as part of an employment program to support the Brighten Bloomington maintenance and beautification efforts citywide. Centerstone would provide work crews to perform tasks related to cleaning and maintaining park properties, which included Switchyard Park, Seminary Park, Hopewell Commons, People's Park, Butler Park, Building Trades Park, and Waldron Hill and Buskirk Park. Staff recommended approval of the agreement with Centerstone in an amount not to exceed \$519,000. Funding source would be \$371,000 from Public Works, and \$148,000 from Switchyard Parks and Operations General Fund.</p> <p>BOARD COMMENTS: <i>Kathleen Mills inquired:</i> if additional terms had been included. <i>Rebecca Swift responded:</i> yes, Centerstone had to provide a bottom line of what it would cost them, it was put back on Centerstone not on Parks employees to provide supplies. Centerstone was hired to provide a service, and the cost of the supplies they needed would go through the Centerstone. The type of work being done, had not changed.</p> <p><i>Ellen Rodkey made a motion to approve the agreement with Centerstone. Jim Whitlatch seconded the motion. Vote taken: motions unanimously carried 4-0.</i></p>
C-8	<p><i>Rebecca Swift, Operations & Development Division Director</i> presented the agreement with Everywhere Signs. Staff wished to have banners installed at the Hopewell Commons prior to the grand opening ceremony. The services of a professional contractor were required to: print a total of 15 double-sided vinyl banners with artwork provided by Department. Provide and install banner brackets on 11 different light poles at Hopewell Commons; light poles to be identified by Department. Install banners on banner brackets, including zip ties where needed to keep the banners in place. Staff recommended approval of the contract with Everywhere signs, in an amount not to exceed \$6,000. Funding source would be from Hopewell General fund</p> <p>BOARD COMMENTS: <i>Ellen Rodkey inquired:</i> what would the banners be like. <i>Rebecca Swift responded:</i> they would hang off the side, and move a little bit with the wind. They would say Hopewell Commons, or something about Hopewell, with some color branding. There were not tag lines or catch phrases.</p> <p><i>Ellen Rodkey made a motion to approve the agreement with Everywhere Signs. Jim Whitlatch seconded the motion. Vote taken: motions unanimously carried 4-0.</i></p>

C-9	<p><u>Rebecca Swift, Operations & Development Division Director</u> presented the agreement with Kurdziel Barker Engineering. Staff wished to accept a 1.1 acre parcel donation near the Southern Meadows development and the Bloomington Rail Trail. The parcel included a multi-span beam bridge that once carried railroad traffic and had been repurposed as a pedestrian bridge. As part of the property acquisition, a bridge inspection was required to assess the bridge's condition and identify areas that necessitate repair to ensure that it was safe for the public. KB Engineering specialized in bridge inspections and would provide a summary report along with rehabilitation recommendations where warranted. Staff recommended approval of the agreement with Kurdziel Barker Engineering, in an amount not to exceed \$7,200. Funding source would be from Operations General Fund.</p> <p><i>Ellen Rodkey made a motion to approve the agreement with Kurdziel Barker Engineering. Jim Whitlatch seconded the motion. Vote taken: motions unanimously carried 4-0.</i></p>
C-10	<p>Kevin Tunesvick, Senior Ecologist, Eco Logic LLC presentation the 2024 Griffy Lake Nature Preserve Deer Browse Study Results.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Small improvements in the metrics resumed in 2024 ➤ While browse had moderated since the culls began, browse remained locally heavy on favored species. Saplings such as ash show little browse pressure ➤ Woody plant growth rate were affected by dry soils from recent summer flash droughts independent of deer browse. ➤ Solomons Seal Height increased but is less than its peak in 2022 ➤ Jack-in-the-pulpit height increased to its highest level during the survey ➤ The browse was heaviest in the Griffy Creek valley upstream from the reservoir in areas where invasive privet provides abundant winter browse ➤ Deer both benefited from and spread invasive species ➤ Both issues needed to be tackled to prevent further degradation of the park <p>BOARD COMMENTS: <u>Kathleen Mills inquired:</u> on efficacy of the deer cull. <u>Kevin Tunesvick responded:</u> the amount of deer being taken, seemed to be the same as the amount of fawns being born, deer numbers were staying the same.</p> <p>The Board and Kevin Tunesvick had a discussion on the best way to capture and report the data.</p> <p><u>Heidi Shoemaker, Natural Resources Programmer</u> presented the agreement with Eco Logic. To determine if deer hunts were effective in reducing the effects on the vegetation at Griffy Lake Nature Preserve, staff wished to have Eco Logic continue with deer browse monitoring. The proposal would continue monitoring on 12 transects to document the effects on spring herbaceous vegetation in 2025. The results would be compared to previous years' data to determine whether there had been a decline, increase, or little change in the amount of browse. Data analysis would include graphs of trends and a brief annual summary as presented with the 2020-2024 data.</p> <p><i>Ellen Rodkey made a motion to approve the agreement with Eco Logic for 2024 Deer Browse Monitoring. Jim Whitlatch seconded the motion. Vote taken: motions unanimously carried 4-0.</i></p>
C-11	<p><u>Chris Hamric, Facility Manager</u> presented the proposed 2025 Aquatic Facility Fees. To assist with financial sustainability, and remain accessible to the public, staff wished to set pool fees to the following; General Admission- \$7.00, Twilight Admission (5-7pm M-Th) (new) - \$4.00, Economy 20 Punch Pass - \$100.00, Individual Season Pass - \$90.00, Lap Swim Time (before opening) (new) - \$5.00, and Fourth of July Admission – Free. The “Stay Cool Bloomington” free admission days would return on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays throughout the season, when the AccuWeather “RealFeel” temperature forecasted to be 90 degrees or higher. Staff recommended approval of the 2025 Aquatic Facility Fees.</p> <p>BOARD COMMENTS: <u>Kathleen Mills inquired:</u> about the staffing and lanes for the lap time in the mornings. <u>Chris Hamrick responded:</u> staffing would be split between swim instruction and lap time, so there should not be any issues. Staff was working on how to do the lanes. <u>Ellen Rodkey inquired:</u> how many full day rentals had been reserved in 2024. <u>Chris Hamrick responded:</u> zero, with the exception of the 4th of July, facility rentals were usually in the evenings. Non-Reverting Fees would remain the same as those in 2024. There would no longer be “Out of City” fees, all fees would be the same for everyone. <u>Jim Whitlatch inquired:</u> on the Stay Cool Bloomington Days. <u>Chris Hamrick responded:</u> in 2024 the program was available throughout the week. In order to maintain the funding</p>

	<p>throughout 2025 season it would only be available on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Staff would track entrance on those days, and charge ESD for eligible fees. Staff anticipated there would be fewer free days. Keeping it on weekends, would assist with staffing, and be would allow the program to be offered during the full season.</p> <p><i>Ellen Rodkey made a motion to approve the 2025 Aquatic Facility Fees. Jim Whitlatch seconded the motion. Vote taken: motions unanimously carried 4-0.</i></p>
C-12	<p><u>Satoshi Kido, Sport Division Director</u> presented the proposed policy changes. To meet the requirements of the current Fee Waiver program, staff recommended approval of the updates to Fee Waiver Policy #11110. To ensure swimming pools remained accessible to all members of the community, pool fee waivers would be available for youth under the age of 18 years who lived within Bloomington city limits. Applicants for pool admission fee waivers must provide proof of residency within city limits, as well as proof that they meet the requirements for free and reduced school meals (or equivalent income eligibility guidelines). Fee waiver applications were available online and from the Parks and Recreation main office. The Aquatics Facility/Program Manager maintained current lists of pool fee waiver recipients at each pool. Up to two designated adult supervisors at least 18 years old would be able to enter the pool for free with qualifying youth.</p> <p><i>Ellen Rodkey made a motion to approve the updated Fee Waiver Policy #11110. Jim Whitlatch seconded the motion. Vote taken: motions unanimously carried 4-0.</i></p>
C-13	<p><u>Chris Hamric, Facility Manger</u> presented the partnership. Staff wished to allow Pathways (formerly Monroe County United Ministries) access to Mills pool, prior to normal operating hours at a discounted rate. The purpose of the agreement was for the Department to allow Pathways limited use of Mills Swimming Pool for Pathway's morning preschool childcare program. Pathway's would track attendance and provide payment at the end of the season.</p> <p><u>BOARD COMMENTS:</u> <u>Ellen Rodkey inquired</u>, on the days and time Pathway would use the pool. <u>Chris Hamrick respond</u> Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays before the pool opened.</p> <p><i>Ellen Rodkey made a motion to approve the Partnership with Pathways for 2025 pool usage. Jim Whitlatch seconded the motion. Vote taken: motions unanimously carried 4-0.</i></p>
C-14	<p><u>Chris Hamric, Facility Manger</u> presented the proposed Frank Southern Ice Arena fees for the 2025-2026 Season. To best serve the community at Frank Southern Ice Arena, staff wished to set the following fees; rink rental per hour/\$260, House Hockey all levels \$85.00, public skating \$7.00, Skate Rental \$3.00, Try Hockey Day Free (new), Try Figure Skating Day Free (new), summer rental per hour \$50 (new), summer drop-in \$10.00 (new). To be more financially responsible, staff were developing summer rentals and summer drop-in hours. Staff recommended approval of the fee requests.</p> <p><u>BOARD COMMENTS:</u> <u>Ellen Rodkey inquired</u>: what hours would Frank Southern be opened during the summer. <u>Chris Hamrick respond</u>: plans were still being developed for summer drop-ins and summer rentals.</p> <p><i>Ellen Rodkey made a motion to approve the fee updates for Frank Southern Center. Jim Whitlatch seconded the motion. Vote taken: motions unanimously carried 4-0.</i></p>
C-15	<p><u>Tim Street, Director</u> presented the ROW Dedication for Rhorer Road. Parks and Recreation wished to dedicate .0036 acres of property to the County as right-of-way along Rhorer Rd to facilitate utility relocations for a bridge replacement. The dedication would not affect park responsibilities or operations of the Jackson Creek Trail in that area. Staff recommended approval of the dedication.</p> <p><i>Ellen Rodkey made a motion to approve the ROW dedication for Rhorer Road. Jim Whitlatch seconded the motion. Vote taken: motions unanimously carried 4-0.</i></p>

D.REPORTS - None

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kathleen Mills opened the floor to public comments.

The Board received comments from a Bloomington Parks Bike Polo Club representative, regarding the importance of multi-use courts.

Tim Street, Director gave a department update.

Policies continue to be updated, and staff continue to prepare for Accreditation Visit.

Beginning to use new DocuSign process for contracts and agreements

Performing Arts Series was full

Staff were kicking off Master Plan efforts with focus groups in April

Many events would be happening throughout March

Hopewell Commons grand opening – April 23rd

Next Park Board Meeting March 25th at 4pm

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kim Clapp,
Secretary Board of Park Commissioners