

MONROE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION

BOARD MINUTES

January 17, 2024, 3:30 pm

Hybrid Meeting: In person and via Teams

501 N Morton St. Suite 100B Bloomington, IN 47404

I. **Call to Order:** President Evelyn Harrell called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

II. **Roll Call of Board members:**

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Electronic</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Evelyn Harrell	X		
Joe Goss	X		
Dr. Carolyn VandeWiele	X		
Phil Cornwell	X		
Carol Walter	X		
Edward Oehlman			X
Kevin Dogan	X		

Monroe County Staff – In Person: Kelli Witmer, John Robertson, Andy French, Jayme Deckard, Beth Cossairt

Monroe County Staff – Electronic: Monroe County Commissioner, Penny Githens, and Monroe County Attorney, Justin Roddye

Guest – In person: None

Guest – Electronic: None

III. **Statement of Compliance:** This meeting, using electronic communications, is subject to IC 5-14-1.5-3.5, and therefore no final action will be taken at this meeting on the prohibited subject matters listed in Section 3.5(f) of the statute.

IV. **Public Comment on Non-Agenda items** – None

V. **Amendment of agenda** –

Dr. VandeWiele made a motion to amend the agenda to include the Memorandum of Understanding between Monroe County Parks and Recreation and Hoosier Hills Food Bank, and Mr. Goss seconded.

Roll Call:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Electronic</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Harrell	X		X		
Goss	X		X		
VandeWiele	X		X		
Dogan	X		X		
Cornwell	X		X		
Walter	X		X		
Oehlman					X

The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Approval of the December 13 meeting minutes –

Dr. VandeWiele made a motion to approve the December 13, 2023 meeting minutes and Mr. Goss seconded.

Roll Call:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Electronic</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Goss	X		X		
VandeWiele	X		X		
Dogan	X		X		
Cornwell	X		X		
Walter	X		X		
Oehlman					X
Harrell	X		X		

The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Approval of the December 2023 non-reverting claims –

Mr. Goss made a motion to approve the December 2023 non-reverting claims and Ms. Walter seconded.

Roll Call:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Electronic</u>	<u>Absent</u>
VandeWiele	X		X		
Dogan	X		X		
Cornwell	X		X		
Walter	X		X		
Oehlman					X
Harrell	X		X		
Goss	X		X		

The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Approval of the December 2023 credit card charges-

Mr. Dogan made a motion to approve the December 2023 credit card charges and Dr. VandeWiele seconded.

Roll Call:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Electronic</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Dogan	X		X		
Cornwell	X		X		
Walter	X		X		
Oehlman					X
Harrell	X		X		
Goss	X		X		
VandeWiele	X		X		

The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Old Business –

A. FYI: MCCSC KFG easement and easement vacation at Highland Park

Elementary – Ms. Witmer stated that the County will be vacating an easement which allows the Karst Farm Greenway to pass behind Highland Elementary school and will be adopting a new easement that will shift the position of the greenway slightly, in order to allow space for Highland Park Elementary to install an athletic track behind the school.

Ms. Witmer added that MCCSC will be paying for all costs associated with rerouting the Karst Farm Greenway. Ms. Witmer stated that the slight change to the greenway will benefit the Parks Department, adding that the small section of the greenway that will be rerouted was problematic for the park staff to maintain because of large tree roots burrowing under the asphalt.

B. FYI: KAC approved improvements and funding sources- Ms. Witmer stated that Monroe County Council member, Geoff McKim, has provided a document that showed specific projects associated with the installation of synthetic turf at the Karst Farm Athletic Complex, which includes funding sources for each.

Ms. Witmer stated that she is hopeful that the Commissioners will approve the engineering contract with Bledsoe, Riggert, Cooper and James at the January 24th meeting so that the projects will get underway.

Ms. Witmer stated that she, along with members of MCPR staff and BRCJ, will be visiting Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology and Washington High School to tour their synthetic turf fields to gain insight about infill materials, adding that vendors will be on-site to answer questions about various materials.

Mr. Goss asked if the Parks Department have an estimated date of installation. Ms. Witmer stated that, if all goes as planned, she expects to have two synthetic fields installed in August or September of 2024.

C. FYI: Solar Eclipse preparations for Monday April 8, 2024-

*** MCPR staff/park security, signs, cones, orange vests, t-shirts, hats, extra everything, TP, Gators/ATVs**

*** MCPR-No programs or athletics, all County Parks & shelters are open & free on a first come-first served basis.**

*** No Sheriff Deputies, Sheriff Reserve, or Ellettsville Police available for park security. Police will respond (if available) to emergencies.**

*** IU Memorial Stadium will be open for public activities.**

Ms. Witmer stated that Mr. French, and staff, were ready for the solar eclipse which will occur on April 8, 2024.

Mr. French stated that he has been in contact with the organizer of Shadow Fest, which will be occurring at the Monroe County Fairgrounds, adding that a gate will be opened between the fairgrounds and Karst Farm Park to allow visitors of the festival to enjoy the park. Park patrons will be unable to enter the festival, through the gate, without a pre-purchased Shadow Fest arm band.

Mr. French stated that staff will be arriving early and stay late to help maintain order during and clean up the parks after the event.

IX. New Business –

A. Memorandum of Understanding-Hoosier Hills Food Bank – Ms. Witmer stated that an updated Memorandum of Understanding between the Monroe County Parks Department and Hoosier Hills Food Bank has been reviewed by County Attorney, Justin Roddy and is ready for approval. Ms. Witmer reminded the Board that Hoosier Hills Food Bank utilizes garden space at Will Detmer Community Garden to grow fresh produce for residents in need.

Mr. Roddy stated that only minor punctuation and grammatical corrections have been made to the previous MOU, which has served the relationship between MCPR and HHFB well in the past.

Mr. Goss made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Monroe County Parks and Recreation Department and Hoosier Hills Food Bank, and Mr. Dogan seconded.

Roll Call:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Electronic</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Cornwell	X		X		
Walter	X		X		
Oehlman					X
Harrell	X		X		
Goss	X		X		
VandeWiele	X		X		
Dogan	X		X		

The motion passed unanimously.

New MCPR Office Manager, Karen Wheeler briefly stepped into the meeting for an introduction. Ms. Deckard stated that Ms. Wheeler has already been an asset to the department and Ms. Wheeler expressed that she was enjoying her new position within the County.

- XI. **Financial Reports** – Ms. Deckard stated that she and Mr. J. Robertson have been researching new financial tracking software as the current Access Database utilized by the Department needs replaced. Mr. J. Robertson stated that the database is outdated and had slowly become unstable over the last several years.
- XII. **MCPR Reports** – Please read.
- XIII. **Correspondence** – None
- XIV. **Adjournment**

***Mr. Goss moved to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Dogan seconded.
President Evelyn Harrell adjourned the MCPR Board meeting at 4:20 pm.***



02/21/2024

Dr. Carolyn VandeWiele-Secretary

Date

Minutes Prepared by Jayme Deckard