

**MONROE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
BOARD MINUTES**

December 13, 2023, 3:30 pm

Hybrid Meeting: In person and via ZOOM

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:

	Present	Electronic	Absent
Evelyn Harrell	X		
Joe Goss	X		
Dr. Carolyn VandeWiele	X arrived at 3:35p		
Phil Cornwell	X		
Carol Walter	X arrived at 3:43p		
Edward Oehlman		X	
Kevin Dogan	X		

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

Monroe County Staff – Electronic: None

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 –

Mr. Goss made a motion to amend the agenda to include the approval of a new Parks and Recreation Office Manager and Ms. Harrell 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
Dogan	X		X		
Cornwell	X		X		
Walter					X
Oehlman	X			X	

The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Approval of the November 15, 2023 meeting minutes –

Mr. Cornwell made a motion to approve the November 15, 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
Dogan	X		X		
Cornwell	X		X		
Walter					X
Oehlman	X			X	
Harrell	X		X		

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. VandeWiel arrived at 3:35pm

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

Mr. Cornwell made a motion to approve the November 2023 non-reverting claims and Mr. Dogan 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
Oehlman	X			X	
Harrell	X		X		
Goss	X		X		

The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Approval of the November 2023 credit card charges-

Mr. Cornwell made a motion to approve the November 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
Oehlman	X			X	
Harrell	X		X		
Goss	X		X		
VandeWiele	X		X		

The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Old Business –

A. Jackson Creek Park-Doug Valmore Conservation Easement required for the Karst Farm Greenway connector trail – Delayed until further notice.

B. Monday, April 8, 2024 Solar Eclipse update (No athletics, shelter rentals, or programs. The Parks will be open and the shelters will be free of charge- Mr. J.

Robertson stated that the County parks will remain open to the public for eclipse viewing, and shelters would be used on a first come-first served basis.

Mr. J. Robertson stated that Ms. Brunelle, MCPR naturalist, would have Solar Eclipse themed programming leading up to the event, but no events would be planned for the day of the event.

Mr. Dogan asked if there would be signage informing the public of the day-of-eclipse policies and procedures. Mr. J. Robertson stated that preparing all necessary signage was already being addressed as part of the planning process.

Ms. Witmer stated that Monroe County Government had already declared that day a County Holiday. Mr. Goss stated his concern for the large amount of people visiting the parks to view the eclipse, adding he believed staff should be required to work on that day, despite the other departments being shut down for the day.

Mr. J. Robertson stated that the Department would be working with the Sheriff's department to coordinate efforts and determine the process for dealing with any issues that may arise.

Ms. Witmer stated that the Department would staff the parks to their full ability, adding that staff members would be wearing neon vests to clearly indicate that they were MCPR staff members.

Ms. Harrell requested that solar eclipse planning be an agenda item leading up to the event to keep the Board informed. Ms. Witmer stated that monthly updates could be added to the agenda.

C. Karst Farm Park ADA project update- Mr. French stated that the ADA projects at Karst Park had been completed, making soccer activities more accessible for park visitors. Mr. French stated that the Department was satisfied with the quality of each project.

Ms. Walter arrived at 3:43pm

D. 2024 Park Board Officers- Ms. Walter stated that she and Mr. Oehlman, as Parks Board Officer Nominating Committee members, had contacted current President, Ms. Harrell, current Vice President, Mr. Goss, and current Secretary, Dr. VandeWiele to ask them if they would remain in their present roles, and they had all graciously agreed to serve another term.

Mr. Cornwell made a motion to reappoint Evelyn Harrell as President, Joe Goss as Vice President, and Dr. Carolyn VandeWiele as Secretary of the Monroe County Parks and Recreation Board, 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			X	
Harrell	X		X		
Goss	X		X		
VandeWiele	X		X		
Dogan	X		X		

The motion passed unanimously.

IX. New Business –

A. Approval new MCPR Office Manager – Ms. Witmer stated that Tina Engle, who had been hired as Office Manager in May, had secured a new position within the County. Ms. Witmer stated that, after interviewing applicants, the Department recommended hiring Karen Wheeler. Ms. Witmer stated that Ms. Wheeler had been with the County for over eight years and had also previously served as the head of the Monroe County Election Board.

Dr. VandeWiele stated that she had worked with Ms. Wheeler for eight years, as part of the Election Board, and believed she would be an asset to the Department.

Dr. VandeWiele made a motion to hire Karen Wheeler as Office Manager of the Monroe County Parks Department, and Ms. Walter seconded.

Roll Call:

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

The motion passed unanimously.

B. Amy Thompson’s reappointment to MCPR Foundation Board-Citizen volunteer term expires January 1, 2028- Ms. Witmer stated that Ms. Thompson, who currently served on the MCPR Foundation Board, was an asset to the Board and had agreed to serve another term. Ms. Witmer asked the Board to approve Ms. Thompson’s reappointment.

Mr. Goss made a motion to reappoint Amy Thompson to the Monroe County Parks and Recreation Foundation Board, and Mr. Dogan seconded.

Roll Call:

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

The motion passed unanimously.

C. Splash Pad-vortex (3) water features & Kellogg endowment- Ms. Witmer stated that the three water cannons at the splash pad were out of commission. Mr. French stated that the cannons were obsolete and had previously been repaired by commissioning specialty parts by a local CNC machine shop as replacement parts were no longer available on the market.

Ms. Witmer stated that it was time to replace the cannons with new models as they were the most popular features at the splash pad, adding that the cannons were also ADA accessible, allowing all children to play.

Ms. Witmer stated that she believed the cannons would be covered mostly by funds from the Kellogg’s endowment, but that she was asking the Parks Board to allocate a maximum of \$3,000 to help cover the purchase of the cannons.

Mr. Oehlman made a motion to allocate \$3,000 to help cover the cost of installing three (3) new water cannons at Karst Farm Park splash pad and Ms. Walter 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			X	

The motion passed unanimously.

D. Smithville Telephone Agreement for Karst Commons WiFi (from \$80 to \$99

monthly- Ms. Witmer stated that the agreement for WiFi service at Karst Park Commons shelter was up for renewal, adding that the monthly fee had risen slightly, from \$80 to \$99. Ms. Witmer stated that the Legal Department was reviewing the contract, but that she would like Board approval for the rate increase.

Ms. Witmer stated that, at some point in the future, the County Commissioners would like to see WiFi access broadened within Karst Farm Park. Ms. Witmer stated she would update the Parks Board as new information became available.

Ms. Walter made a motion to approve the new monthly fee of \$90 per month for WiFi at the Commons at Karst Farm Park, and Dr. VandeWiele 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			X	
Harrell	X		X		

The motion passed unanimously.

E. Changing from Zoom to Microsoft Teams- Ms. Deckard stated that the County was moving from using ZOOM for electronic meetings to Microsoft TEAMS, adding that the Parks Department would be receiving training from the Technical Services Department and would update the Board as needed.

F. 2023 Park Board Meeting Dates- Ms. Witmer stated that the 2023 Monroe County Parks Board meeting dates had been tentatively scheduled. Ms. Witmer asked the Board to approve the meeting dates as listed.

Mr. Goss made a motion to approve the 2024 meeting dates, as presented, and Mr. Dogan 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		X		
Harrell	X			X	
Goss	X		X		

The motion passed unanimously.

- XI. **Financial Reports** – Please read.
- XII. **M CPR Reports** – Please read.
- XIII. **Correspondence** – None
- XIV. **Adjournment**

***Mr. Oehlman moved to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Goss seconded.
President Evelyn Harrell adjourned the M CPR Board meeting at 4:43 pm.***



Dr. Carolyn Vandewiele-Secretary

Minutes Prepared by Jayme Deckard

January 17, 2024

Date