

BEECH GROVE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Minutes for meeting on Wednesday, May 10, 2023—7:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order
 - a. Members Present: Tara Wolf, Jeff Woehler, Jannis King, Ben Easley, John Dorsey, Joe Grant
 - b. Also present: BG Parks Director Tom Hannon, HPCC Director Angel McKenna, Mayor Dennis Buckley, City Attorney Craig Wiley
 - c. Special guest: BGCS Supt. Dr. Laura Hammack
2. Public Comment from the following:
 - a. Diana Stewart
 - b. Samara Hernandez
 - c. Lorrie Cagan
 - d. Emily Schuck
 - e. Erika Reed
 - f. Nicole McCord
3. Special presentation: Mayor Buckley and Dr. Hammack regarding the Buzz Club program.
 - a. Mayor Buckley reiterates his chief concerns with the Buzz Club program, primarily fiscal solvency and the safety of children and staff. His actions thus far have been private conversations with HPCC Director McKenna, then the Parks Board, then the School Board and system. He asks if the school district will take over the Buzz Club program, as was the expectation.
 - b. Dr. Hammack explains that a priority for a new model of Buzz Club run by the school system was retaining the current staff members. This was impossible if run by the school corporation itself, because many staff are currently also employed by the district, potentially leading to expensive overtime wages. After reviewing various options, the BGCS selected an outside program run by the YMCA, specifically because they can retain all staff at the same pay rate, they can offer widespread scholarships, and they work with BGCS to offer vouchers funded by grant money. They also can offer a secure environment, housing the program in the same building where students are enrolled at school.
 - c. Questions asked and answered regarding any safety issues in the previous Buzz Club iteration as well as a transition plan from the previous to new model.
 - d. BGCS/YMCA is also ready to provide summertime and school break programming if necessary; conversations remain ongoing with HPCC and City leadership.
4. Approval of minutes
 - a. March meeting, a special meeting in March, and April 2023 – Moved by John; second by Ben. Majority approval.
5. Claims Review
 - a. Appropriations details and revenue report on file and available via a public records request to the Clerk-Treasurer. For reference, any expense by Parks Department staff of more than \$25,000 must be previously approved by City leadership.
6. BG Parks Director's Report:

- a. A walkabout with Tom and Tara identified needs at the Little League site. Mayor Buckley advises that AEDs have been purchased for the baseball and softball fields, to be placed during each season and removed afterward.
7. Hornet Park Community Center Report (notes from Angel via email):
 - a. Angel says the last week has been hard in communicating the Buzz Club transition to teachers and staff. She believes that some teachers will not choose to transition to the YMCA-led program.
8. Old & New Business
 - a. On the dissolution of the current Buzz Club after school program, as run by the Parks Department. Moved by Ben; seconded by Joe. Unanimous approval.
 - b. On retaining the “Camp” out-of-school programming at HPCC during breaks when is not in session. Moved by Jeff; seconded by Joe. Unanimous approval.
 - c. Grants
 - i. MIBOR – Ben submitted the grant again with the letter of recommendation from the Greater Beech Grove Chamber of Commerce. We expect an answer within the week.
 - ii. INRC – \$10,000 has been deposited in the Foundation’s account for this project. Ben will work with Tom to implement.
 - iii. LWCF – Parks Board and RDC will meet at City Hall on 5/17/23 to discuss how to purchase the 16th/Detroit property.
 - d. Bylaws – Tara spoke with Craig Wiley about our need for bylaws.
 - e. The City plans to deed current parks property to the Beech Grove City Schools; the land currently houses the Hornet Park Elementary School and several adjacent parking lots. There will not be significant payment for this transfer, but BGCS has indicated they will in some way support the development of the 16th/Detroit property.
9. Round Table
10. Adjournment
 - a. Motion by Joe; second by John. Adjourned at 8:32pm.
 - b. Next meeting will be June 14, 2023 at 7pm at Hilltop Shelter in Bolton Park (weather permitting). Rain location is Hornet Park Community Center.