

BEECH GROVE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Minutes for meeting on Wednesday, August 9, 2023—7:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order
 - a. Members Present: Tara Wolf, Jeff Woehler, Ben Easley, John Dorsey, Joe Grant
 - b. Parks staff present: BG Parks Director Tom Hannon; HPCC Director Angel McKenna
 - c. Parks Foundation members present:
 - d. Special guests: Jim Coffman, Beech Grove Clerk-Treasurer; several board members of the Beech Grove Little League
2. Special conversation: Partnership with Beech Grove Little League (LL)
 - a. General comments from Parks Board include: Within the partnership (LL using the Hartman Park space), some concerns include a lack of participation from LL parents, general maintenance and trash upkeep. Maintenance items becomes a burden on Parks operations staff when these items should be addressed by the LL under their agreement.
 - b. General comments from LL board: We are well aware of improvements that should be realized. Regulations for participants are difficult to enforce (i.e. volunteerism, smoking, parking, maintenance). Post-pandemic, the LL Board now has a vision for a two-year turnaround plan for improvements, grant-writing, etc.
 - c. Creative ideas for improvement include: altering the concession stand items in favor of snacks that create less waste; refer overflow cars that might block emergency space to South Grove or on-site overflow lot; better communication of conduct and maintenance expectations to attendees, participants.
 - d. Little League board will join a future Parks Board meeting before the next contract agreement (possibly February 2024) to refresh a vision for the coming season.
3. Approval of minutes
 - a. Moved by Joe; second by Ben. Majority approval.
4. Special presentation: 2024 annual budget – Jim Coffman
 - a. Ahead of a coming Council workshop, a breakdown is presented of the Parks (not-HPCC) budget in 2020 compared with 2023 and what is expected for 2024. Areas of increase in 2024 include personnel COLA, longevity, benefits, programming.
 - b. Similarly, a breakdown is presented of the HPCC budget in 2020 compared with 2023 and what is expected for 2024. Areas of increase in 2024 include personnel COLA, benefits, longevity, contractual services, maintenance, and realigned staff under the general fund versus the non-reverting fund.
 - c. With the removing of income via Buzz Club, the non-reverting fund is now close to empty, with several projected pulls on this fund (originally budgeted from NRF) including some employees, some programming, and some damage deposits.
5. Claims Review & Financial Reports
 - a. Appropriations details and revenue report are 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. Hornet Park Community Center Report:

- a. Yellowjackets in the walls of Angel's office eventually made their way into her office itself; they're now dead.
 - b. Coburn Place has requested a waiver for their room rental fee. Ben moves that we waive this; Jeff seconds this. Unanimous approval.
 - c. A pair of cooking-focused organizations will partner with HPCC to offer cooking classes for youth and seniors, as well as to provide small cooking gadgets.
 - d. Gleaners partnership is fantastic, providing extra food in a timely fashion for the weekly pantry.
 - e. Angel is getting a quote for moving a camera to an optimized location.
 - f. 14 concerts is Angel's goal for next year, given the amount of interest from bands. We will continue to assess, given how school might impact turnout.
7. Old & New Business
- a. Smoke-free parks policy and accompanying policy won't be heard by the Council for a few months yet, meaning that the Parks Board has more time to draft a letter of support.
 - b. \$100,000 LARE grant approved for Beech Grove stream bank stabilization!
 - c. Angel has started exploring a bike-share program that could be based in Beech Grove with stations in the parks along the various Trails. This is via a private company that could install them and help implement rental.
 - d. John moves to approve a request to waive a restriction on inflatables in Sarah T Bolton park at an upcoming event for the Senior Center.
8. Round Table
9. Adjournment
- a. Motion by Joe; second by Joe. Adjourned at 8:57pm.
 - b. Next meeting will be September 13, 2023 at 7pm at Hilltop Shelter in Bolton Park (weather permitting). Rain location is Hornet Park Community Center.