

Marion County Parks And Recreation Commission

July 15, 2024 – Regular Meeting Minutes

6:00 PM Baxter Volunteer Fire Department

COMMISSIONERS

PRESENT:

Jay Ford, President
Robert Brookover, Vice Pres.
Craig White, Secretary
J. Philip Burton, Treasurer
Jimmy Bledsoe
Tracy Evans
Rick Garcia
Cathy Maxwell
Josh Rice
Dave Shaw
Butch Tennant

STAFF

PRESENT:

Tony Michalski, Director
Tina Mascaro, Sports Management Director

GUESTS:

Ernie Vangilder, County Commission
Bobby Devaul, County Commission
Belinda Biafore
Mike Devault
Joey Garcia
Andrew Noshagy
Stephanie Wilson
Various members of the Baxter Community

5:54pm County Commission President Ernie Vangilder opened the evening by welcoming all in attendance. Trooper Isac said prayer and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

A surprise birthday cake was brought out for long-time MCPARC board member Butch Tennant, with praise for all he's done over the years for the youth of Marion County.

Several plaque presentations and keys to the county were made:

Joel Dugan – contribution towards the new mural at the Baxter ballfield
Anna and Zara for their work on the mural
Joey Garcia, Mike Devault, and Mike Caputo for their work in grant funding
Chris Wolf for his help in developing the Baxter park area
Andrew Noshagy for his continued efforts to the Baxter park area
Tony Michalski and MCPARC for their support of the ball field, grant writing, playground, playground program, pickleball court and motor cross park
the family of Paul Cunningham for his work to develop the ball field
a Baxter youth thanked the community and MCPARC for the playground and the programs offered

Dinner was then served to all in attendance.

I. Opening of the meeting and approval of minutes

The meeting was called to order at __6:32__p.m. by __Jay Ford__(President). Jay thanked the Baxter community and mentioned that Richard Walton, a long-time MCPARC board member, had passed away.

The motion was made by Butch Tennant and seconded by Josh Rice for the **approval of the minutes** for June 17, 2024. Motion Carried X Motion Denied _____

II. Financial Report for June 2024

Phil noted that according to the financial report the fiscal year ended at 103% receipts and 98% cash disbursements. Thanked Tony for another excellent budget year.

The motion was made by Josh Rice and seconded by Butch Tennant for the **financial report and invoices** for June 2024. Motion Carried X Motion Denied _____

III. Committee Reports – no committee meetings

- a. Program and Planning
- b. Finance
- c. Nominating
- d. Personnel

IV. Director's Report

- a. Middletown Commons Project Update – a meeting was held July 12th on site with Rick, Butch, Craig, Jay, Tony, Tina and Larry Puccio in attendance. The property was inspected, and discussion was held regarding the next steps. MCPARC had an independent company inspect the property to see if it had met the standards as outlined in the purchase agreement. Tony stated that we are close to receiving the grant funds to purchase the property, but we are waiting to ensure that all terms of the agreement are met. We will proceed with the purchase of the property with the understanding that we'll need to develop a timeline for making the land usable. Larry Puccio gave a review of how the property was acquired and mentioned some ways to proceed with requesting additional funding to help make the property viable. A copy of the agreement was included in the board packet.
- b. Mary Lou Retton Project Update – project timeline updates were included in the board packet along with progress pictures. Bi-weekly meetings are held with MCPARC, Veritas and Thrasher in order to keep everyone updated and on task. Tina has scheduled a meeting with the West Fairmont Colts organization that use the facility in the fall. A copy of the proposed promissory note between MCPARC and the County Commission was created by Dave Shaw and included for review.
- c. Pool Report – both pools have had great attendance in June due to the hot weather. The second session of swim lessons were just completed. We've had to close 12th Street pool on a few occasions due to staff shortages. The anticipated close date for 12th Street is August 11th and the last full week at the Wave Pool will be Aug. 18th, opening only on weekends after that.
- d. MCPARC Playground and Day Camp Program – both programs are 4 weeks in and will end on July 19th. Numbers for the Day Camp have increased to approximately 65 children daily. They have an end of year field trip to Altitude Pittsburgh scheduled for July 17th. The nine playground sites across the county are averaging over 250 children daily.
- e. West Fork River/Ralph S. LaRue Trail Slide – the huge mudslide on the trail is continuing to slide with heavy rains so that section remains fenced off and

temporarily closed. MCPARC is pursuing some funding options and plan to start clearing off the debris in the fall.

- f. Project Report
 - i. Community grants – MCPARC continues to work with organizations to complete their grant projects.
 - ii. The maintenance crew has been keeping up with the mowing and cleaning at all our parks. The shop annex building is ready for the garage door installation. Both the soccer complex and small field located next to the MCPARC office has been hydroseeded.
 - iii. The multi-purpose field at Worthington Park continues to be developed and hope to have it ready for play this fall.
 - iv. Assisted with the opening of the Mannington pool and attended opening day ceremonies. MCPARC provided pool chemicals and assistance in getting the pool ready to open.
 - v. County Commissioner Bobby Devaul approached MCPARC with a request to install a playground at the For the Kids Soccer Complex. The playground has been ordered and will be installed in early August. The Commission will be paying the invoice for the project which includes installation and a protective fence.
 - vi. Construction continues on the repair to the wall at the 12th Street Pool; it is about 60% completed. The county commission approved the \$250,000 project and will be reimbursing MCPARC for the project. Progress pictures were included in the board packet.

V. Sports Management Director Report

- a. Community Engagement
 - i. MCPARC collected and donated used solar eclipse glasses to Eclipse Glasses USA to be recycled and sent to other countries.
 - ii. MCPARC received food donations for our playground and day camp programs. Food was distributed to each child in attendance on June 18th and July 3rd for them to take home.
- b. Programs
 - i. MCPARC participated in the 15th Annual World's Largest Swimming Lesson on June 20th at the Wave Pool. Over 20 kids participated in the event.
 - ii. MCPARC Community Band held concerts on July 8th at EFHS and July 14th at Hazel Ruby McQuain Park Amphitheater.
 - iii. MLR project is progressing on schedule now that the foundation issues have been resolved.
 - iv. Water safety lessons as part of the Whale Tales American Red Cross program were taught to various playground programs.
 - v. I have been assisting with both the day camp and playground programs with site visits, lunch deliveries, equipment management, playground activities and water safety lessons.
 - vi. Tony and I held lifeguard in-service training and continue to manage the lifeguards, schedules and training.
 - vii. Tennis lessons – 32 participants for session 2.
 - viii. Swim lessons – 26 participants for session 2.
 - ix. All baseball and softball fields are still seeing continued use from travel teams.

- x. Food truck policy needs to be approved as we are getting many calls from trucks who want to use park facilities. After a brief discussion, President Jay Ford asked for the policy to be emailed to all board members for review and approval.

VI. Maintenance Report

The following list is a condensed version of major projects completed by the Maintenance crew: continued work on the maintenance shop expansion; removed graffiti from the tunnel; cleaned up the bikes and made repairs for the day camp trail ride; removed fallen trees from the trails; cleaned the drain at pavilion 1 EM, weekly Sam's trips for the pools; repaired a sink hole at MLR, hydro seeded soccer complex, Worthington, and small field at Pav. 1; sprayed weeds in all parks; added gravel to the road towards the dog park; installed memorial bench on the McTrail; installed basketball pole at Baxter playground; repaired chloring leak at the wave pool; met with EH Griffith about the Whitehall property; brush hogged the Whitehall property; tilled and prepped the former horse shoe courts at Worthington; helped deliver additional food to the playground sites; continued work on the bathroom remodel at MLR; repaired the water leak near the pump at wave pool; pressure washed the pavilions; met with Troy Bigelow about the Whitehall property; delivered picnic tables to 5th Street playground; general maintenance to trucks and mowers; installed a gate on the top deck of the wave pool.

VII. New Business

None

VIII. President's Remarks

Congratulations to Baxter community on all the improvements for community recreation.

IX. Around the Horn

- a. **J. Bledsoe** – no comment
- b. **R. Brookover** - absent
- c. **P. Burton**– no comment
- d. **T. Evans**– no comment
- e. **J. Ford**– no comment
- f. **R. Garcia**– no comment
- g. **C. Maxwell** - absent
- h. **J. Rice** – mentioned that FSHS softball hired a new coach who can not practice from 3:30 – 5:00 which is their allotted time slot and wondered if there was anything we could do to assist them.
- i. **D. Shaw** - absent

- j. **B. Tennant** – thank you for the birthday wishes and surprise cake
- k. **C. White** – no comment

With no further business, the motion was made by ___Phil Burton__ and seconded by ___Jimmy Bledsoe___ for meeting adjournment at __6:54__ PM. The motion carried.

Tina Mascaro Sports Management Director July 16, 2024

Minutes Recorded By (Signature)	Title	Date
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Approved/ Disapproved	Initials	Date
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