

Minutes of April 13, 2022 Meeting of the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Location: The Marilla Center, Morgantown, WV

Call to Order: President Selin called the meeting to order at 3:14 pm.

Establish Quorum: Members present included Jenny Selin, Danielle Trumble, Susan Klingensmith, Jenny Thoma, and Rachel Fetty.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from March regular meeting and March Special meeting were approved by consensus.

Correspondence: Director Wiles received an email from community member Cindy O'Brien regarding the trail addition to White Park. Mrs. O'Brien was in attendance and will voice her concerns contained in the email during the Public Comment section.

Presentation: Two of three members of the newly created Morgantown City Ambassador program were in attendance to introduce themselves and give an overview of what they will be doing. Kim Katarski and Ed Bason were selected to be ambassadors for the city. They both love Morgantown and wanted to help get the word out about what a great place it is to live, work, and play! They will be visible in the downtown and wharf areas of the city to answer questions, provide information, promote recreation and tourism opportunities, and facilitate communications between businesses and the city.

Public Comment: Cindy O'Brien spoke to the Board regarding a concern she has about the new trail that will be constructed in White Park. She started off by thanking the Dominion Post for keeping the public updated about what will be happening at White Park as well as the BOPARC employee who responded to her email. She enjoys all of the public parks, but especially enjoys walking in White Park. Her concern regards bicycling in the new section of White Park, specifically bikers going off-trail and creating their own trails. Mrs. O'Brien is not anti-bikes, (she pointed out that she has bikes on her car in the parking lot outside!) However, she is concerned about the vegetation, wildlife, and steepness of the yet-to-be constructed trail. She would like to urge BOPARC to designate the new area for pedestrian use only.

Presentation: Denver Allen, member of the BOPARC Foundation provided an update on the foundation. The website is under construction, very near completion. He thanked Director Wiles and her team for the work they contributed over the last few years to bring the Foundation to fruition. The motto of the Foundation is "Your family, your community, our commitment." They will be raising funds for the initiatives of the Board. Areas of need are being identified, with Foundation members and Director Wiles working together to determine what projects to focus on first. Marilla Park's tennis facility, Dorsey's Knob lodge, and Marilla Pool were mentioned as possible projects. Mr. Allen stressed the importance of improved parks and improved quality of life for community members. The Foundation is also establishing a BOPARC Alumni fund where former employees of BOPARC can contribute funds that would constitute unrestricted dollars. A meeting between Board and Foundation members and walk-through of parks and facilities

Financial Report: Director Wiles reported that nothing was out of the ordinary. We are $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through the fiscal year and have received 100% of city allocation. She did not have a final number for the ice rink due to some outstanding bills that should be resolved shortly. Jenny Thoma made the motion to approve the Financial Report, Danielle Trumble seconded the motion. Report approved by consensus.

Executive Director's Report: Director Wiles updated the board on a variety of projects. The Ice Arena has transitioned from winter to off-season activities. Indoor turf has been placed and will be used for a variety of programs and will be available to rent. Contractors are on-site at Krepps Park, improving the infields. Whitmoore trail has opened but will have ongoing improvements. Suncrest mini-park will be receiving new equipment; the wooden play structure has been removed due to wear and damage. Jenny Selin asked if a public art project could be incorporated into the core board sign at Krepps Park. Assistant Director Travinski noted that a back is coming soon to the sign, but there will be upcoming opportunities for public art.

Old Business: None

New Business: The first Item of new business was the Approval of Lowest Qualified Bid for Dorsey's Knob Lodge Deck Replacement and Lodge Entrance Updates. One bid was submitted and it was over budget. No vote will be taken on this item. Director Wiles said they will probably contract out the demolition of the deck and rebuild it in-house due to lack of bids and bids outside of the established budget. The next item of new business pertains to the Marilla Pool project. Director Wiles would like the Board to review and approve the location and general concept presented by Thrasher Group at the last meeting. Danielle Trumble motioned to approve the project, Jenny Thoma seconded the motion. Approved by consensus. The final item of new business concerned the Approval of Executive Session Policy Draft. Ryan Simonton was in attendance and explained that the draft applies to how a committee moves in and out of executive session and when it needs to be confidential. Danielle Trumble motioned to approve, Rachel Fetty seconded. Approved unanimously.

Executive Session: Pursuant to West Virginia Code Section 6-9A-4(b) to discuss legal contract addendum for Design, Construction & Bid Documents for the Morgantown Ice Arena. Entered 4:00pm. Danielle Trumble motioned to end executive session, Susan Klingensmith seconded the motion. Session ended at 4:58pm.

Board Comments: Jenny Thoma attended last week's Health and Wellness meeting. There was discussion about the desire for a community garden. Jenny Thoma voiced willingness to help a project like that move forward. Susan Klingensmith thanked everyone for their hard work and looks forward to completion of ongoing projects. Danielle Trumble reported that Woodburn Neighborhood is happy that Whitmoore Trails are open again and that the neighborhood clean-up was a success. Ms. Trumble also announced that her husband is organizing the first "Litter League" in Morgantown and that registration is still open. Prizes will be awarded to teams who pick-up the most litter! Rachel Fetty thanked everyone for showing up and advocating for our community. Jenny Selin suggested that some greenery be planted near the new Krepps Park sign.


Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Klingensmith

April 14, 2022

Entered into Record:



May 11, 2022

Melissa Wiles, BOPARC Director