



## PARKS MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

October 13, 2021

### Attendees:

Matthew Weyer  
Mike Steffe  
Natalie Howard  
Jill Schipp  
Tom Lueken

Carrie Tauscher, State Urban Forestry Coordinator

Evan Daunhauer  
Ali Daunhauer

The meeting started at 4:31 pm.

The meeting started off by discussing the Park Encroachment Agreement with the Daunhauers. They will be working with Tom on everything. Matt made a motion to allow himself to sign the encroachment agreement. Mike seconded; all were in favor. Sharon will fill out and do all that needs to be done with the town.

### **DNR Site Visit**

Carrie Tauscher, State Urban Forestry Coordinator came and gave us the breakdown of her walk through our parts. All notes are below. She did state that she wanted to commend our park staff as they are not causing any tree trunk damage and do a great job of keeping our parks safe and clean. She did say that we do have several ash trees that need to come down. And that anything leaning toward the trails or over them needs to come down. Safety is our first priority. We have 6 gum trees that need to be removed. Jill will mark the trees that need to come down. Some people have created a tree obituary to make people aware of why the trees are coming down. She said that we do have a really good diversity of trees which helps reduce the risk of forestry issues. She suggested that when we decide to plant new trees that we contact someone for assistance such as Matthew Fleck who is a certified arborist. There are also YouTube videos on proper planting. Some of our trees are on the town GIS but we need to do an inventory. Arbor day might be a good day for planting. Check with local schools to see if some kids that are given trees who don't have a place to plant them would want to plant them at the park.

### 18th Street Park notes

- Don't over mulch new trees - will create surface roots Stakes can be taken down anytime



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- Maple is somewhat over planted in Indiana in general so would recommend other varieties if we plant more trees, really is too dry for maples
- Root ball should be 1-2 inches below ground
- Grass clippings shouldn't be blown at trees
- Bush honeysuckle - southern Indiana invasive species, cut off top with loppers, glyphosate sprayed on root after cutting off
- Waste dumping shouldn't happen

### 5th Street Park notes

- Soccer/football fields - Work with utilities
- Determine where irrigation is
- Small/medium trees near utilities and lights
- Small leaves for soccer/football fields - Kentucky coffee tree, honey locust, yellowwood Viburnum for privacy

### Old Town Lake notes

- Phragmites invasive species, can be fire hazard - series of chemical treatments, nracs service has cost share funding available
- Vine honeysuckle, bush honeysuckle and burning bush invasive species that should be treated now before out of control
- After removing invasive species wait 1-2 years to see what comes back before planting anything new
- Wildflower patch in area between kayak launch and pier Bald cypress trees could be planted along water
- Check trails after any big storms
- Wooded acres over 10 - district forester can create management plan in order to help with invasive species grant funding
- Option to top off dead trees so no hazard to trail Ok to leave debris in woods
- Could create prairie drop seeding area near bridge/dam.

### **Fifth Street Park**

There will be no fall softball games.

Kiwanis and football are over.

The board elected to repair and rework all (4) four softball and baseball fields at Fifth Street Park.

Significant rework—of varying scopes--of the infields were needed at this time with some input from the



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leagues who use them predominantly. Additionally, the work should allow for significantly better field drainage—which should help with minimizing league rainouts. The board worked with both boys' baseball and girls' softball leagues' boards assist in financially contributing to the work so that we can accomplish this project yet this year. This project will commence in late October and will require closure of the fields for some time. All fields will be off-limits until further notice. However, play and practice is still possible at 18<sup>th</sup> Street Park. Tenbarga Seeds said the small field will cost \$2,000 to cut back and pull dirt out. The big field will cost \$9,000 to cut 2 lips 7-10 feet and pull dirt out and reset. Boys league said they could pay ½ which would be \$5500. Girls field will cost \$12000 each. The large field needs conditioner and dirt. They want both fields done. We can pay for /2 for 1 field this year and ½ for one field next year. Tenbarga penciled us in for November. Matt and Mike talked and said this isn't something we can keep doing. The leagues need to maintain the fields better. All 4 fields will cost \$36,115.00

All the girls' signs are down. The boys are working on a solution for their signs. Mike made a motion to do all 4 fields this year and Jill seconded the motion. All were in favor. Tom will mark sprinkler locations on all fields.

Matt received a call from Stan Ruhe from Mobel Foundation. They want to put \$3,000 towards the Art Ruhe field. The check delivered. Stan mentioned a new scoreboard. Do we want to get a scoreboard or not? Instead of hanging business signs around the field, maybe we can get a lighted sign below the scoreboard that lists the sponsors. Matt will follow-up and get updated scoreboard pricing for next meeting.

### **18<sup>th</sup> Street Park**

The 18<sup>th</sup> street park basketball court resurfacing project has been recently completed and is now available for use. The old surface and all cracking was completely covered with a new playing surface and lined with both basketball court lines as well as two new pickleball courts. A procedure to provide mobile pickleball net(s) is currently under consideration by the board. Please note the courts are not to be utilized for skateboards, scooters, roller-blades, etc. Signage will be posted on the fence, but we've had trouble (and damage occur) with this prior to and during the installation as a result of this.

As noted above, Carrie Tauscher—IN Department of Natural Resources (DNR) State Urban Forestry Coordinator Carrie did identify a number of trees that pose safety hazards and/or have been infected with the emerald ash bore and should be considered to come down. She also provided ideas on how to evaluate and communicate these to the public. She provided some suggestions on tree and plant management moving forward which the board will take in consideration. Carrie was very informative and provided some great information to the board. She was also very complimentary of the parks.

With the information gained from our discussion with Carrie—along with the previous tree experts and arborists, the board will be moving forward and responsibly removing several troublesome trees this



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winter once the foliage has fallen. Additionally, several spots of invasive species plants were identified and the park will investigate how to address.

### **Old Town Lake**

Do we want to do a landscape area for Marvin Weyer and possibly put up a flagpole with a light on it? Jill will check with them and get back to us. The board elected to proceed with a flagpole and light in a location to be determined. Jill will follow up with a recommended flag pole.

The board discussed fund-raising ideas for future. If we do picnic tables Bargain Barn said it would be \$1539 per table. Tables are 7 months out and this price includes delivery, What about a plaque? We need to set a limit on what we put on plaques. They are 7x12 aluminum plaques. The board discussed putting a donation amount of \$2,500 per picnic table with a plaque included

### **Skate/Rollerblade Park**

The last one we had was from 19980-2001. It was made with stainless decking. Do we want to look at putting one in? Would we need to do some kind of membership? Tom has a lot of information on the history of the last one. Further discussion and research would need to occur.

Matt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:30; Mike seconded. All were in favor.

Next meeting will be November 10 at 4:30 pm.

Minutes submitted on 9 November 2021

Natalie Howard