**Parks and Recreation Board Meeting**

**Monday September 12, 2022**

**Call to Order and Roll Call** - Kim Pearson

**Present:** Kim Pearson, Branden Williams, Catherine Witsman, Susie Highley

**Absent:** Justin Bastin

**Also Present:** Tim Gropp, Ryan Crum, Niki Jones, Mary Harmon (resident)

**March 7th, Meeting Minutes –**

Ms. Highley made a motion to approve the July meeting minutes. Ms. Witsman seconded and passed 5/0.

**Old Business –**

**Storywalk update – Niki Jones**

Ms. Jones gave an update on Storywalk and that it has been successful. Sponsorships have raised over $1000 to help cover the expenses. Discussion was had about laminating the signs in a different way as the boards are water damaged, also a “start here” sign at the beginning of the story.

**Path to Fitness 5k Recap – Tim Gropp**

Mr. Gropp explained that there were 116 registrants at the 5K and it made $11,705. Historically, this was lower than previous years and was probably due to the Town Manager transition and that there were fewer sponsorships. Those that did sponsor gave less than in the past. The Town now has an idea of how to make the event run smoother regarding fundraising and sponsorships. After all expenses were paid, the town has raised $6,144.53 to apply to the Parks fund.

**New Business -**

**Christmas Lights for the Town** – Mr. Gropp explained that two quotes were obtained for Christmas light installation at Town Hall, Town Hall Park and the three large trees at Old School Park. The two companies install the lights, maintain them, take them down and store them. Mr. Gropp said that there were two quotes received and one was much higher than the other. The less expensive quote would cost approximately $6,500. Most of the expense of this could be paid for with the funds raised from the 5K. $5000 towards lights, $2500 for the Hancock County Foundation “Building a Brighter McCordsville” fund. Mr. Gropp stated that he could find $1,500 from another line item to fund the difference.

Ms. Highley made a motion to pay $5000 from the 5K towards the Christmas lights and the remaining towards the Hancock County Foundation Fund.

Ms. Witsman seconded and passed 4/0.

The Board agreed to use all “warm white” lights on the trees and building at Town Hall and Old School Park. The Board requested multi-colored lights on the tree to be lit at the annual tree lighting event.

**Trunk or Treat –**

Mr. Gropp explained that Trunk or Treat would be held on Sunday, October 30th from 3pm-5pm at the parking lot of Outlook Christian Church. In addition to having the community participate with their decorated trunks to pass out to kids, there will also be food available for purchase at the Regular Burger tent.

Having this event at Outlook Church’s large parking lot gives the extra room and parking and for the event to grow in the future. Outlook will also provide restrooms to the public.

Trunk registration forms are starting to return from interested community members and businesses that want to participate.

**Recreation Impact Fee Update**

Mr. Gropp wanted the board to be aware of the process regarding park land acquisition. It takes approximately six months to update the Park Impact Fee. Part of the process is identifying what the new park land would be and the expenses that come with it. With the Town acquiring new parks over the next few years, which will triple our current park land, there will be discussions at Town Council regarding creating a Parks Department, including a dedicated park maintenance department and a Parks Supervisor. With these new parks, they would be the ideal places to hold the Town’s events and camps throughout the year for the community.

**Next Meeting –** November 14, 2022, at 6:00pm

**Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Highley. Ms. Witsman seconded and passed 5/0.