

McCordsville

ESTD  1988

INDIANA

Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Monday January 8, 2024

Present: Kim Pearson, Susie Highley, Catherine Witsman, Megan Brewer, Bryan Burney

Absent: Justin Bastin

Also Present: Tim Gropp, Niki Jones, Mary Harmon

Meeting called to order at 6:06pm by Ms. Pearson.

Introduction

The board members introduced themselves to each other due to new board members joining.

Election of Officers

Ms. Highley motioned for Ms. Pearson to remain President of the Parks and Recreation Board and for Mr. Bastin to be Vice President of the Parks and Recreation Board for 2024.

Ms. Witsman seconded. Passed 4/0.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Ms. Highley moved to approve the November 2023 meeting minutes. Ms. Witsman seconded and passed 3/0.

Old Business

None.

New Business

2024 Projects, timelines & Outlook – Gropp

Mr. Gropp shared a presentation to the board regarding current and future park plans and projects.

Ms. Jones presented the vision of the newly acquired community event, “Market in McCordsville.” She will be seeking artisans, crafters and farmers to participate and grow into a larger event and eventually host it at McCord Square when the time comes.

Mr. Gropp presented the event schedule for 2024 and asked for input from the board members regarding logistics and dates.

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Due to the restrictions of the Town Hall Community Park field during inclement weather, it was suggested that the annual Easter Egg Hunt not continue. However, an Easter event to be held in its place inside Town Hall with a visit with the Easter Bunny on Saturday, March 30th, 9am-noon for a free photo-op with treats.

The town will not host an Eclipse event. However, the town will be offering free solar eclipse glasses to residents at no charge, while supplies last.

Party in the Park and the Path to Fitness 5K will be conducted on separate days in 2024. While both events were successful on the same day last year, it made for a very long day for staff. Party in the Park will be held on Saturday, June 29th and the 10th Annual Path to Fitness 5K will be held on August 10th.

Trunk or Treat will be held on Sunday, October 29th. The past two years have been extremely successful with high attendance and community participation. At the 2023 Trunk or Treat, the town provided free hot dogs and chips to those that attended however supplies ran out before the event was over. The cooking method will be altered for next year to speed up the process as well.

The Christmas Tree Lighting was cancelled due to weather in 2023, so an alternate event with a Visit with Santa was held, which was extremely successful with the community. Christmas Lights at Town Hall and at Old School Park will be turned on the Friday after Thanksgiving without a Tree Lighting event. The Board discussed creating a hybrid event to incorporate Santa and a few interactive events and have an open-house timeline instead of how the previous holiday celebrations functioned with a start time and schedule of events. The Board decided to host the Christmas celebration and Visits with Santa event the weekend after Thanksgiving. (Friday, December 6th)

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Town Council Retreat

Mr. Gropp advised that the Town Council Retreat will be held on Saturday, January 27th, 8am-Noon at Old Oakland Golf Club. Park priorities will be discussed, and Town Council President Brewer has invited the Parks Board members to attend.

Public Comment

None.

Next Meeting

March 11th, 2024, at 6:00pm

Adjourn

Ms. Witsman motioned to adjourn. Ms. Brewer seconded and passed 4/0.
Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm.

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Minutes Approval

These January 8th, 2024 Parks and Recreation Board Meeting minutes approved this 11th day of March 2024.

Kim Pearson, Parks and Recreation Board President

Attest: _____
Niki Jones, Recording Secretary