

# **Parks and Recreation Board Meeting**

**Monday July 11, 2022**

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

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

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

**Moment of Silence in honor of Parks Board member, Ann Kloc who passed away suddenly on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

Discussion was made to have a dedication of some sort for Ms. Kloc in honor of her service to the Parks Board. The Board will come back at the next meeting with ideas.

**May 9th Meeting Minutes –**

Ms. Highley made a motion to approve the May 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting minutes.

Mr. Bastin seconded and passed 5/0.

**Old Business –**

**First Annual Old School Park Event Recap – Mr. Gropp and Ms. Jones**

The event was postponed due to weather and hoping to reschedule at a later date.

**Storywalk Update – Ms. Jones**

Mr. Gropp shared photos of the installation of Storywalk at Old School Park. Residents are expressing their appreciation and excitement for the project on social media. Waiting to hear back from the library for the next book scheduled for next month and it will be announced on social media as well.

Ms. Jones also explained that she would be soliciting for more Storywalk sponsors from local businesses, organizations and families, which would include a sponsor sign at the bottom of each storybook page sign.

Ms. Highley suggested that the Board could sponsor a sign in honor of Ann Kloc.

**McCordsville Path to Fitness 5K Update – Mr. Gropp**

Mr. Gropp explained that he would like to look at possibly changing the route to make it safer for participants due to traffic starting next year.

Registrations are coming in and will be advertising more on Facebook and Instagram to increase participation, while showcasing sponsors. Financially, we are comfortable and are ready.

Mr. Gropp explained fundraising for account for the Parks with Hancock County.

#### **New Business –**

##### **2022 Budget Review & Planning – Mr. Gropp**

Mr. Gropp explained a rough idea for planning a Budget for 2023 as McCordsville continues to grow and more parks are acquired.

With this growth, there will be a need to add park land, maintenance, and programming.

Future ideas and endeavors would include expanding Old School Park, adding park features such as an amphitheater, splash pad, fire pit, swings and more at McCord Square, adding a park in the South part of town to mimic Flat Fork Park in Fishers to have a sledding hill, fishing, etc.

The Town has approximately \$800,000 in Park Impact Fees and now is the time to acquire land for parks as the Town continues to grow.

In 2024, looking for a Park Maintenance Supervisor under Public Works that would operate with their own equipment.

The Town would also benefit by adding a Parks Director/Event Coordinator in 2024-2025 to help with event planning such as community events, day camps, special events, food trucks, etc.

Town Hall Park – platted to be the expansion of the Waste Water Treatment Plant and there are no plans to develop where the large grassy field is currently. The park will always have the shelter, but the field would be used to expand the WWTP.

Mr. Gropp also explained how funding operates with the tobacco tax but funding is being cut. He will bring this and land acquisition and strategy ideas to Council Retreat in the future.

Mr. Gropp also asked for permanent garbage cans at Old School Park that the Town would empty ourselves instead of incurring the current Waste Management expenses.

**Ann's position on Park Board** – Will leave as a vacancy out of respect for her and her family for the remainder of the year. Will convene with Town Council in January about filling the position.

**Next Meeting** – September 12, 2022 at 6pm

**Public comment** – None.

#### **Adjourn**

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



**Minutes Approval**

These July 2022 minutes approved this 12th day of September 2022.

*Kim Pearson*  
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Kim Pearson, Parks and Recreation Board President

Attest: *Niki Jones*  
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Niki Jones, Recording Secretary