



Franklin Parks & Recreation

**Thursday, August 17, 2023
4:00 p.m. Regular Meeting
City Hall – Council Chambers**

Park Board present: President Debbie Gill, Dr. John Shafer, Gale Richards, Michelle Stringer
Staff present: Chip Orner – Director, Rocky Stultz – Asst. Director, Brooke Willis – Business
Guests: Celeste Hook, Les Tabling, Braiddin Plymate

1. Call to Order

- a. Meeting called to order by Debbie Gill @ 4:00pm.

2. Announcements & Public Comments

Celeste Hook spoke with the Board members regarding the pickleball courts. She presented the Board with a proposal to have solar lights at night. The cost of the solar lights is \$23890.00 for 12 lights that includes the cement and installation. Chip advised Celeste that we need to let any neighbors come to the next Board meeting with any questions or concerns. We will also need to get two more proposals for the solar lights. The shade structures will be going in at the pickleball courts.

3. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of meeting minutes from June 15, 2023 and July 20, 2023
Motion made by Dr. John Shafer and seconded by Michelle Stringer to approve the June and July minutes. The Board unanimously approved.
- b. Approval of August Claims
Motion made by Gail Richards and seconded by Dr. John Shafer to approve the August claims. The Board unanimously approved.
- c. Approval of Human Resources Report
Motion made by Michelle Stringer and seconded by Gail Richards to approve the Human Resources report. The Board unanimously approved.

4. Old Business

- a. Greenlawn Cemetery Columbarium Project update
This is on the City Council agenda for next Monday for final approval. The appropriation will be for \$130,000.00. Quotes will be presented at the BOW meeting the day after Labor Day.
- b. Eagle Scout Project – Memorial Bench area
Braiddin Plymate addressed the Board members with his Eagle Scout project. He is a current senior at Franklin Community High School. He would like to put in a COVID Memorial bench east of the Garment Factory off of Wayne St. The benches would memorialize those that have fallen to COVID. Braiddin would like to put in a time capsule right behind the bench, with a 30 ft brick walk to be built around the bench. This would be publicly accessible to everyone. The name would be the Indiana COVID Memorial. Motion made by Michelle Stringer and seconded by Dr. John Shafer to proceed with the Eagle Scout Project memorial bench. The Board unanimously approved.

- c. Franklin Active Adult Center Project
Chip Orner will be going in front of the City Council to propose a new Franklin Active Adult Center. The City currently has the funds for this project. The current facility will be need to be vacated by next January. It will be take 14 months to build the new facility. There have been several meetings with the staff members and the Active Adult Center members. Our Town Players will also be affected by this project. The Active Adult Center members will be placed at the recreation center until the new facility is built. The members would like to see the bricks salvaged from the old Active Adult Center.

5. New Business

- a. Ratify approval for of use Blue Heron Park for Franklin College mallard research project
Chip Orner advised the Board that Ben O’Neil, a Biology professor at Franklin College, has utilized the wetlands for several projects. Ben utilizes the park for his mallard research project for his students. Motion made by Dr. John Shafer and seconded by Debbie Gill to ratify the approval for of use Blue Heron Park for Franklin College mallard research project. The Board unanimously approved.

6. Reports

a. Department Reports

- 1. Summer Concert Series – No Fences (Friday, August 25)
- 2. Festival Country International Festival (Saturday, Sept 16)
This event is during the day.
- 3. Franklin Fall Festival – Mellencougar (Saturday, Sept 30)

b. Financial Reports

Chip advised the Board members that a new system is being looked at for financials. This system is called MyRec.com. This system would replace RecTracs. The cost is \$11000.00 yearly. It has online registration and all other features that we currently have with RecTracs. MyRec.com has the capability to make reservations all online, buy memberships, reserve pickleball courts. Everything is automated and it comes with unlimited users. This will be all internet based. This system is very user friendly. There are other cities in Indiana that currently use MyRec.com including Martinsville and Zionsville. This will take 4 months to complete. Motion made by Debbie Gill and seconded by Michelle Stringer to approve the purchase of MyRec.com pending Lynn Gray’s approval. The Board unanimously approved.

- 1. Family Aquatic Center
- 2. Athletic & Recreation Fund
- 3. Parks & Cemetery Appropriation / Fund Reports

7. Park Board Comments

None

7. Adjournment

Motion made by Dr. John Shafer and seconded by Debbie Gill to adjourn the meeting.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if anyone wishes to attend the public meeting on the above referenced matter and needs reasonable accommodation in order to attend, hear, or speak at the public meeting, please contact Franklin Parks & Recreation Department, so accommodations can be made. Franklin Parks & Recreation Department can be contacted at 396 Branigin Blvd., Franklin, IN. 46131 (317) 736-3689 Fax (317) 736-6200.

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 21, 2023 @ 4:00pm