The meeting of the Board of Parks and Recreation was called to order by Chairman Williams, Thursday, May 22, 2014, at 3:45 p.m. at Riverside Park, 2420 East Riverdale Drive, Indianapolis Indiana 46208.

Board Members Present: Chairman, John Williams, Mr. Joe Wynns, Dr. Jacqueline Greenwood, Mr. Josh Bowling and

Staff Present: Louvenia Holstein, Board Secretary Suzanne Martin, Assistant Board Secretary Doug Kowalski, Deputy Corporation Counsel

Directors Announcements:

Chairman Williams greeted the Board and the audience and he welcomed them to the Board of Parks and Recreation June 19th Board meeting. Chairman Williams thanked everyone for being there today. He apologized for beginning late off site here at Riverside Regional Park. A motion was duly made by Mr. Bowling, seconded by Dr. Greenwood, and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of March 20, 2014.

Chairman Williams stated that before they get started with the meeting he would like to make a couple of announcements.

As they continue to move throughout the summer you will start to see a lot of different activities going on in the parks. This past week we had a ribbon cutting ceremony for a water spraypark over at Municipal Gardens just across the river. We had a lot of kids out there since it was a very hot day, enjoying the water spraypark. We will probably have in the neighborhood of sixteen (16) different parks that will be positively impacted this Summer via the grant we received from the Lilly Endowment a couple of years ago in partnership with the Indianapolis Parks Foundation and at Indy Parks you will see a lot of different things happening out in the parks. When you have an opportunity to go on line and take a look at what is going on at Indy Parks web site at www.indy.gov/parks and you will be able to find about all the activities going on at our parks. You can also call 327-PARK, or 327-7275 to find out information about Indy Parks.

With that, Board members you have before you the minutes of our April 17, 2014 meeting for your approval.

Approval of Minutes: April 17, 2014

A motion was duly made by Dr. Greenwood, seconded by Mr. Wynns, and unanimously passed to approve the minutes from April 17, 2014 Indy Parks Board meeting.
New Business

1. Agenda Item #18, 2014 – Indy Park Staff is recommending that the Board of Parks and Recreation for the Consolidated City of Indianapolis, Indiana approve a fireworks display at the conclusion of the presentation by the Friends of Garfield Park at the MacAllister Amphitheater on July 3, 2014 as part of the Friends annually scheduled Patriotic Community Concert.

Chairman Williams welcomed Mr. George Benn, Production Arts Manager, Indy Parks who stated that he would like to defer his presentation to Mr. Bob Kiser, who has all the facts about this presentation, from the Friends of Garfield Park.

Mr. Kiser stated that as far as all the facts that Mr. Been says he has here… the fact is that the long running America We Remember Concert has continued to run its course and as they continue to try and support the Friends of Garfield Park raise money for the fountains and other initiatives that are going on at this park and they have decided to forego what has been spent on America We Remember on an annual basis but continued to bring folks into the park by leveraging a concert that was already scheduled to be there with the fireworks. The hope is that we will be able to launch the fireworks again in the same location that they have in years past with the same company that has set them off in years past and really no changes other than the America We Remember is tied to it.

Chairman Williams asked if there were any questions for the Board members.

A motion was duly made by Dr. Greenwood, seconded by Mr. Wynns, and unanimously passed to approve Agenda Item #18, 2014.

2. Agenda Item #19, 2014 – Indy Parks Staff is recommending that the Board of Parks and Recreation of the Consolidated City of Indianapolis, Indiana allow Charlotte Smith, (representing Meredith Smith Memorial Committee along with Ramsey Pyrotechnics) authorization to set off fireworks during the Ravenswood Community 43rd Year Fireworks Celebration at the Ravenswood Overlook on July 3, 2014.

Dee Dickerson, Customer Service Manager and oversees Indy Parks Special Events for Indy Parks greeted the Board and stated that it is her privilege and honor to introduce Charlotte and Bud Smith who have been putting on the Ravenswood Fireworks for 43 years and she estimates that they have probably entertained maybe 3 generations before the Board, if not more within those 43 years. She would like to assure the Board that they have done all the required. They have made arrangements with the Fire Department, IMPD and the Park Rangers and from the paperwork standpoint all ready to go and she will now let Bud and Charlotte talk to the Board a little about the event. Charlotte asked Bud to speak first. He stated that it is a privilege to be here before the Board again and actually now here at Riverside Park. On behalf of the family as well as Ramsey Pyrotechnics it will be there 43rd year of doing the fireworks display on the Ravenswood Beach and they are prepared and have the people all set up ready to go. His mother spent the last 2 months collecting donations and hope that with your approval we can move forward with this event.
Chairman Williams asked if there were any questions or comments from the Board. Dr. Greenwood stated that she doesn’t have a question but a comment that she remembered them from last year and Bud stated that he remembers Dr. Greenwood as well. Charlotte stated that she would like to read this note she received about the donations she received. The note read: Thank you for all you do Charlotte. You will never know how many people’s lives you touch. Hearing this means a lot to Charlotte because this is what we do. We touch a lot of lives and this is what they are all about is the community coming together and celebrate. Charlotte stated that it is not for her, it is for the people in the community. Chairman Williams stated that they appreciate her efforts and especially during Independence Day to honor those who have sacrificed so much for our independence and having been a soldier and a service member himself, he knows what it means to be patriotic and he appreciates what they do for their community. Thank you.

There were no more questions or comments from the Board.

A motion was duly made by Mr. Wynns, seconded by Dr. Greenwood, and unanimously passed to approve Agenda Item #19, 2014.

Chairman Williams stated that before Joenne gets started not too long ago the Mayor’s Office, through their performance evaluation accomplishment awards, recognized this particular program for the work that they do and how they have done a fabulous job with the staff that they have making sure that a number of people throughout Marion County have the opportunity to receive a wholesome meal and snacks when they would otherwise not have access to it.

**Presentations**

2014 Summer Foods Program – Joenne Pope

Joenne thanked the Chairman and stated that Milele Kennedy wasn’t able to be here with her today so with her being absent there may be some questions that she may not be able to answer since Milele was actually the person planned to give this presentation. If there are any of those questions that she may not be able to answer here today she would be happy to take notes and follow-up with the answers with Milele who is the primary person handling this program. They are expected to do around 300,000 meals this summer. Last summer they did 214,000 and their big thing that has been bumping us over is our mobile unit. We are able to deliver to 32 sites. They feed kids in parks, apartment complexes and wherever there are kids. They are not too selective as long as they are kids and they live in Marion County and they are fed a cold lunch. They also serve breakfast, but lunch is by far their biggest meal. They also sometimes serve at dinner time. It is the same meal, they can’t have supper and lunch. They can have either lunch and breakfast or supper and breakfast.

They are located at their summer daycamp sites, at YMCA’s, apartment complexes, which are not mobile units; these are actual distribution of meals at these sites. Their growth rate is about 36% and they are about topped out and don’t think they can get much bigger than they are. They are located at 26 sites at present. They went into full blast on Monday with the kick-off. They kind of had a soft opening with 25 sites the first of June and about 25 more and the rest have come on this past Monday. According to their numbers they are
serving about an average of about 5,000 meals a day. She stated that she didn’t know if there was other information the Board would be interested in hearing about. They do have a food vendor; this is a question that comes about frequently. They do not make their own meals. They have a food vender which is Chef For Hire. They were picked through the bidding process within the City’s Purchasing Department. They have a contract with Indy Parks and they are in the second year of a three year contract. They provide all individual lunches and they deliver the majority of the meals and our mobile unit delivers the others to those sites.

Chairman Williams asked if there were any questions or comments from the Board. Mr. Wynns asked if any of the Daycare facilities participating in this program? Joenne replied that they have a few daycares. They have Pride North, Pride West and Pride East and they are pretty big daycares with about 300 kids and they also have a few other smaller daycares, Uncle Kay Ko’s on the east side. Then we have in the mobile unit near Arsenal Park there is a group that walks over from a home day care.

This program is not allowed to serve in the federally assisted food programs at daycare provider homes.

Mr. Wynns asked if they have people walking over to the park facilities to the mobile units. Joenne stated they have had a few but it is a little early to tell since the mobile unit just started this Monday. Mr. Wynns asked about the mobile unit, wether it is just a truck that carries the food. Joenne replied, yes, we have 4 vans and they try to keep them in sections around town so they do not have to do a lot of back tracking and they just pull up and they serve for about a half an hour and then it takes about another half hour to get to their next stop and they set up and serve for another half hour. Most of their units have about 2 people and part of it is for safety and part of it is to help serve the meals. One will do the paperwork and the other will hand out the meals. Mr. Wynns asked if the kids drink the milk. Joenne stated that there are still kids that don’t drink it and they have lots of ice packs which are provided through a grant.

Dr. Greenwood stated that first of all Summer School is going on in the Summer time and are the schools aware that their students have the capability to come for breakfast and lunch? Joenne answered that their mobile units right now are serving at IPS 69 over at 34th & Keystone area. They are serving at IPS 65 she believes. Also, IPS itself is also serving. They are working with the Indy Hunger Network and who also works with IPS communications and sent out flyers to all the kids and also phone calls to families giving them a number to call. This is how they are trying to get the word out and different sites are trying to spread the word where there are lots of kids congregating, such as apartment buildings with hang tags on doors and they have been trying to get the word out as much as possible. Both Chairman Williams and Joenne stated that all the township schools plus IPS are distributing information about the meals. An interesting fact, Indy Parks is the largest provider of Summer Food in the state of Indiana.
Chairman Williams asked if there were any other comments or questions and thanked Joenne for her presentation.

This has been a great opportunity for the Board members to see some of the great things going on in Indy Parks. Joenne stated that if any of the Board were interested they are welcome to come along on a ride on the mobile unit. Dr. Greenwood stated that she would like to commend them because a lot of the children that they have in their school system come to school mainly because there is no food at home. She commends Joenne and Indy Parks and she would like to ride along sometime so she could encourage more kids to take advantage of this opportunity.

**Adjournment**

A motion was duly made by Director Williams for adjournment, seconded by by Ms. Valentine and unanimously passed to adjourn.
The next Board of Parks and Recreation meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2014 at 3:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Thatcher Park located at 4649 W. Vermont Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46222.

SUBMITTED:     APPROVED:

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Louvenia Holstein, Board Secretary    John W. Williams, Chairman
Board of Parks and Recreation

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Date