The meeting of the Board of Parks and Recreation was called to order by Chairman Williams, Thursday, September 26, 2013, at 3:45 p.m. Room 260, City-County Building, 200 East Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.

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

**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 stating that he really has only one announcement and he is happy to be here to say this, so, we have a long standing City employee, Lynda Burrello, Lynda, if you would please stand please. Lynda is going to be retiring this year after 50 years of service to the Parks Department in particular. He personally wants to say “thank you for your service to the community and thank you for have done for Indy Parks and he hopes that the memories that she has will carry you on and that you won’t forget your Indy Parks family and you know, having been her for a short period of time he obviously didn’t get to know Lynda like some of you have but one thing that he can say is that being a resident of Indianapolis for 13 years and being an employee for nearly 13 years, it takes a commitment of time and effort and energy to be in an organization for 50 years. Not very many people have done this. It shows dedication to service, to her job, but most importantly it has a lot to do with who she is as a person and what it takes as an individual to want to be here. We can't force you to be here on a day-to-day basis. The choice that you make to stay here for 50 years should be applauded and he personally thanked her for her service to Indy Parks and to the City of Indianapolis.” With this being said, he has a proclamation that he would like to read. It says: “To all whom these presents may come greetings, whereas Lynda Burrello’s life has been connected to Garfield Park long before she was born as her grandmother attended the dedication of the sunken Gardens in 1916 Lynda played horseshoes, took her first swimming lessons and learned to drive in Garfield Park, and whereas on September 30th 1963 Lynda was hired by the Department of Parks and Recreation as a playground councillor for Willard Park and finished here distinguished career as Senior Park Manager at Garfield Park and, whereas Lynda taught, coached and mentored youth in various sports in other programs and hired, supervised and mentored many employees in her service. In addition her dedication to Garfield Park was recognized in 1998 when the aquatic and fitness area was renamed the Burrello Family Center, and whereas Lynda was elected into the Indiana Amature Softball Hall of Fame in 1984 and received the Sagamore of the Wabash Award in 1988 and in 2011 was inducted into the Indianapolis Public Schools Hall of Fame and whereas the City of Indianapolis commends Lynda Burrello for her enthusiasm and for her commitment to making Garfield Park a place for relaxation, entertainment and enjoyment for our community and wishes her many many parks walks in her well deserved retirement, now, therefore, I Gregory A. Ballard, Mayor of the City of Indianapolis do hereby proclaim September 30, 2013 as “Lynda Burrello Day”. Chairman Williams asked Lynda to come up as well as Linda Koontz and Elaine Dillahunt to present Lynda with her awards and pictures. Then Linda Koontz spoke to the group.
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Linda Koontz stated that she had something written out but it was all said in the proclamation. Linda stated that she hopes everyone remembered what Lynda Burrello said about Linda Koontz about 4 months ago, good then we are done. Just kidding. Lynda and she go back, well she started in 63 and Linda really wasn’t born yet, when she was born in 64, that is a big fat fib, in 1964 Lynda came to the Gardens and Linda Koontz was 12 years old and she hung out at the Gardens and Lynda coached basketball, volleyball, kickball and kite contests and they did not do the Tiny Tot King and Queen contests Joe, they just didn’t do it. Then in 1967 she left the Gardens and went to Garfield and she was so competitive that she would get in her gosh darn car and drive all over the city and pick up the athletes and for some odd reason she thought Linda Koontz was an athlete so she would pick her up and Lynda and she formed a relationship probably when she was 14 and it is just continued. When Linda was 15 she was instrumental in getting Linda recruited for the Anchoretts, which was a fast pitch softball league and Linda Koontz was supposed to be Lynda Burrello’s backup shortstop and Linda only played a year because Lynda Burrello always played. She never got hurt so Linda Koontz sat on the bench and she didn’t like sitting there so she went back to slow pitch. Lynda was instrumental in Linda Koontz getting hired in 1970. Lynda says she hired Linda, she didn’t. Joe Wynn was not here yet but he was short to follow, but Art Strong hired Linda and Art she believes just recently retired from Parks and Recreation and Lynda and Linda have been together ever since 1970. She has been amazing. She has been Linda’s mentor, she hangs out with Linda’s children, she takes care of Linda’s grandchildren and they have become lifelong friends and it is all because of Indy Parks. Indy Parks will not be the same. If you think, Indy Parks will be the same without Lynda Burrello, it just won’t be! if, but Indy Parks will continue on but she is not sure how. For those of you who may not have received an invitation, there is a celebration next Saturday. Everyone is invited to the Garfield Arts Center from 5:00 to 7:00 honoring Lynda and then there is a get-together next Friday at the Family Center from 4:00 to 6:00. She hopes everyone can appreciate what Lynda has done as much as Linda has ans as she said, Indy Parks will never be the same but Linda applauds Lynda Burrello.

Dr. Greenwood would like to say something to Lynda. One night Dr. Greenwood was at home asleep and she got a phone call from Lynda Burrello and Dr. Greenwood’s neighbor on the corner was at Lynda’s facility and they believe they thought he had a heart attack and you called Dr. Greenwood and then Dr. Greenwood’s husband went to pick up his wife. That is the type of person that Lynda is. You reached out to find someone who knew him and because of Lynda, he is alive today and she personally want to thank Lynda and his wife wants to thank you for being who she is and going above and beyond the call of duty. Thank you.

Dr. Greenwood asked Lynda to say something. Chairman Williams added that yes usually we ask that the honoree speak as well. Lynda stated that she normally has something to say and usually she always gets the last word but thanks to Linda Koontz, she doesn’t believe that will ever happen. She would like to thank everyone that she has worked with the 50 years she has been with the department and you are right when you say that Indy Parks is a family because on one person can do it. It takes a team to work together and to have the programs and take care of our kids at our centers and she has had a great team at Garfield for all these years and she has been lucky to have the community backing and support that she has all around Garfield and she has just been lucky at something that has been her whole life and she will never forget any of the staff and she will always be ready to volunteer and not going far and she thanks everyone for being there when she needed them. Thank you.

Chairman Williams asked if Joe would like to say anything since he has been here awhile or Don Colvin or anyone else like to say anything. Joe did mention that he wants to thank Lynda for being
there and that she has been an anchor on the southside and he still remembers when he became superintendent of recreation he offered Lynda the district supervisor position on the southside and she told him that really sticks with him today, that she couldn't take it because she had to do so much for the kids at the center and she always put the kids first. This has always impressed him with what she did and it wasn't really a community, a gymnasium, it was a conference room with two basketball goals stuck up on the side of the walls and she turned out so many children out of that building that are good citizens today and you just don't find someone with that type of dedication. Good job Burrello! Chairman Williams thanked Lynda again for her service. Chairman Williams stated that he and she have had some pretty good conversations and he appreciated what she has taught him in the short period of time about the center and the things that she has done over there. Again he wishes her nothing but the best for your retirement and don't forget about us. He will hold you accountable for the volunteering. God Bless and thanks for your service.

Approval of Minutes: June 27, 2013 and August 22, 2013

A motion was duly made by Mr. Wynns, seconded by Mr. Bowling, and unanimously passed to approve the June 27, 2013 minutes.

A motion was duly made by Mr. Wynns, seconded by Mr. Bowling, and unanimously passed to approve the August 22, 2013 minutes.

New Business

1. Agenda Item #40, 2013 – Approval by the Board of Parks and Recreation for the Consolidated City of Indianapolis, Indiana for Flat 12 Bierwerks, LLC to sell beer during the Indianapolis Gaelic Athletic Games (Indy GAA) to be held at Kuntz Memorial Soccer Field September 27, 2013.

LeeAnn White apologized for her late entrance due to traffic issues and tried to call everyone on the 23rd floor, but they were here again before the Parks Board asking for approval to sell beer at the Indy GAA event at Kuntz Stadium is to be held tomorrow night. They have received all of their proper licenses, excise insurance and mapping has been drawn out just like it was before up in the breezeway but tomorrow night they are going to rope off a part of the bleachers so people can just walk down three stairs and just sit. Nobody else will be allowed in that area. Last time at the last event she knows the director was there and it was a good turnout and a lot of fun. The PR has gotten out about the event tomorrow night and they believe it will be really really good as far as a turn out. She invites the Board if you have never seen these sports. If you have any questions it is kind of hard to follow Lynda's recognition. Mr. Wynns stated that he has a question. We have been approving a lot of beer sales at events lately from the summer concerts and he does not have any thing against that but what is the advantage? Are we getting proceeds from these? It looks like this summer we approved a series of concerts with beer sales and we are constantly approving beer sales. Who is getting the money from these beer sales? LeeAnn stated that this year, as far as the vender is concerned, they are not charging the vender a percentage. We want to see for instance the Indy GAA groups when they come in, it is more of a younger crowd and it is going to pull that group in and they are hoping that this crowd can pull in other people in and a lot of times with just the sale of the beer it entices people to come. Next year, Andretta and she have talked about it and if they pursue this, she will bring everything to the Board to the board and present it at one meeting instead of coming to the Board month after month. Mr. Wynns stated that his thing is he knows the venders are selling beer but if he is making the proceeds, he wants to know who is making the
money from the beer sales. Is any money going back into the facility or going back into the programs, or are we just approving beer, beer, beer. If he was a beer salesman, I’m making money so. Chairman Williams stated that this is a valid question so he is going to have Andy Stephens, who is in charge with our marketing and what our marketing strategy was over the summer and he thinks that those of you listening will be pleased to hear of some of the things we did do in regards to our concert series and how we have used the alcohol sales in a controlled way in order to boost what we are trying to reach from a resource or revenue point of view. Go ahead Andy.

Andy greeted the Board introducing himself. He stated that he had the opportunity this summer to work with a good handful of partners who have come in and utilized the beer and alcohol sales that you guys have granted. Some of the great things that we have been able to do, if you look at the summer concert series we have actually been able to find a new revenue strain that has actually supplemented the expense side of that so that we are now able to have a continuing fund to continue those concert series in the future without necessarily having to leverage as much tax funding. We have been kind of tip toeing into it but we have really found this to work well. If you look at our, we will talk about Garfield Park a little bit and look at the bike-in movies we did at Garfield Park, the revenue split that we got with Sun King actually covered our costs on that and that is a model now that we can continue to use in the future to make sure that we have that programming available in the future. Mr. Wynns stated that he is not against it he stated it would be nice for him to see after the summer ended with all the beer sales that we have had, how much revenue did it generate and what was the benefit, because alcohol in parks, you have to be sensitive to this. He is not against it because he knows that some programs require that but as a Board member, he bets that they have approved over ten beer sales and we hasn’t seen any information back. Andy stated that he can prepare some information at the next board meeting with our finance division and the Parks Foundation as well. Mr. Wynns stated that he said if we are doing it, what is its benefit, and who is benefiting? Is the department benefitting? Is the vendor benefitting? Just information. Andy stated that in the long run, the community as a whole benefits because we can continue and perpetuate programming. Mr. Wynns stated that again when the department is shut down for the summer a report on beer sales would be appreciated and he just wants to know what is going on with the beer sales and alcohol in the parks period. Chairman Williams stated it is a valid question and we will do a presentation to the Board on how the concert series have changed the model on sponsorships and how this all works together.

Chairman Williams asked if there were any other questions from the Board. There were none.

A motion was duly made by Dr. Greenwood, seconded by Mr. Bowling, and unanimously passed to approve Agenda Item #40, 2013.

2. Agenda Item #41, 2013 – Approval by the Board of Parks and Recreation of the City of Indianapolis, Indiana for the recommended trail names at Southwestway Park. These proposed trail names were presented to the Board during the August 22, 2013 Board of Parks and Recreation meeting and a public notice was published in the local newspaper with no response.

Chairman Williams greeted Ben Jackson. Mr. Jackson thanked the Chairman and greeted the Board members stating that as Louvenia said, last month they brought a list of names they proposed for the trails at Southwestway Park that HMBA and HMBA’s representatives have built and it has been vetted for a month and so now they are back to ask for approval of those names.
Chairman Williams stated that as Louvenia’s stated in accordance with the ordinance and Indy Parks rules state as far as the notification. They did send out notification and the notification specifically told anyone in the public if they have questions or concerns with regard to the naming of these particular assets that they would forward that information to the Director of Indy Parks, John Williams, and he has not received any questions or comments or concerns so therefore he would ask the Board if they have any questions and if not we will proceed on. Mr. Wynns stated that he has just one question. What is the benefit again by naming these trails at Southwestway Park? The representative from HMBA replied stating that it is for the purpose of signage there will be different types of trails, walking trails, biking trails and what not, so they can identify them and they will be regularly identified. Ben stated that one of the things that they will be doing once they have approval they will generate a map for users of the park trails with all the trails names which will help them find their way around the park use those trails. Mr. Wynns said thank you. Chairman Williams asked if there were any other questions from the Board. There were none.

A motion was duly made by Mr. Wynns, seconded by Mr. Bowling, and unanimously passed to approve Agenda Item #41, 2013.

3. Agenda Item #42, 2013 – Authorization by the Board of Parks and Recreation of the Consolidated City of Indianapolis, Indiana for the Indy Parks Director to enter into a lease agreement with the Metropolitan School District of Wayne Township for the property known as Robey Park located at 8700 West 30th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Julee thanked the Board Secretary and greeted the Board stating that this is a lease of an Indy Park property that they lease from Wayne Township Schools and have leased it since 1983 and have built a parking lot, basketball courts, tennis courts and playground and walking trails. As she said they have leased it for many years and the only difference this time around is that they have asked and Indy Parks has agreed to pay for the storm water utility fee because all property owners now have to pay for that fee. They have constructed the hard surfaces that would contribute to that storm water utility fee. For 2013 that fee would be approximately $594.00. The term of the lease is for 10 years.

Chairman Williams asked the Board if there were any comments or questions. Mr. Wynns stated that he just has one comment. "Tell Art Strong to send us the money." Ms. Jacob stated that she remembered that. Mr. Wynns stated that he made us build that out there in Clermont.

Chairman Williams asked if there were any other questions. There were none.

A motion was duly made by Mr. Wynns, seconded by Mr. Bowling, and unanimously passed to approve Agenda Item #42, 2013.

4. Agenda Item 43, 2013 – Authorization by the Board of Parks and Recreation of the Consolidated City of Indianapolis, Indiana for the Indy Parks Director to enter into a lease agreement with the Metropolitan School District of Wayne Township for the property known as Christina Oaks Park, located at 4205 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Ms. Jacob stated that here again this is very similar to the previous item and Christina Oaks Park is approximately 2.4 acres and it contains tennis courts, basketball courts, playground and walking trails and the storm water utility fee which we have agreed to pay will be approximately $270.00 this year and the term of the lease is for ten years.
Chairman Williams asked if there were any questions or comments from the Board members. Dr. Greenwood asked if the $270.00 was for the total ten years or each year. Ms. Jacob answered that it is for each year which is an annual fee.

Don Colvin stated that he wanted to make the Board aware that entering into these agreements are very important to us. Christina Oaks in particular has fell into disrepair and the community as well as staff is looking forward to trying to make some improvements there but without these leases in place we really can't invest the public's tax dollars on these properties so this is very helpful for the Board to move forward with these in this direction. Director Williams stated that nor can they move forward with working with other groups that would want to do some improvements on the property because we would not be able to give them that authorization. Chairman Williams stated that when he first started he talked to Dr. Butts, the superintendent at Wayne Township Schools and he was really anxious about getting this agreement done because it had for a number of years lapsed and they were kinda in limbo and he is thankful that Julee came on and helped us push this through and Dr. Butts was so willing to make sure that it happened as well, and here we are making this happen. He really appreciates it.

Chairman Williams asked if there were any other comments or questions from the Board. There were none. Chairman Williams stated that that would be it then Julee since we already have approved this one.

Dr. Greenwood informed the Chairman that they had not voted on this item yet. Chairman Williams stated that oh then he entertained a motion.

A motion was duly made by Mr. Wynns, seconded by Dr. Greenwood, and unanimously passed to approve Agenda Item #43, 2013.

5. Agenda Item # 7A, 2012 – Amendment #1 – Professional Services Agreement Extension Date from December 31, 2013 to October 17, 2014.

Approval by the Parks Board of Amendment #1 to the Professional Services Agreement with Ball State University for Indy Urban Acres Farm Site, Douglass Park Golf Course/Park Cultural Landscape Report and Teen Environmental Awareness and Participation Research.

Don Colvin greeted the Board stating that this item is a continuation of the research project that: Indy Parks entered into with Ball State University where they are studying three various projects and they have been in the process of collecting a lot of data particularly on Indy Urban Acres. They started them a little early and the season wasn’t fully in place so they were not able to tally all the harvest that was going on so they wanted to complete this whole season as well as they are traveling around and looking at other comparable models to see where Indy Parks fits in and also look at the impact that Indy Urban Acres has on disadvantaged communities as well as food deserts. They just need a little bit more time to complete their research report.

The next one is Douglass and Joe he doesn't know if he will be able to remember when Douglass had a swimming pool over there about 1929 or 1930. Joe and Don joked that Joe read about it in history books. The interesting thing at the Douglass Park Golf Course, Malcolm Karins at Ball State University is a landscape architect historian and what he is doing is documenting particularly the golf course, he is looking at the whole park but particularly the golf course and create a cultural landscape report very similar to what was done at Garfield Park and the history of that. We think we
have a real jewel here and this very well could be one of the first African American Golf Courses in the country so he needs a little bit more time to investigate that and some of the facts that he has discovered have been quite fascinating. He found that when it was originally started it was as simple as putting little soup cans in the ground and that was the whole that you would put to. It is going through a lot of changes over the years and hopefully this report will celebrate the benefit of those changes with that. Don stated that he just wanted to put a little bit of the history with this picture on the overhead screen and it is a little difficult to see in the lighting but it shows the past and present view and for the most part the golf course has not changed that much except for the tin cans in the ground to what we currently see today as far as the lay-out and the design and this is actually important when you are documenting historic landscape you really don't want to see a change too much because the more it stays the same the more significant it becomes and he is also going to document some of the great african american players of that era that actually played at this club. There are some pretty notable names. Don stated that he is not an avid golfer but when he gets the report and he reads you off a couple of the names he thinks that those of you who are golfers or users of this leisure sport will truly recognize these great players. Malcom needs a little more time to wrap up that report.

The third one is actually completed. That was done by the recreation division at Ball State and they basically were studying new ways to attract the teen-age groups. As we all know in the parks business, we loose our teen-agers when they become 14 or 15 years of age they have other ideas and interests of how to enjoy their lives. We would still like them to come back to the parks and we would also like them to bring their families and they were looking at different facilities that could keep our youth coming back to our park. Go Ape would be a good example. They are looking at types of facilities like that and they have completed that project. It was part of a work-study project of their 5th year students. This basically is as Louvenia said is no change in value but there is a change in extension of time from December 31st of this year to October 17th of 2014.

Mr. Wynns asked Don if when the reports have been completed would he present them to the Board. Don stated that he would be happy to share copies of these reports to the Board.

Chairman Williams asked if there were any other comments or questions from the Board. There were none.

Chairman Williams stated that he is looking forward to the golfing one in particular because what they are trying to do with Douglass and that particular area so. Don stated that he believes it will be a great story.

Chairman Williams stated that he believes we are done with all the new business and asked the Board members if they have anything they would like to comment on. Mr. Wynns stated that he had one thing to ask Don could have him give a report on the Capital Projects. Chairman Williams stated that as a matter of fact they had a capital project meeting today and we can do this as a presentation next month. Don stated, absolutely. Mr. Wynns stated that lots of people have asked for updates on what is going on in the parks and we don't have an update on all that so just an update would be great. Chairman Williams stated that as they wrap up 2013 and as you know 2014 is changing and a
moving target and we will give you an idea on what is planned and based on monies and budget as things move, but just things that have been done in 2013 and planned for 2014.

A motion was duly made by Mr. Wynns, seconded by Dr. Greenwood, and unanimously passed to approve Agenda Item #7A, 2012.

Adjournment

A motion was duly made by Mr. Wynns for adjournment, seconded by Dr. Greenwood, and unanimously passed to adjourn.

The next Board of Parks and Recreation meeting is scheduled for October 24, 2013 at 3:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Room 260 of the City-County Building, 200 East Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.

SUBMITTED:  

Louvenia Holstein, Board Secretary

APPROVED:

John W. Williams, Chairman
Board of Parks and Recreation

Date