



**ZIONSVILLE**  
PARKS & RECREATION

**Zionsville Board of Parks & Recreation**

**Meeting Minutes**

**For**

**Wednesday, February 8, 2022**

**At 7:00 P.M. EST**

**ONSITE MEETING**

**1100 West Oak Street**

In Attendance: John Stehr, President, Jill Pack, Vice President, John Salewicz, Sarah Moore, Kris Barksdale, Ryan Cambridge

Absent: Coralie Palmer

Staff attending: Amy Nooning, Attorney

**OPENING**

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

Nooning Today is Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> and this is our first meeting of this year and so I'm going to help us walk through some organizational matters and then I will turn it over to the President that you all will elect at that point. So the first thing that we're going to do is take attendance. John Stehr?

Stehr Here.

Nooning Jill Pack?

Pack Here.

Nooning Kris Barksdale?

Barksdale Here.

Nooning Sarah Moore?

Moore Here.

Nooning John Salewicz?

Salewicz Here.

Nooning Ryan Cambridge?

Cambridge Here.

Nooning And we do have a new member, Coralie Palmer, who is not here with us tonight.

Okay, our next order of business is that we are all going to, you are all going to, take an oath which I will administer. John and I have discussed this and John came to the conclusion that it is a good idea for everyone to do this on an annual basis. It formalizes your commitment to your roles as Parks Board members so this will become routine, part of the organizational matters in the first meeting of the year. So if you could all rise, we can do this at the same time. If you can raise your right hand please and just I'll say it and you can repeat after me.

I, then say your name –

All I, [everyone stated their name] –

Nooning Do solemnly swear –

All Do solemnly swear –

Nooning That I will support the Constitution of the United States –

All That I will support the Constitution of the United States –

Nooning And the State of Indiana –

All And the State of Indiana –

Nooning And that I will faithfully, –

All And that I will faithfully, –

Nooning Honestly and impartially –

All	Honestly and impartially –
Nooning	Discharge the duties of the office –
All	Discharge the duties of the office –
Nooning	Of Zionsville Park Board Member –
All	Of Zionsville Park Board Member –
Nooning	According to law –
All	According to law –
Nooning	And to the best of my skill and ability.
All	And to the best of my skill and ability.
Nooning	Okay, thank you all. I have an oath for each of you to sign so we'll make sure we do that tonight.

**Election of 2023 Officers**

Okay, our next order of business is the election of your officers for this year and we're going to start with the role of President. So, I will open the floor to nominations for President for 2023.

Pack	I would like to nominate John Stehr for President.
Nooning	Okay. Do we –
Salewicz	I second.
Nooning	We have a nomination for John Stehr and a second. Are there any other nominations? No? Okay, hearing none I'll close the nominations. We have a nomination for John Stehr as President and a second. All in favor say aye.
All	Aye.
Nooning	All opposed say nay. [No response]

Okay, motion passes. Congratulations.

Stehr All right, thank you. Thank you everybody for your confidence. I appreciate that. And I'll go ahead and take over here. The first thing that, that I'm going to do then is call for nominations for Vice President and I will go ahead and nominate Jill Pack as Vice President. Do we have a second?

Moore I'll second.

Stehr Was that Sarah? Sarah Moore seconds. Let's take a roll call vote on that. Sarah Moore?

Moore Aye.

Stehr John Salewicz?

Salewicz Aye.

Stehr Ryan Cambridge?

Cambridge Aye.

Stehr Kris Barksdale?

Barksdale Aye.

Stehr Jill Pack?

Pack Aye.

Stehr And I say aye as well so that passes unanimously. And now we have to take a nomination for Secretary. Do we have a nomination for Secretary?

Pack I nominate John Salewicz.

Stehr John Salewicz has been nominated. Do we have a second?

Barksdale I second.

Stehr Kris Barksdale seconds. Any other nominations? Let's go ahead and take a roll call vote. Jill Pack?

Pack Aye.

Stehr Sarah Moore?

Moore Aye.

Stehr Ryan Cambridge?

Cambridge Aye.

Stehr Kris Barksdale?

Barksdale Aye.

Stehr John Salewicz?

Salewicz Aye.

Stehr I say aye as well so that passes unanimously. So we have your Board of Officers for the year. Thank you very much everybody for your support. We appreciate that. I know that we, we all appreciate that.

Now, we do have a couple of new Board members this year. One of them is Coralie Palmer. She's been appointed by the Mayor and due to the fact that we moved the meeting this week, she has a pre-existing commitment to be out of town so she will be seated in February and we will get to know her a little bit. I think I sent you around a little information about her and, and her introduction. Our other new Board member appointed by the Town Council is Ryan Cambridge and you saw a little something from him today but since we're here in the public, we'll let Ryan take a minute and talk a little bit about why, himself and why he wants to be on the Park Board. Ryan –

Cambridge Okay, thank you. No, I appreciate the opportunity. I am, most importantly, a passionate advocate of landscape architecture in parks and how that applies to Zionsville and that's one of the reasons we moved here about, almost 5 years ago was we heard about Overley-Worman coming online and we were looking for a place to move and I said that'd be a great place to get invested. So, my background – I'm a landscape architect. I, I think I call myself more of a parks geek. Most of my work over the last 15 years or so in prior practice has been with municipal clients on helping them plan and leverage their parks and ecospace systems.

Stehr All right.

Cambridge So, happy to be here.

Stehr Nothing wrong with being a park geek. We're, we're happy that you're here. Thank you very much.

### **Approval of the January 18, 2022 Minutes**

All right, the next item on the agenda will be the approval of the December 14, 2022 minutes. Did everybody have a chance to take a look at the transcript of the minutes?

Salewicz Yes.

Stehr Anybody have any questions or concerns? All in favor of approving the minutes say aye.

All Aye.

Stehr All opposed?  
[No response]

Let the record show that the motion carries unanimously 6 to nothing.

### **Public Presentations/Comments**

All right, the next item on the agenda is Public Presentations and Comments and I know we have Tara in the, in the room tonight that would like to come up and make a comment. So come on up near the microphone please. And please, please say your name and address as you –

Welches Hi, I am Tara Welches and you said you wanted my address? Okay. I'm at 9216 Greenthread Lane. I am normally a secondary educator. I teach English and so something I do with my students often is we focus on research, data, analytic, facts, statistics and I come tonight before the Board as a concerned property owner that shares a property line with the trail as well as a very concerned member of the Town of Zionsville.

I heard about the trail widening project. When you listen to what they are telling about the trail widening, it sounds wonderful. It sounds so idealistic. How could anybody oppose something like this, right? That's what I thought too. It sounds perfect. And then when I heard about the trail

widening, of course, as a property owner that shares, I share about half an acre with the trail, I reached out to the Parks Department. I have spoken to Jarod several times over the last couple months and I was told and very comforted by where between about 875 and the roundabout on Mulberry and Ford Road, it's about 10 feet and we just need to expand that to 12 feet. We're going to repave and then we're going to add a, like a 1 to 2 foot buffer zone on the outside. So I was told you can expect about maybe 2 feet, maybe a hair over, max where this is going to be impacting vegetation and property. He said I can count on my hand how many trees are going to be taken out.

So about a week and a half ago when the property owners, both at The Preserve of Spring Knoll and Spring Knoll, saw these stakes placed we became concerned because we were noticing that this was anywhere from about 6, 6-1/2 feet to close to 10 feet outside on both sides of the trail so we're talking about 16, 20 feet total that would be coming out and we called, I called and I spoke to the Parks Department again and I say hey are where these stakes placed, is vegetation going to be removed? No, it's not going to be removed, it's totally, it's for a shell fence. Well then I saw the construction vehicles coming in and I called again and somebody came out because when I called again they said no things are not coming out to the stakes. We are not going that far outside of the trail. Great. Somebody came out. I've had wonderful experiences, very polite, professional experiences with everyone in the Parks Department. When he came out, it was around that time that bulldozers started driving down by my house and sure enough I could count in about a 10-foot space 8 trees that were taken out. Everything was taken out up to the stakes. Now for me it's concerning because that's, that's privacy. You can't see into our property in the summer and we've been assured that for every two trees that come out, or for every one there's going to be two pieces of vegetation. That sounds great as well but when I saw that bulldozing happening and I called and was, was told yes, that is where we are taking out too and fixing, my concern as both a property owner and as a member of the Town of Zionsville is we were either intentionally misled or this was ignorance. On both cases this is a problem for us because where are the funds being used here if this is what we're being told?

So right now, some questions I have, especially when it comes to data, analytic, facts – where was this done ahead of time? I know that this has been in the town project for 20 years. Just because something has been a plan for 20 years doesn't mean that it shouldn't change based on how people feel and what the needs of the community are. The other thing I'm hearing about this trail widening project is it's going to be a big trail. We

need to widen it because we're going to get more people. Where is your data, analytics, statistics? Where have you taken research to know that bottleneaking is such a problem?

One of my friends when he was in middle school in Portage, Indiana he said that his church volunteered at one of their local trail systems to get up and they tracked, like literally for hours at different points of the trail, to see what the impact would be because they were going to widen the trail system. Where has that been done for us to see if this is a need and a necessity? I know that it sounds great to widen it but at what cost? Where is the facts being told to us? Because then the other, the major concern with taking out that much vegetation is, it's going to be replaced. For every one, two is going in. You are taking out one of the most beautiful tree canopies along a trail system in Zionsville, Indiana. That is so wonderful for bikers, walkers, runners to have that beautiful shade between 875 and the roundabout. I have not heard one person – I, at first I was told when I saw the bulldozing happening it'll take about two years for this to grow in. Tonight, right before this meeting, I had, there was a HOA Board meeting with The Preserve of Spring Knoll, and Jarod came and spoke and he's like it'll be about three years. Where is our information that this is needed? What is the impact of this going to be? So right now as a property owner and a member of the Town of Zionsville, at least for this stretch between 875 and the roundabout, I ask that we just repave it 10 feet because I do not want to lose that beautiful tree canopy. I know there's invasive species. I keep hearing that thrown in as well. This is going to take out invasive species. I'm not against that but why use this project as a scapegoat for that as well to get away from what we were told originally the impact was going to be? At this point, my neighbors and I, and the Town of Zionsville, we don't have time to really start petitions and collect information. We've been trying but we are very upset and very angry about what is happening and so right now I stand before the Board and I ask for a, a pause in the widening and a permanent, just repaving of that area. And that's all I have to say.

Stehr

Thank you. Thank you, Tara, I appreciate that. Under our Old Business category we have this in the, in the agenda to talk about this tonight but because you're here and so you don't have to wait another hour to get to that point, we can bring this topic up now. Right Jarod? You can go ahead and do that? So, thank you Tara. Jarod, would you like to speak to what she said?



## **Rail Trail Widening Project**

Logsdon

Certainly and I just want to clear up any misinformation in communications. So, from the start of our communications about this project, it was stated that this would be a widening of the trail as well as a soft shoulder. So, we had mentioned that from that start that it would be widened to 12 as well as a 2-foot soft shoulder and that is a requirement of DNR in their Trail Guidelines to have that recovery zone. So, as cyclists lead toward the edge of pavement and crash bikes or runners have a conflict with a trail user, that area is required to recover from those incidents. We experienced that with Overley-Worman. It had to come with creative ways to add additional railing to fortify that portion of the trail where that shoulder wasn't possible due to the ledge. So, again, the, the trail was always going to be 12 feet with a 2-foot shoulder on each side and if you look through many portions of our trail today, that shoulder exists as well as is wider than 2 feet because most of our mowers are 36 to 48 inches and they do one swipe on each side to maintain. Those grasses keep back undesirables, weeds as well as insects and also just maintain those recovery zones. So that's, that's pretty common now.

Concerning the trees, there are a number of trees that'll be out with this project but the majority of those are scrub and now there are certainly some mature trees in there. I won't lie about that at all. But among those mature trees there are several that are ash that are dying due to the Emerald ash borer, several of them have been improperly mulched throughout their lifecycle so their roots are up towards the surface due to the volcano mulching that we've heard so much about so those are also experiencing the end of life and ultimately, as you walk this portion of the trail, you'll notice this portion in particular is the most impacted with upheavals as well as cracks in the pavement and that is because the existing trees are too close to where the paved surface is causing that conflict, causing those safety concerns and also removing the accessibility of the trail. So we're looking to solve multiple problems at once with this widening effort as well as creating a, a trail that can accept the users as we continue to grow as a community, doubling in our population as well as connecting to Whitestown, Lebanon and Thorntown and welcoming the users of all of those communities as well as anyone in the region that travels here to ride that 28-mile Rail Trail.

So, having the opportunity and the funds available to widen this now rather than simply paving and looking to widen in the future seems like the most fiscal and responsible use of our park system and our funds long

term so to only disturb this area once. Now on top of the hazard trees which have limbs over the, the trail which our team regularly addresses and the dying trees, as mentioned, there are an incredible amount of invasives within, within the clearing zones. So, each year we have our weed wrangles where we pick a park and with a group of volunteers remove as many invasives as we can, usually honeysuckle because that's the easiest to identify. Once those are removed, we do our due diligence in the following years to follow up with any spouts but we also replant those areas and allow the native species to return and that's exactly what we'll do with the Rail Trail planting native forbs and fescues as a, as a cover but then also working to implement native trees to, to improve that under canopy. So we, as stated, we are more than happy to work with our neighboring properties much like we are at Overley-Worman to make sure that the privacy that you have today is maintained and carried on after construction but certainly we have to get through the scars of construction to get to that end goal. So, this project was designed so that the project boundaries are as minimal as they can be to allow the equipment to go through and then, again, once the project is done, it'll be that 12-foot wide with those 2-foot soft shoulders on each side.

Stehr

This, this isn't the final word on that. We are going to meet with the HOA, the Spring Knoll HOA, and I understand it's a separate HOA with The Preserve, but we are going to meet with them on Sunday and, and talk through it with them as well. So, I, I just – it's important to me that you know that we hear you and we understand your concern and we have concerns as well that, that the trail is not safe in some areas. The, the pavement there has reached a point where it is overly mature and needs to be replaced and as Jarod mentioned, this is the time to make some changes that are going to make it better for the next 20 years. So, I do understand there's an impact but trees do grow and the new trees that we put in will grow and, and take the place. And I, and I would just suggest one thing too, right now when you go up there without leaves on the trees it, it looks different than it will in the spring. So we will do our due diligence and do, we'll do all we can to create a barrier there between the property, your property and the trail as, as best we can.

Welches

It's something I feel obligated to [redacted] 19:30 is I had heard [redacted] inaudible off microphone 19:32 presented to us about, especially the impact of this. If you are going to be using town funds, it is an obligation that you take the time to collect data, analytics, anything that you can to prove that this is necessary and needed, especially with the impact it's going to have on the most beautiful [redacted] 19:52 walker trail system. So I ask that in the future we are more careful.

Stehr Okay. Thank you and thank you for coming in tonight. I, I think when people are concerned and engaged it's always better for everybody so thank you for that. And we do look forward to having a discussion with the HOA on Sunday and hopefully coming to a place so we can all agree to move forward. So thank you, again, I appreciate that.

All right, anybody else have any comments, any public presentations?  
Jonah?

Jonah Brent Hartman.

Stehr I didn't hear. Pardon?

Moore Hartman.

Jonah Brent Hartman.

Moore Somebody online I think. Online?

Stehr Oh, online? Okay, sure. Okay. Brent Hartman. Brent, say hello and see if we can hear you. Is Brent a neighbor of yours, Tara?

Welches He is.

Stehr He is? Okay.

Welches He is very concerned about the legal applications.

Stehr Brent, can you count to 10 for us?

Hartman Good evening. Does that work?

Stehr Yes, we got you.

Hartman Thank you.

Stehr Please, please make sure you speak clearly.

Hartman Okay.

Stehr And can you give us your address please?

Hartman

Absolutely. My name is Brent Hartman. I live at 9407 Greenthread Lane and I live in Spring Knoll, property owner within the Property Owners Association as well and we attended a public forum on Parks presentation in the summer and saw shadowing where the trail would, would travel across the back of our land. Asked that the city reach out to us and explain how it's impacting us. That didn't occur. Because we'd made some other requests, we finally filed an open records request in November and Jarod has worked to fulfill that. That has some gaps in it yet to date and some of our anxiety is that and a lawyer looked at this in the last 24 hours, our HOA common area lays on part of the Rail Trail as it exists today. And like Tara, we think the Rail Trail has a lot of value to the community, offers a lot to homeowners in its current capacity. It does, however, create safety hazards for us as we see an increase of people traveling into our private property across HOA common area.

Jarod, through documents he sent us, has failed to show any right, ownership or easement agreement that exists that entitles Zionsville, as an organization, to take land from our HOA common area and we also think Cobblestone Lake has impact on this as well. The Parks and Rec Board, through Friends of the Trail, and the Parks Board have land available if they shifted further over without impacting platted HOA common area. So the lawyer looked at it and said the city has no right to increase their width of the trail without constituting a potential taking. There is a lot to be said that maintaining the existing pathway has some merit limiting some capacity going forward but as ownership is invested in the HOA, our Board has to maintain its integrity to the common area or it faces legal liability from homeowners because there's a legal process that would grant the easements, rights or usage of common area to other entities other than our community.

So, we, we're not lining up against the community, against the city adversarily. We want to come alongside. A statement Jarod just made scares me. "Let's get through the scars of construction" and then kind of figure this out. We believe that there exists no right of ownership to the land that part of the Rail Trail lies on the following needs to occur: Any, any action on our platted land should cease. The, we should identify the exact amount of land is being compromised by the current trail and how it impacts Cobblestone Lake. We believe a legal document should be drafted providing for a viable trail that protects the community, the city's rights and the long-term rights because this is a forever agreement. We believe that it, this is in the benefit of the city and city legals and, these are my personal opinions and several neighbors' opinions, that, again, we believe we can come along the side of the city but we also believe the increased

exposure to traffic could have a diminishing effect on some homeowner values while improving others.

The basis is this, unless Jarod can exhibit as he has not yet been able to do so, that the city has any claim to take any common area land, this needs to be taken into serious consideration to avoid legal consequences but how do we get the attention and response because our, our emails have gone radio silent. We understand there's a Board involved. We have a right as a citizen as to how this is moving forward. And, I, I mean this very respectfully. We see a path forward. We would prefer these conversations occur now with transparency and I know they'll start on Sunday night but we see bigger trucks traveling at higher rates of speed, construction trucks parking in the roadway on dangerous curves and we're increasing the danger to the community. The HOA has kids and playsets and trampolines within 15 or 20 feet of the Rail Trail with dump trucks traveling at increasing rates of speed and we're only at the beginning of what now sounds like a two- or three-year process. Let's pause, let's respect the community and our common area so we don't have to fight as a Board within ourselves and that we establish ownership, come up with easements that reach mutual goals and satisfactions with respect for all. And I want to thank you very much for listening to me and, again, I don't mean this adversarial, we are very, very concerned citizens. We understand how we got here. How do we move forward? Thank you.

Stehr Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Brent. Appreciate that. You have anything you want to say Jarod?

Logsdon Yeah, I'd just like to say Brent you have been exceptionally cordial and, and nice even though we are on different sides of this issue so I do appreciate that. We have provided documentation to our right to continue to maintain the trail as we have for the past 20 years and we feel we've satisfied the, the public records request and we'll continue to have conversations with the HOA specifically in those areas as we intend to on Sunday so and in abundance of a concern to this issue, we did pause the Rail Trail project within these common spaces until we could have those conversations this Sunday. So, we most certainly are hoping to come to a win-win for all neighbors as well as the, the community as a whole.

Stehr Okay.

Hartman May I say another word?

Stehr Briefly.

Hartman                    Absolutely. I dispute what Jarod just said. Jarod produced a letter of intent that was satisfied with the donation of Carter Park. Jarod has not proved a document that states they have a right to the common area behind my property. Jarod, and I dispute that respectfully and it is a legal dispute at this point but in the light of a legal dispute that I feel you have failed to satisfy, the city needs to take appropriate action. Show the counsel, show the Board that document that says you have a right to that plat. I'm asking for that now based on your statement, Jarod, and, again, this is business. It's not personal.

Logsdon                    I understand that. Thank you Brent.

Stehr                        All right, thank you Brent. I understand that too and I, I've seen all the email traffic on this and I, that's something that we're all working through. So we'll do our best to work through all of that and hopefully by this weekend we will have some clarity on that. Anyone else have any public comments? All right, then we'll move on.

### **Parks Foundation Update**

The next item on the agenda is a Foundation, Parks Foundation Update and our liaison to the Parks Foundation is Jill Pack. Jill –

Pack                         Thank you. There's not a lot going on. I can report that they had a very successful year-end fundraising session where I mentioned at the last meeting an anonymous donor had volunteered to a 1:1 match up to \$20,000 for any contributions received before December 31<sup>st</sup> and they met their goal of raising \$20,000 to get the full \$20,000 match which is awesome. A good way for them to end the year. Other than that, they're working through their, their strategic plan, their strategic plan and they're, I think, about halfway through getting that done so it should be completed hopefully by March –

Stehr                        Okay.

Pack                         And then they'll have a good vision of where they're headed moving forward.

Stehr                        Okay. Does anybody have any questions or comments? All right, I will point out that we also next month will hear a, a report from Sarah on the Pathways Committee and what the Pathways Committee is doing and one thing that I would say is that we've, we've had some discussions with the

Pathways Committee about sort of trying to activate them more this year and, and do more with them and perhaps they can come to us and make presentations for funding. The Pathways Committee I want to be very clear is not an, an arm of the Parks Board. It's an arm of the town so we don't own what the Pathways Committee does but I think that to the benefit of the Pathways Committee and the Parks Department, we can work together and I hope that 2023 will be the beginning of a, an opportunity for that, that relationship to, to come into a more full flower and that we can help each other and do things for the people of Zionsville. So, next month we'll hear from you, Sarah –

Moore All right.

Stehr On that. So thank you for being the liaison to the Pathways Committee.

### **Staff Reports**

All right, next item on the agenda, we're going to get into Staff Reports and Jarod is already at the podium so we'll just go ahead with our Superintendent, Jarod Logsdon.

Logsdon Just two quick updates from the staff report. Just wanted to thank all of our sponsors, our staff and community for coming out to Winterfest. We had a great month out there at Mulberry Fields as it transformed into an ice-skating rink and community presentations, so we really enjoyed that. We're still having some numbers come in so the full financials will probably be next month during the Park Board meeting but we do have some preliminary data to share later.

The second item is the 5-Year Master Plan. I just wanted to let you know that it has been submitted to the DNR for initial review so, upon their comments, we'll receive that back and then it'll be before this Board, the Plan Commission and then ultimately the Town Council for adoption. That is all from the Superintendent report.

Stehr Anybody have any questions or concerns? All right, let's move on. Let's move on then. Director of Maintenance Services, Chris Flanagan.

Flanagan Good evening. Alrighty, so for the month of December, unfortunately, we had to terminate the employment of our Natural Resources Technician, Mallary Pflum. That was effective December 30<sup>th</sup>. For that month we had 79-1/4 combined hours of administrative leave and unpaid time off, we had just over 50 hours of overtime attributed to the winter storm that we

had over that holiday weekend and we had 123-1/2 of town emergency COVID hours used as three members of our staff including myself came down with COVID. We had 0 instances of graffiti for the month and some general, general topics – the Maintenance Techs did come in and work overtime during that town ordinance snow clearing. We were here for about half the day clearing sidewalks in some of the parks, along the bridge on Zionsville Road, etc. Our Natural Resources Technician worked alongside EcoLogic for the beginning of the pollinator prairie at the golf course. Along the Rail Trail, we cleared fallen trees that had happened due to the storm and restored the bollard at the Nancy Burton corridor. At Heritage Trail –

Stehr Can, can you just take a – what, what’s a bollard again? Can you explain?

Flanagan Bollard B-O-L-L-A-R-D. It’s the, the yellow traffic stops that you see. The one at Nancy Burton is one that you can raise and lower and it had been lowered for a while and we went ahead and restored that.

Stehr Right, okay.

Flanagan We had to do some minor maintenance to it in that it ended up it had been down for so long.

Stehr Thank you.

Flanagan At Heritage Trail at the dog park, maintenance crews repaired a portion of the southern fence and laid down gravel to help prevent smaller dogs from digging out and escaping. At Lincoln Park, technicians decorated the gazebo for the holiday season and at Mulberry Fields, of course, Winterfest construction was through most of November and that construction was completed on December 9<sup>th</sup> in time for the grand opening. And, of course, technicians maintained the pathways, trash cleanup, the Zamboni shelter, restroom trailers and portable heaters for Winterfest. And at Turkeyfoot there were more damaged boards along the northern portion of the bridge, which our technician, Gordon, replaced himself. He did a very good job also. That’s all we have for December.

Stehr And that’s a, a moist area right? So that’s why the –

Flanagan Yeah.

Stehr The wood just takes a beating from being--



Flanagan At Turkeyfoot you mean?

Stehr Yes.

Flanagan Oh yeah, it's right over the creek there. Lots of vegetation and the area gets very, very humid. This is twice this year we've had to replace boards along that northern section of that bridge.

Stehr Okay. Have we ever had to, have we had the inspection yet on those bridges? Jarod, you want to speak to that?

Logsdon We did have a construction engineer out last season and took a look at it confirming that it is still safe and we did propose outsourcing those inspections for the following years but after speaking with the Board, we're going to move that with DPW and plan that for their year this year.

Stehr Okay. Anybody have any questions for Chris or comments for Chris? No? All right. Thank you, Chris. Appreciate it. All right, the Director of Recreation Services, Mindy Murdock. And what a busy month she's had.

Murdock Oh yeah.

Stehr Always though, right?

Murdock Always a busy month, that's right. So December was, of course, Winterfest so that spent the majority of our time – not just myself and Wendy, our Rec Coordinator, but also the Naturalist staff was pulled in and we also did add some seasonal staff. So just a few highlights on some of the programs that went on – we did our first ever Frozen Fête here at Town Hall which if you didn't there were a lot of, we had some nice, beautiful pictures done by a professional photographer so those were shared and I'm sure they'll pop up again and again in future things but almost 230 people attended that. Everyone had a lot of fun. It's something that we're looking at every other year of potentially offering that kind of princess ball going on.

A few other things that happened during Winterfest, luminaries continue to be very popular so we held a luminary walk at Elm Street Green before Winterfest as kind of a prequel of what to come and then did our other luminary actually at Maplelawn Farmstead. So we lit up the farmstead with the luminaries. So both of those had almost 90 people show up. We are doing another luminary walk in February right around the time of Valentines' Day if anyone's looking for something to do.

A few other things – we did our first ever – we do winter break camps with the Nature Center which we did two of those this year but kind of mixed things up. We did our first ever winter break camp at Winterfest where the kids had an opportunity to do various different like ice experiments, made their own ice cream and they also got to ice skate. So it was very popular, very well attended and we'll be doing that again in the future. A lot of the kids liked that one. We also had, of course, our reindeer back and our Maker's Market. That was probably the busiest day that we had at Winterfest and what I've heard back from the vendors, they really enjoyed themselves so we're hoping to bring that around to the other seasons.

And just one other thing, so we did wrap up our second year of Magical Park right before Winterfest kicked off and I will say that it was a little upsetting to see how quickly the numbers dropped from something that we offered last year as kind of a novel experience, had a lot of attendance. Whether it was just the weather just didn't cooperate – we had to cancel a few programs because of weather or just that that kind of novel ideal has worn off. For the entire three months, we only had about 178 participants whereas last year when we offered it for the first time we had 560. So it's something that we probably will not be bringing back for next year but maybe something to evaluate in the future so. There's a few other kind of augmented reality-type programs so there's a few we've been looking at. There's one that the National Park Service actually utilizes. That might be a potential idea for Carpenter Nature Preserve if that would come online. So –

Stehr

Great.

Moore

I, I have a question –

Murdock

Yeah –

Moore

So I think last year with the Magical Park I saw it was like the front page of The Current, I think –

Murdock

Yes.

Moore

Which I'm thinking was some of it because I didn't even know it was going on until it had been going on for a while even. Have you thought about maybe like a different time of the year or something and, and trying

to make a big – I know you put it in all of the, materials that you put out but –

Murdock                      Yeah –

Moore                         The Current is like something –

Murdock                      It, it's hard to say why. I know last year it seemed to get more news featuring but I did, I mean it was picked up. It was in the Lebanon Reporter. I did notice it in like, I think, Indy's Child and things of that sort.

Moore                         Yeah –

Murdock                      I'm not sure why this year because we really only shifted it a month –

Moore                         Uh huh –

Murdock                      And why it –

Moore                         Yeah.

Murdock                      Just, it was one thing if it would've been a slight decrease but it was more than half of a decrease so –

Moore                         Yeah, it's just such a neat program.

Murdock                      It is a very cool thing. So, like I said, we're not against like hey we're never going to do this again –

Moore                         Yeah.

Murdock                      But, I figure, take a break and maybe evaluate or look at a different opportunity so.

Stehr                         Okay. Anybody else?

Murdock                      That's what I have for December unless you have any questions.

Stehr                         I guess we're good.

Murdock                      All right.

Stehr Thank you, Mindy.

Murdock Yeah.

Stehr All right, Mike Wall is in the house, our Golf Course Manager, to talk about the golf course. Not many rounds played in the last month but we do have an end-of-the-year update and some other things looking ahead for next year. Mike –

Wall Yeah, not many rounds played in December.

Stehr No.

Wall Not even people sledding in December because of no snow so. Yeah, so, actually last month you guys approved the two green or two mowers so here in early January I actually submitted the or executed that so those are on order so that's our big news. We have the greens mower arriving here in June or July and the rough mower coming in when it dries out. Season passes for 2023 are coming in, starting to trickle in. We've got about 10 or 12 already ordered but this is about the time where people start thinking about when are we going to open so I've got another email blast through our POS system going out at the end of this week so, we'll, now that we're going to open March 15<sup>th</sup> thereabouts, people will start thinking about season passes so we'll have season passes trickle on in.

Stehr So last year conditions existed that kept us from opening on time –

Wall Uh huh –

Stehr Do we have any reason to believe that any conditions will exist this year that will keep us from opening on time?

Wall No. Like I said, probably the target date would be around March 15<sup>th</sup> which is a Wednesday so, yeah, that's kind of like my target date –

Stehr Right.

Wall Looking at forecasts right now, it looks pretty good so –

Stehr Okay.

Wall Yeah, that's what I'm targeting.

Stehr Anybody have any questions or comments for Mike? No? Okay, great.

Wall Yeah.

Stehr Thank you, Mike. Appreciate it.

Wall Thank you.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Eagle Creek Restoration Study – DNR LARE Grant Application 2023**

Stehr All right, now we're going to move on to New Business. The Eagle Creek Restoration Study and DNR LARE Grant Application for 2023. Jarod –

Logsdon Amy, did you have anything to?

Nooning I don't really. All of the matters that I would comment on –

Stehr Oh, sorry.

Nooning Are in New Business so.

Stehr Okay.

Nooning Yeah.

Stehr Sorry, I didn't mean to skip you there but I knew you had some things coming up later.

Nooning Yes, I do. Yeah, thanks.

Logsdon All right, as you, as you're aware, in 2022 the Department was awarded a DNR LARE Grant. So this is the lakes and river enhancement grant program to the DNR which the Department for the past decade has been working alongside to improve stretches of Eagle Creek as they pertain to Starkey Park. Four projects were identified in the previous study from 2013 and two of those had been acted on and so after speaking with the DNR Grant Administrator as well as an advisory consultant, it was best recommended that due to the past decade of change in Eagle Creek that we update our study. So our 2022 LARE Gant application was to do that. The change to the 2013 study was that we can now look at Overley-Worman Park since we were the property owners and identify any concerns as far as large amounts of erosion or disturbance from the

hydrology of Eagle Creek. So with the help of Cardno, who is now Stantec, for the past year they have been analyzing the soils and hydrology as well as the noticeable erosion along Eagle Creek. Looking at our previous study as well as proposing new sites to improve the flow of Eagle Creek as well as reduce the erosion and sediment because ultimately that is our parks being washed away along those shores. So, these projects as they improve the stream, they're not only going to fortify our parks so we don't lose trails and other things to erosion but also ultimately affect the quality of the drinking water in Zionsville as the sediment load is reduced and, and these projects reduce those sediment loads in the hundreds of tons annually. So, large improvements we can make along our, our boundaries of our parks to make huge impacts for the community.

So with the 2022 study, there were six project sites identified. That was from a larger list that was scaled back to focus on these sites. As you can see in the pictures if you squint and maybe a little bit more visible online, you can see the undercutting of our shores, pretty egregious in some areas but just a slight cut in others so all of these project sites were looked at and then utilizing the soils and the hydrology, our consultant identified treatments for these areas utilizing natural materials to improve the hydrology and essentially allow Eagle Creek to go where it wants to go without losing more park land.

So I'll attempt to read through these, the seven, the six project sites that were identified as well as their cost estimates that you can see on the side. So approximately 90 linear feet of bank grading at a 2:1 slope would be the corrective treatment to site 1 and all of these projects would have native seeding and erosion control placed along with the improvements recommended.

Site 3 is to install stream barbs which keyed into stone for extending 250 linear feet bank grading for, again, a 2:1 slope. Native seeding, live stake planting and the erosion control blanketing on that project site.

Site 4 would be stream barbs again, and we're going to talk about what those are in the next slide, with a stone toe extending 90 linear feet into the stream with bank grading at the 2:1 vertical slope, native planting and erosion control.

Site 5 was clearing of selected trees within 275 linear feet of the bank and grading at that 2:1 slope, restoring native seeding, live stake planting as well as that erosion control blanket. The existing riffle at this location will be enhanced with riprap.

Site 6 stream barbs keyed into a stone toe extending 400 linear feet into the bank, into the stream with bank grading at a 2:1 slope, native seeding, live stake plantings and the erosion control blankets as well. The stone toe will be supplemented with stone wood in the select areas as materials are available onsite. So, again, using what we find around there to improve the stream as it naturally might in the wild.

Site 7 the J-hook structures keyed into a stone toe extending 600 linear feet into the steam, bank grading at that 2:1 slope, native seeds, native seeding, live stake planting and the erosion control blanket. Stone toe will be supplemented with toe wood in select areas as materials are available.

So as you look at this slide, you can see kind of what those barbs are on the left of the screen. So those would extend out into Eagle Creek similar, similar but different to the J-hooks that are, that you'll see as you walk Starkey now and ultimately these are the armor that's going to protect that undercut that's happening at that curve. So, again, allowing the stream, allowing the creek to continue to flow but in a more proper manner as the hydrology suggests and allowing to reduce that erosion and that sediment that ultimately continues downstream. On the right, you'll notice that is the stone toe so, again, that slope change of the bank and then fortifying, essentially armoring that undercut so that it is the stones taking the beating from the current rather than our soft soils.

So, from the recommendation of the study which will be posted online on the Parks Department website soon, the recommendation was to begin at the north end of all these project sites and work our way down which makes sense because as we change things upstream, it's ultimately going to change things downstream. So it is my recommendation that we pursue sites 1 and 3 and bundle those together for our 2023 LARE Grant Application. So the LARE Grant program is fantastic for our local funds. It is an 80/20 match which is one of the highest ratios we've experienced with our grant programs. Usually they're more around 50/50 so, bundling these two projects as well as construction administration, the grand total would be \$90,050 so with that 80/20 split, that would be approximately \$72,040 from reimbursement and \$18,010 from local funds. So, with your consideration, I would suggest that we apply to the 2023 LARE Grant Program to continue this improvement along Eagle Creek utilizing \$18,010 from our Park Improvement Fund of our '23 allocation and upon award of the grant, request an additional appropriation for the \$72,040 which would then be reimbursed at the end of the fiscal year as the project

wraps up. Happy to answer any questions. I'll go back to that first slide showing that sites 1 and 3 there at the north.

- Cambridge                   And somebody who I actually live, my house is very close to where the Overley-Worman Park arrow is pointing and I spend probably an hour or two hours a day every day either in Overley-Worman and Starkey with my dog walking up and down the creek and when you look carefully, especially through a technical eye, the issues that you're referencing are very visible and I would be in full support of doing whatever we can to minimize any future damage, especially as it pertains not just to the creek but the creek eroding into the adjacent properties.
- Stehr                           Anybody else have any questions or comments?
- Salewicz                    So with the grant it'll be paid for? That first section if we get the grant?
- Logsdon                    If we get the grant that would be sites 1 and 3. It would be a local match of \$18,000, I think it was \$10, and then the DNR reimbursement would be that \$72,040.
- Stehr                        But we only get the reimbursement after the job is done.
- Logsdon                    Correct. That's why we would request an additional appropriation to have those funds available and then –
- Stehr                        So what is the likelihood that we will get that grant?
- Logsdon                    We have been successful, I think, just about every year that we've applied and, again, this goes back to 2013. So the, the state has a focus on this watershed and improving it and we've been a good faith partner for over a decade now.
- Stehr                        Okay. Yeah. I don't think there's any question that there is damage there and we don't want that to go any further and it, it's also become an important recreation spot where people go in there and wade in the water too so we do want to do what we can to preserve that. Does anybody have any questions, any further questions?
- Barksdale                   Is the idea that the other sites would happen not in 2023 but in the future?
- Logsdon                    Yeah, so we would apply every year with, with the Board approval and just try to knock out these projects and then we have seven other parks on



Eagle Creek that we could take a look at and see if we need to move these types of activities there.

- Stehr Okay. So, Amy, what kind of resolution do we need here?
- Nooning I think you could just vote to authorize Jarod to move forward with submitting the grant application.
- Stehr Okay. Does anybody, would anybody like to make that motion?
- Moore I'll, I'll make the motion.
- Stehr Okay, Sarah Moore makes the, Sarah Moore makes the motion to give Jarod the go ahead to apply for the LARE Grant.
- Moore To apply for the LARE Grant, yes.
- Stehr Okay, great. Do we have a second?
- Cambridge Second.
- Stehr Ryan Cambridge seconds. All right, any other comments? Let's take a vote. Jill Pack?
- Pack Aye.
- Stehr John Salewicz?
- Salewicz Aye.
- Stehr Sarah Moore?
- Moore Aye.
- Stehr Ryan Cambridge?
- Cambridge Aye.
- Stehr Kris Barksdale?
- Barksdale Aye.

Stehr And I say aye as well making it a unanimous 6 to nothing vote. All right, thank you, Jarod.

### **REMC Utility Easement**

The REMC Utility Easement –

Logsdon So earlier, well, last year, REMC approached the Parks Department as we were beginning to plan out and execute the northern expansion that they would like to approach us for allowing them to run fiber along the Rail Trail to complete their loop within Zionsville. So, running utilities along trails is pretty common. We have sewer that runs within our existing Rail Trail. We just approved an Everstream crossing of the Rail Trail to get to the, the school previously last year so this is incredibly common and we're not looking to become compensated for this outside of costs of any legal fees and filings but certainly being a good partner with REMC and in return they have offered to expend their, expand their public Wi-Fi program to Mulberry Fields so, similarly, how Heritage Trail Park currently has public free WiFi, Mulberry Fields would have that as well.

Stehr So we're not asking for any compensation here, what we're saying though is that they just need to return it to the condition it was in before they started if they exercise their easement?

Logsdon Absolutely and this would grant them permission to access it in the future for maintenance and upkeep as well. So understanding that responsibility but this is outside of our trail. We don't see any conflict and they have done their due diligence to ensure that there's no other easements and we, we will get that in writing shortly before signing this easement.

Stehr Amy, would you like to weigh in on anything here?

Nooning Sure, yes, I think Jarod summarized it well. We've been in communication with them for several months and they hired an engineering firm to create a good legal description and a map of the area that they're seeking and, as Jarod said, they are affirming to us that they've done their due diligence to ensure that they're not going to run into any other easements that are there. This is a non-exclusive easement so that doesn't mean that they have, it does not convey to them exclusive rights to be in this area. It's a non-exclusive easement in case we need to put anything there in the future that wouldn't interfere with their infrastructure.

Stehr Okay.

Nooning And then procedurally tonight, we have a resolution in front of you to consider to authorize John to execute the easement document. Both the resolution and the easement document are in your packet so this would be Resolution 2023-1, A Resolution Authorizing the Conveyance of an Easement and so if you are so inclined, you could entertain a motion to approve.

Stehr Okay. Would anyone like to make a motion to approve?

Salewicz One thing I wanted, one thing I noticed was on, on the, the map in there it showed it was a gravel trail and obviously it's going to be a paved trail. So, obviously if there's disruption on, it's going to be paved and I want to make sure they, if they do any disruption it'll go back to paved, so.

Logsdon Absolutely.

Salewicz I just, it, it shows gravel so I just was, I don't know if anything needs to be done to highlight that or note that or just, just a thought I, I mean –

Logsdon Absolutely, that's a good catch. I imagine they were drafting that when it was just stone –

Salewicz Yes.

Logsdon Before we paved. Does the language within it mention returning the, the site afterward?

Nooning It does, yes, yes. They are required by the terms of the easement document itself to restore the site to its condition, its original condition, whatever condition it's in now. But I think that they probably would, since we're going to wait a little bit, Jarod, until we get that confirmation –

Logsdon Uh huh –

Nooning In writing about the due diligence to sign this. I think we could ask them to update their Exhibit B to show that it's a paved trail now.

Logsdon I think that's fair, yep.

Nooning I think that yeah, that we clarify that.

Stehr Any other concerns or questions? Anybody like to make a motion that we go ahead and approve the agreement and sign the easement?

Salewicz I'll make the motion to grant REMC the –

Stehr Easement.

Salewicz Easement, yeah. Sorry, I went blank.

Stehr Okay, do we have a second?

Cambridge Second.

Stehr Ryan or John Salewicz makes a motion, Ryan Cambridge seconds. Now let's take a roll call vote. Jill Pack?

Pack Aye.

Stehr John Salewicz?

Salewicz Aye.

Stehr Sarah Moore?

Moore Aye.

Stehr Ryan Cambridge?

Cambridge Aye.

Stehr Kris Barksdale?

Barksdale Aye.

Stehr I say aye as well, 6 to nothing on that too. All right, thank you. And don't forget we need to sign that before we leave tonight. We gotta a lot of stuff to sign tonight before we leave so let's make sure we don't run out of here.

## **Year in Review 2022**

All right, next on the agenda is the Year-End Review 2022.

Logsdon Thank you. So, we'll just do a quick review of all the accomplishments this Department has had over the past year. So as we began the year, the departmental vision for the Zionsville Parks & Recreation Department was that everyone plays. So, this is a, a comprehensive vision for both our parks and our recreation. Our maintenance team was tasked with finding solutions to accessibility barriers as well as creating conditions that were conducive and allowed for everyone to play out in our parks and the same challenge was presented to programming as they expanded their program offerings to ensure that all ages, all abilities and all cognitive understanding were supported in our programming plan. So I'm happy to say that we certainly checked that box with our expanded programming providing more programs than there are days in the year, and we'll get to that in just a little bit, as well as the improvements we made around our park system. So we'll talk about that more here. From that central vision of everyone plays, we used that lens to craft the four pillars of our 2022 year and that was to plan, develop, conserve and adapt the way we do things in the Parks & Recreation Department. Is the presentation showing up on the screens?

Pack No.

Salewicz It is not.

Logsdon Okay, well let's just fix that before we go any further. Technical difficulties – one moment please.

Salewicz There ya are.

Logsdon There we go, all right. So we'll just go back one slide. So the four pillars of 2022 were to Plan, Develop, Conserve and Adapt utilizing that lens of everyone plays. So in 2022 our plans consisted of the Carpenter Nature Preserve Master Plan, the Zionsville Parks Department 5-Year Master Plan as well as the first steps into our Urban Forestry Management Plan. So as you all have been a part of the process, the Carpenter Nature Preserve drafted a new visioning for the former Wolf Run Golf Course – 215 acres in Union Township within Zionsville. We were fortunate to have the opportunity to partner with the Carpenters on this process as well as invite public opinion as we drafted what that site could be as a future public park. Among the components were a series of restoration efforts to reestablish those native populations, an accessible trail loop as well as rustic trails, nature playgrounds for future programming and the ultimate vision of a permanent Nature Center in the future for the site. We'll have more about the Carpenter Nature Preserve later in the agenda.

Later in the year we started our 5-Year Master Plan and every five years this is an opportunity for the park system to reengage with community and identify their top priorities and their wants and then come up with a comprehensive plan to fund those capital improvements while still looking at the existing park system and improving that alongside. Beyond that traditional scope of a 5-Year Master Plan, we also looked at an ADA Accessibility Audit so this was a complete deep dive into the accessibility of our park system, providing an actionable plan that our maintenance team will begin to tackle in the coming years as we move towards an accessible park system as well as providing detail for future capital investments to make those improvements.

We also implemented a staffing plan to not only look at Zionsville Parks as we continue to add park land and amenities, but also look at the region and the national standards for staffing to see where we fall in that umbrella and what plans we should make towards investment in our personnel to keep up with the demands and services of our park system.

We also incorporated an impact fee utilization strategy so this document will assist with the implementation of impact fees for these capital improvements. This fund has historically gone under utilized so we are prioritizing its use first to assist with future development of our park system.

And finally, the land acquisition plan. So, we have the unique opportunity to not only look at our park system today but what it could become in the next 50 or 100 years so, the thing about natural habitats is you can't create new ones. So once they're gone, they're kind of gone. We can certainly try to replicate and restore things but that true, organic history of natural spaces is lost to development all too often. So, we wanted to take a comprehensive look at Union and Perry Townships and just identify where it makes sense for us to focus our strategies in the future working with landowners, working with developers to ensure that we have an equitable green park system throughout all of Zionsville in the future.

And finally, our urban tree canopy inventory was the first step in an urban forestry management plan so, Mathias of Indiana, Indiana University along with the IU climate cohorts conducted a GIS inventory of the tree canopy of Zionsville. I'm happy to say that the majority of our parks are a low priority for planting because we have so many trees in our park system so that's a great salute to the habitats we maintain and preserve in our park system but this map will help guide initiatives, future grant

applications for restoring the urban canopy within Zionsville as well as identifying hot spots so we can truly make change in Zionsville on, on a molecular level that adds up.

Moving on to Development, we had three goals within development and that is to complete the Zionsville Big 4 Rail Trail, infuse arts in our park system and invite new users that may participate in those expressions rather than nature or recreation and also adding new recreational amenities including our pickleball courts.

So beginning at the southern end of our Rail Trail, the Southern Rail Trail Expansion wrapped up over this year so, again, that is a 15-foot accessible trail that now extends from the Starkey Avenue down to the Vonterra subdivision and ultimately Zionsville Road; so allowing for that shoulder for runners that prefer soft ground as well as the accessible pathway that can accommodate strollers, dogs, cyclists and our growing community.

Next we pivoted to the Northern Rail Expansion. This project began in July and is wrapping up. There's just a small portion that remains to be paved near Heritage Trail Park. Along with the Northern Rail Trail Expansion, we had the opportunity to plant 69 new trees so one day we will have a more complete canopy in an area that historically had been for agriculture and without trees so, certainly we can look at what species can thrive in between those plantings and establish a, a more holistic corridor.

And back down to the south end, we are working on the Zionsville Trailhead. This will be the first trailhead facility with a year-round flush restroom as well as 25 parking spaces and ultimately will serve as the gateway as residents, non-residents and regional recreational enthusiasts come to Zionsville to begin their journey on the 28-mile plus Rail Trail corridor.

And as was mentioned earlier tonight, we are beginning the Rail Trail Widening and that will be in two phases. So the first phase is from 875 down to Mulberry tunnel and then once that is complete, we will double back and complete the last segment of Rail Trail at which, when this project is done, we will have a complete Rail Trail that is easier to maintain as it is uniform and we'll be set for success for the next 15 years and beyond.

And our next priority within Development was to infuse public art into our park system. So, our tunnels frequently were the subject of our local artists on a smaller scale leaving their tags and their unwanted graffiti but,

fortunately, through a conversation and donation from the Community Foundation of Boone County, two muralists were hired to create just fantastic murals in our two tunnels that truly express Zionsville and its history as well as its current park system. So, the first is the Dahlia tunnel which reflects the history of the dahlia in Zionsville with a commemorative plaque and the second is the log tunnel. So, embracing the natural ecology of this region of Indiana. So very happy to have those in our park system and thank you again to the Community Foundation of Boone County for that generous gift.

But our park system didn't sit idle for infusing arts into our system in other ways. Program staff developed a focus in new artistic programming to offer to all ages and all abilities. The Life of Lincoln event was held at Lincoln Park where a Lincoln impersonator gave a speech and there was also public performances. The Arts in the Park was a new addition to our park system providing various forms of artistic expression, drum circles, open mic night, martial arts, I'm teaching that to a new user group, and then we also created our own temporary murals with the, the butterfly trail which was the idea of our Director of Recreation Services, Mindy. Eight pair of butterfly wings were painted by local artists and placed around the park system providing a fun thing to do throughout the summer for families and, and art enthusiasts.

Moving on to our next pillar was to Conserve. So this year was the first year we had the dedicated Natural Resource Technician. This position primarily focuses on the ecology and the, the health of our park system rather than traditionally focusing on the amenities and the maintenance of our park facilities. So we were happy to have a very successful season of multiple weed wrangles and restoration work throughout our park system. We also expanded recycling and green initiatives in our park system. As you just saw, completed the Eagle Creek erosion improvement study as well as had various edge habitat restoration efforts. So this slide is representation of knocking back invasive species within our Starkey prairie, allowing for seed collection of the natives as well as replanting in the future.

Speaking of replanting, we had a very successful year with reforestation. Over 3,438 trees were planted in our park system. Areas improved include Turkeyfoot Park, Creekside Nature Preserve, Overley-Worman Park and the memorial tree program which was sprinkled throughout our park system. So just a fantastic year. The, the trees in this photo were a donation from the Cub Scouts and their continued maintenance is a partnership between our Natural Resource Technician position as well as



the Scouts coming out and watering those trees which we dig up and plant once restoration work has happened. So looking to continue to improve that tree farm as we continue to expand our urban canopy.

We held our first Greenfest event. So this was the celebration of innovations and green technologies, recycling, reduction as well as composing. We're looking forward to hosting this again at Town Hall, inviting speakers, vendors as well as the community to come out and enjoy a day in April while we all kind of focus on Earth Day, Arbor Day and kind of what we should all be focusing on every day of the year.

As mentioned, the Eagle Creek Stream Restoration project was complete. Consultants reviewed the projects from the previous study as well as proposed new studies as we mentioned earlier.

And through a partnership with the Zionsville Parks Foundation through the grant from the Duke Energy Foundation, two areas of the Zionsville Golf Course were improved with pollinator species. These two areas are out of play and once established will require less maintenance so we're not inviting our park or our golf course maintenance to stand on that hill near the roadside and have to mow with a string trimmer at a large angle which is not enjoyed. The hope is to continue to expand that project along those, those edges further reducing the maintenance requirements of that, that ditch essentially and providing useful habitat for our pollinator species.

And the final pillar was to Adapt the way we do things. So, our goals were to improve accessibility, provide equitable programming and to expand our programming. So one of our first accomplishments due to the implementation of an Eagle Scout project, was the accessible gardens. So volunteers came out and built these raised gardens on our accessible concrete pad which was poured with the assistance of the Department of Public Works. So next season, this season 2023, will be the first year these will be offered to the community. So those with mobility issues can utilize these spaces. We've heard a lot from our gardeners and they would like to see these pop up at Elm Street Green as well as just a couple more offered, maybe not even fully accessible but just something where our residents don't have to bend down quite as far when they're gardening for those with other types of mobility issues so we will certainly explore that in the future.

And to expand our programming and, and continue to offer equitable opportunities, the Zionsville Parks & Recreation Programming Division offers a series of free programs throughout the year but also there are

some that are fee-based as we continue to develop our cost recovery model for our programming fund. Through partners in the community, we were able to offer sponsorships to our programs which helped subsidize the programs for participants as well as allow our local funds to go further and provide more recreational opportunities. Through a partnership with the Zionsville Parks Foundation, we were able to implement the summer camp scholarships. Summer camps are our most expensive program of the year but I'm happy to say that all five applications were approved and funded allowing for five camps to be fulfilled through that program. And Winterfest tickets were also purchased and raffled off through the Zionsville Parks Foundation allowing more families to come out to that. And expanding our programming would be a disservice if we didn't mention the Creekstomper sometimes called Bertha behind closed doors. This mobile recreation unit allows us to bring recreation to the community in new and exciting ways. It is a mobile tank of fun. A series of games, pop-up tents and displays can be stored inside of it and then it serves as a great mobile billboard as we drive it around the town and have these events for the community.

Speaking of the community, I just want to reach out to the partners that we partnered with in 2022. Through a series of volunteer efforts, we had over 2,436 volunteer hours, the equivalent of a full-time staff year-round in volunteer hours in 2022 and some of those volunteer activities were the ARC of Boone County group, our Pull for Parks, Nature Center Animal Care, our program volunteers, our weed wrangles, mountain bike trail maintenance days as well as our restoration and tree plantings. Some of the partnering organizations in the community: The ARC of Boone County, Zionsville Parks Foundation, Zionsville Optimist Club, Hussey-Mayfield Memorial Public Library, Zionsville Boys & Girls Club, Maplelawn Farmstead and the Zionsville Farmers Market.

That's enough out of me. I will defer to Chris Flanagan as he discusses our maintenance operations this year.

Flanagan

All right. All right, so for this year, with the MaintainX app, our crews completed over 2,000 work orders, 1,700 of those just in the past six months. With the MaintainX app, I can pull up data for the last six months' worth of work orders. I can see that total but data wise I can pull up six months at a time. We had over 40 hours of professional development. We sent our full staff down to the SICIM Conference, the Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasives Species Management working with CISMA to recognize invasive species, management practices and how to further coordinate with other CISMAs and SICIMs in the future.

Two of our technicians received their applicator certifications. That is for herbicide and pesticide applications in our parks and then two of our staff members also received our certified playground safety inspections. Those are myself and Gordon Harmon-Sayre. Really, really happy about that and really glad that we have ourselves on staff certified playground safety inspectors.

So as stewards to our community, we installed 11 memorial benches and six memorial trees throughout our park system. Our maintenance staff worked and trained alongside Streets so that our crews themselves are capable to do out into our parks and pour these concrete pads as necessary so we don't always have to ask Streets for that help. It gives us a little more independence in our park system. Volunteering by our numbers – Jarod already spoke we had a considerable amount of volunteer hours for 2022, 728 of those were devoted to invasive species management and removal, 81 of which were at the official weed wrangles. We had 76 tree planting hours, approximately 150 trees planted throughout the park system, namely at Turkeyfoot and Creekside, and that accounts about over five acres of habitat restoration in those parks. Nine hundred and one (901) hours of those volunteer hours can be attributed to rubbish busting, mulching around trees in the parks, weeding and landscape bed maintenance. Seven hundred and eighty-five (785) of those hours were through ARC of Boone County which I think is really impressive.

Alrighty, we did on-the-job training to expand our skillsets. Our team trained alongside with Streets so that we could safely operate the lift bucket trucks, our frontend loaders and several of the Streets dump trucks. So a special thank you to Streets, Department of Public Works for allowing us to train alongside them. You can see in our photo there's our newest maintenance technician, Sam, training and working safely at height while he was removing some of the shades on the Heritage Trail playgrounds for the winter. I, myself, have quite a history in hazard tree dropping so I took it upon myself to do a lot of training with our staff on chainsaw maintenance, safety and directional tree felling. While we were preparing Turkeyfoot for the tree planting after the weed wrangle, we took it upon ourselves to remove some dead mulberry trees and some other mulberry trees that were impacting the canopy. Mulberry trees, it's not a really great tree, we wanted to get that out so we could replace that with some Sycamores and some Oaks in that area and it's going to be real nice. We have a video. There's Gordon safely dropping his first tree. He did an outstanding job. That was his first tree. He was really proud of it and I was really proud of him. It's always, it's always nice when you can impart a

new skillset on your team member and see them progress and thrive from that.

So with some data from MaintainX, again, this is the last six months, July 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>. So it goes down into some different categories and I'm going to go through a couple that I think are the most important. Created versus completed work orders and repeated, repeatable versus reactive. There, they mirror each other. If you look at the bar on the line graph – repeatable work orders, those are our, our daily and weekly rounds, monthly park inspections, playground inspections, vehicle inspections. Those make up about 82% of the work orders that we do. Reactive work orders, those are highest during the summer months due to increased user activity and reporting of maintenance issues. The growing season and reaction to storms and other inclement weather events. Again, you can see the hills and the valleys in the graphs. Those mirror each other and, again, that's to be expected in the summer months.

Those are divided up then into medium priority, high priority and low priority work orders. Medium priority work orders are park, we have those categorized just as our regular daily routines, again, the rounds between our Maintenance Tech, the Natural Resources Technician and myself, the Director. High priority work orders, those are really the reactive ones. Reactions to a threat to public safety, think in the form of a broken or hanging tree limb, something's across the trail, maybe a crack, any broken glass in the parking lot. Things like that we want to have a, a quick reaction to. That's why it gets that high priority. Also, civil disobedience in the form of graffiti on public property. We try to have a 24-hour turnaround on that. Once it's notified, we get a work order created, it gets marked high priority. We're going to try to get guys out to take care of that as soon as possible. Low priority work orders are those marked as none. Again, consist you can see just on the spot identifications of something that a Maintenance Technician can notice something out – oh there's a, a, a bush that's kind of grown over the trail a little bit. Low priority, I'm going to make a work order and we're going to clear that real quick, close that work order. Good to go. Any questions so far? Okay.

Okay this is a time versus cost report based on – this is just the data of cost of parts. This includes 40 and 30 gallon trash bags, dog waste bags and salt melt. So, again, this is just over the time reported versus the items that reported spent and this kind of goes into making sure that we instill this culture with our team of making sure that things are reported accurately. So, if you look at hours worked and the amount of items used, approximately \$7.24 in parts used per hour worked over this six-month

span. So, when the technicians were actually logging their hours and logging the parts used properly, we reached this \$7.24 an hour. If you extrapolate that over a full 365 days, full 24-hour period, that's where I got that \$1.78 per hour. I do think that is high and I think that is just because, again, it is, this isn't necessarily what I call the baseline data that we're going to try to really start to collect. This was myself learning the system, our technicians learning the system. I've noticed some kind of glitches which I've talked to MaintainX about so if a technician goes through and puts six 40-gallon bags, three dog waste headers that were used on rounds on Monday, they could go do rounds on Wednesday and if that, if they don't reset those, it will automatically double that amount and assume that you used that six again. So it double counts. So this is just where we go back, do some retraining, again, I need to do some retraining on better how to do, get this data proper but I think we're, we're on the right track. I'm really confident that we're going to get some really good data over this next year. Now with MaintainX, we get six months at a time so I have made a plan that I will do six months at a time so in June I will get extrapolate the data again and then June to December or July to December I'll get that other data and I'm looking forward to where as we get this I can start to break this down seasonally and we can look at winter, spring, summer and fall months. As you can see, parts used increased during October and November and I think this was due to the milder weather. It wasn't as hot and not so cold that users weren't able to get out and into the parks.

And this is our on time versus overdue and you can see we have it for reactive and for repeatable. Routine park maintenance work orders/rounds although assigned on specific days they're sometimes completed in that subsequent 24-48 hours. Light percentages are also due to monthly inspections maybe being completed a day to two days afterwards. I think a lot of this is just due to we, we were low on some full-time staff, we've got some of that built out higher. As we fill out our staff again for this year, my goal is to get that number above 80%. And that's all I have for you.

Stehr Great. Anybody have any questions? Sure. Kris?

Barksdale Impressive amount of work.

Flanagan Pardon?

Barksdale It's an impressive amount of work that you all get done.

Flanagan I think our crew does a really good job.

Barksdale Yeah.

Cambridge And I just would like to say I think the fact that you're looking at the work you do through the lens of data and using that to sort of adjust as you go, I mean –

Flanagan Yeah –

Cambridge It's definitely a best practice that I'm really happy to see implemented because it's often not, so.

Flanagan Yeah, it's a great tool and I'm looking forward to us really dialing it in this year. I'm really confident we'll be able to do that and I think we'll get even more accurate data as the months go on.

Stehr Okay.

Flanagan All right.

Stehr Thanks.

Flanagan Thank you all very much.

Stehr All right. Thank you, Chris. All right, Mike Wall. Our Golf Course Manager is going to tell us about the 2022 Year-End Review.

Wall All right, so this picture right here is our Penny Putters who are the, it's, it was their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It's our, I'm going to get in trouble but it's our senior ladies league or our ladies league. Most of them are senior ladies so. We have four leagues out at the golf course and, obviously, this is our longest standing league so they just celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the golf course. They were featured in The Current this year so this is their picture.

Uh, so –

Stehr And just to note that picture was not taken in our clubhouse.

Wall No, unfortunately, this was not in our clubhouse.

Stehr Yeah, I'm, I'm kidding. That's what they call--

Wall This was at a different venue, GCI. They can't host their annual or their monthly –

Stehr Right.

Wall Soirées at our facility so they go to GCI. So, the golf course having opened, you know, we were open five months but the total revenue for the year just under \$374,000 but our average for the year was an increase over last year so, I mean, per day, just under \$2,300 per day – so pretty good. 14,000, almost 15,000 rounds for the year in five months so we packed them in in five months so.

On the right there that's our Zionsville Youth Golf League so we went from one extreme to the opposite extreme. There's kids as young as 6 that play in this league. Our high school kids help out with this so. They usually play on Sunday afternoons so.

So here is kind of a breakdown from 2021 to 2022. I did show this slide back in December. It just kind of, you know, appear reality of being open, only open five months. There again like I said in December, in 2023 when we're open from March 15<sup>th</sup> through November 15<sup>th</sup> the numbers are gonna, 2021 numbers are gonna be, we'll be well above 2021 numbers. So, it's just a representation of being open five months so.

So some highlights – there again, like I said, we were open June 11<sup>th</sup> through November 11<sup>th</sup>. During the time we were closed we put a fresh coat of paint on the clubhouse, updated the bathrooms the best we could. Didn't spend a lot of money on this knowing that hopefully someday that we were going, we're going to get a new clubhouse so that is always in the back of my mind. I don't go ahead and spend thousands upon thousands of dollars. We went to Lowe's and got \$100 vanities. We didn't get marble vanities, we spent \$100 on our vanities. We get fixtures for \$40, stuff like that. So, that's but it looks good. So and we do update that kind of stuff. There again, City Wide completed the paving of the cart paths in early June. We'll just leave it at that.

Duke Energy completed some utility work over the winter along holes 9 and 8 and with that we got a new tee on hole 8. So in 2023 we'll have a new tee on hole 8. It was a, we had drainage work on that tee. It was re-seeded with bent grass and when people come in – I don't think we'll open it March 15<sup>th</sup> just because we don't want to ruin it March 15<sup>th</sup> so that by

June 15<sup>th</sup> it's unplayable but hopefully by April 15<sup>th</sup>, May 1<sup>st</sup> that tee will be ready for play but there'll be a new tee on hole 8.

We aerated the, the entire course including tees, greens, fairways. Like I mentioned in December, fairways had not been aerated ever. The roots, we were stimulating the root growth so in 2023 there again we'll have better playing conditions and with the ergonomics company that we work with we're going to have better playing conditions so, we're looking forward to great playing conditions in 2023, stimulated roots, better playing, better playing conditions so. We should have no excuses from our standpoint. We just need Mother Nature to cooperate and I'm sure she will.

So there again as Jarod mentioned, we, early December when it was really, really cold, the Park Naturalists and EcoLogic did complete the plantings along holes 2 in between holes 3 and 5 for the pollinators and hopefully for many years to come we'll have pollinators, plantings and I know there's plenty more plans for that in the future so we look forward to that. We do realize that it won't impact the golfing or the golfers so that will be a great addition to the golf course and as I previously mentioned, we're going to have two new mowers for 2023 so it's a new greens mower. The previous greens mower had the equivalent of 250,000 miles on it and it will get us to June, knock on wood, but it was definitely time to put that to bed for everyday use. As I mentioned, we'll still keep that in the fleet. We can use it for approaches and other uses for the course. We're not going to retire it completely. We'll be able to use that and then with the rough mower, instead of a 6-foot wide mower that we currently are using, this one will be 9-foot wide and it will reduce the mowing time and we'll still use the 6-foot wide for that so. We have those two new mowers coming and, again, with the playing conditions and the mowers, like is said, the playing conditions at the golf course should be pretty good.

Stehr Does anybody have any questions or comments for Mike? No? All right, thank you, Mike.

Wall Thanks.

Stehr All right, and now a look back at the Recreation Services for 2022. Mindy  
—

Murdock All right. So, talking about the all parts of programming so, not just Nature Center but also our recreation and our events and outreach. So, lots of fun graphs. Hope you guys like them. So quite a big jump. In 2022 we actually



saw 31,418 contacts. So in programming aspects, contacts are really everything. It's your program attendance, your Nature Center visitor walk-ins, your event numbers all rolled into one. The only thing that's not added into this one is we do what's called impromptu programs so people would come to the Nature Center just to come visit and the, they might start asking questions, the Naturalists might start answering them, pull out an animal and kind of do like a little impromptu 5-10 minute program for them. We don't add those because they already come to the Nature Center. It's just a nice way of seeing how our, my staff are interacting with the public to see those numbers and those also in that annual report you see, those also increased this last year. A few reasons for the large increase compared to last year, well, this was the first year that the Nature Center was open for the entire year at the new location. Remember it opened in, I think it was April 20<sup>th</sup> last year so we had a full year to do that one. We also implemented quite a number of new events. So last year we had over a dozen different large-scale events within the park system so that pulled in a lot and then we also brought in the Creekstomper and Park and Play which also had a big impact in the number of people. I mean, we had with events and outreach 8,700 participants for just those two things so but, yeah, so 83% increase. It's neat because, I will say, the senior member of the Parks Department, being here the longest of everyone, I've kept track since I came in in 2014 so it's kind of fun to see the numbers of where we were when it was truly just me as the programmer on staff to where 2019 I was able to bring in my one part-time Naturalist. You can see how 2020 impacted us and then as we started to add in new staff, really seeing that number increase and that we're really reaching more of the community.

So breaking down those numbers, we talked a little bit about this one. A big chunk of it – almost half of it – is still just Nature Center visitors so, 14,646 visitors to the Nature Center and that is an increase about, almost a 70% increase. So, again, I think that has to do with being open for the whole year as well as having more staff at the Nature Center that they're now seasoned and interacting with the public and people are coming in and wanting to spend some more time in that center. The other big component of that was, of course, our outreach and our events but then you've got our recreation program and our Nature Center programs which they're almost tied on, on the number of participants that are attending those.

And then as far as the actual numbers for events and programs as Jarod alluded to, we actually did 406 programs and events through 2022. So it is an increase, not much, but it is an increase but we're kind of at the point where really our staff can't add too many more to their plate and we, we

are pretty busy on what we have as far as staffing goes. So our focus for this year is not so much as the quantity of programs, I know they can do them, we'll, we still, everyone overachieves and does way more than they need to but making sure we're focusing in on the quality of what we're providing to the community. We did about 52 private programs. So those would be school programs, Scout programs, we started up having birthday parties again at the Nature Center so we did have two of those last year when we started that. It is an increase from last year. That's that lighter green in the, the bars but it's still a decrease from the numbers that we would pull in prior to COVID. So that's one area that we're going to be focusing on is how do we get more of those historically that came to the Nature Center to us for programming. We did a lot more Scouts, we did a lot more birthday parties, a lot more preschools. How do we start to bring them back into our programming when they took a break because of COVID and they've been slow to come back. So that'll be another focus to it. We also did 16 summer camps last year with about 330 kids. I will say this year we just kind of set out the, the dates of what they are. Everyone keeps emailing me and asking when are those going to be released. We will be doing 16 again this year but they will be more, there's more week-long offerings and actually we'll be doing our first Indiana Master Naturalist Junior camp to be offered so something kind of fun. And then I listed there all the different special events that we did last year from the Zionsville puzzle swap which is going on right now all the way to our Party in the Park which was kind of a fun, just last minute hey what if we did this to, of course, Winterfest and the programs that go with that such as Noon Year's Eve.

And then it wouldn't be enough to talk about our programming without adding in what we did add which has been kind of a, a learning curve for the community but I think once more people realize these are and they embrace them, it, it'll be a huge benefit for our Parks Department. One is implementation of MyRec which went live on July 20<sup>th</sup>, so just in that period of time not all of our programs require registration but those that did, just from July to December we did over 1,600 registrations on MyRec and, again, as Jarod had said, not all of our programs require a fee. Summer camps are our biggest, as far as really bringing in money that we utilize through the rest of the year, but we have started to charge some small fees for some programs that are a little above and beyond just like a normal walk. So, our intro to pickleball, for example, we charge \$5 for a resident just to make sure that is a popular program. They fill up every single time with wait lists so kind of puts a little what we call skin in the game of making people sure show up plus there's more kind of hands on learning that goes with that one than just a traditional program. So, but

with those small fees collected up, still almost \$13,000 in program fees for that period of time. The other nice thing with MyRec is that it allows us to really pull in a lot of different areas so it's a one-stop shop for our community. So we can do facility reservations and you can see there the different reservations that were done from shelter reservations to renting the Creekstomper, all the way to the, the individual, the Nature Center programs there that would be those private requests for Scouts or for schools so those individual requests that went through there. We did 73 new dog park memberships on MyRec since it started on July 20<sup>th</sup> and then all the way down to additional like key fobs that people need to purchase to we did some concessions at Winterfest and so we bring in a little bit of money that way and that's another thing we're looking at for this year coming in Winterfest is some more concessions and things of that sort.

And then in addition to MyRec, we also added our activity guide, so our Active By Nature, so that came out in the summer was the first issue and so the last one which is out, still out now because it goes through February, had the Winterfest guide in there included so, again, it's kind of, they're great resources for the community, it's just making sure that the community once they find them and understand how to use them that it will just continue to improve our, our, our rec and program side of the department.

And, of course, we have to end off with last year was the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the Zionsville Nature Center so we're looking forward to the next 20 years and what that might bring.

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| Stehr     | Questions or comments?   |
| Cambridge | Good work.   |
| Murdock   | Thanks.  |
| Stehr     | It was a good year.  |
| Moore     | It also seems like you did a lot as well.                          |
| Murdock   | I did, I haven't given up on programming. I still do my part but – |
| Stehr     | Yeah.  |
| Murdock   | Yes. Very hard-working crew.                                       |

Stehr The momentum of the Nature Center at the library continues that people are still using that and excited by it. I think that's a, it's a great partnership  
—

Murdock I think so.

Moore Yeah.

Stehr At the library.

Moore Yeah, we love it too so. I'm glad to see it's keeping up your numbers and can't wait to see what else we do.

Murdock Awesome.

Stehr Okay. Thank you, Mindy.

Logsdon Just a couple more slides here. Each year I like to take a special moment to thank your staff for all they do. In this picture especially our maintenance team just transforming Mulberry Fields and, at this point, just a concrete slab into Winterfest which was enjoyed by a large portion of our community as well as the region. We've started to get information on the neighboring communities that came in but all of that made possible by a small dedicated team that, as you like to say, is small but mighty.

So a couple of preliminary numbers from Winterfest. We don't have the total financial picture just yet. We still have numbers coming in and credits come in so we will discuss that at probably the February meeting once we have that full picture but we had 4,649 skaters hit the ice which is slightly down from last year, unfortunately, but that is most certainly due to the two sub-arctic days as well as two cancellations due to rain, unfortunately. So, as we look at this program in the future, we need to figure out how to make it more resilient to the elements as well and we have some ideas for that. We did receive \$20,000 in sponsorships. That is up \$1,000 from last year, our first year. We had 1,586 attend Winterfest programming, 2,800 attended the community performances on the stages and our market is certainly permeating the community. Our digital guide had over 13,000 impressions, the Winterfest printed guide was sent to 13,428 homes as well as 1,572 businesses. And the website received 12,242 visits which, again, is slightly down from 2021 but we believe that that is partially due to our increased presence on social media and the, the physical guide that went into people's mailboxes. Speaking of social

media, some of our high points of our postings – the all hands on deck message reaching over 7,000 people, the ribbon cutting ceremony reaching 4,500 and the grab your skates post reaching 5,560. And those are organic posts so those are not promoted posts, just the channels we have in our disposal how we're able to reach the community. So we will talk about the financials of Winterfest and a path forward to continue to make that event more sustainable as we look at the entire cost recovery model for our programming department. So I will have that to you as soon as I get all of those numbers.

That is the end of our 2022 Year. As we look to 2023, our departmental vision is our connections. So, obviously, talking about our trail connections and our connections with neighboring communities through the Rail Trail and other pathways but also looking at our connections within our department so, we've challenged staff to not continue to build on what they've done by expanding, as Mindy mentioned, but to look at what we're doing today and how we can create community within our existing parties. How can we facilitate mountain bike riders to, to join together and create their own community or our community gardeners. How can we facilitate them developing their own neighborhood organization within the garden plots or our dog park members that anyone with a dog knows you go when you have the chance and you might be the only one there or you might be one of a dozen but how do we create that community and those connections within those hobby groups. So that's what we're going to take a look at this year – improving our park system through our physical connections as well as our programming through our connections in our programming and wellness. Happy to answer any questions. All right, thank you all.

Stehr

Thank you, Jarod. All right, we're ready to move on to the Carpenter Nature Preserve Bond.

Logsdon

So we're all pretty well versed on what the Carpenter Nature Preserve is. This is a unique once-in-a generation opportunity to secure 215 acres of pristine parkland and flood plain. This would be the northern most portion of Eagle Creek as it enters into our park system. This would be our first park in Union Township and this would, if conserved, would be the largest nature park or the largest park, in Boone County as well. So just a lot of reasons why this makes sense for our park system now and due to our abilities and our funding capacities as a park system, we don't have the funds to complete this dream on our own. So this would be asking the community, asking for a little assistance and the development of a bond to ensure that we can acquire this land in a time-sensitive manner so. In

continued conversations with the Carpenters, they have been our partner from the start on day one back in 2020/2021 when they purchased the land with the idea that this would become a public park and nature preserve. So we are now in 2023 and they have been a loyal partner to that mission and they continue to see that through but they certainly are getting more and more phone calls from other interested parties with their visions of what that property could be so the mounting pressure of, from outside influences should this project not go forward, this land will most certainly have a different vision, whether that's in some other preserve capacity or developed, it's, it's hard to say.

So I just wanted to provide some updates since we last spoke about this and talk about how I would recommend we move forward. So last fall the Parks Department initiated an updated appraisal. The updated appraisal was received in November, so just a couple of months ago, and that was for \$6,020,000. That is up from \$5.6 million in 2020. So just in a couple years you can see that estimated value has gone up. The Carpenters have agreed to a bargain sale price of \$1.5 million dollars off the updated appraisal price so we are currently drafting a Purchase Agreement to be reviewed by both parties that would include language of that agreed upon price for a later date. So before you tonight is the conversation of restarting the bond request process. So the goal of the bond is to acquire the land and begin the first steps of surveying, engineering and getting this project shelf ready. So the \$5 million dollar bond request ask, \$4.55 million would be towards acquisition and closing costs and the remaining fees would be towards engineering, surveys, construction documents and the creation of those documents for phase 1. So phase 1 would be just creating a park. We like to call this Starkey Light so this would be just providing access to the community so they could experience this vast wilderness in Boone County, providing a restroom facility with a shelter, accessible trails, rustic trails as well as areas for programming as our nature playgrounds. So this would not include the Nature Center or some of the other bells and whistles that we've envisioned like the boardwalks and the canopy walks. So that's where with this \$5 million dollars we could accomplish as a community, as a town but that's not where this journey ends right now so. Projects of this magnitude, of this importance, it's easy to spread the word and it's easy to find outside partners that share in that vision and want to see this come to fruition. So, we've been very fortunate to have many conversations with outside parties and actually have been listed as a final recipient for several outside grants towards this program. So, keep in mind with our \$5 million dollar investment as we talk about the next things.

The Next Level Conservation Trust program – this was created last year specifically for the process of preserving and protecting important conservation, recreation and historic areas throughout Indiana. This program is a 3:1 match and after our presentation, we were awarded a \$3 million dollar award towards the project. The best news about this is that our match would be the bargain sale donation price from the Carpenters. So, truly not requiring any local funds from our municipality. Now this is contingent upon acquisition so this is a reimbursement. So that is partially why we would need the upfront funds of the bond. It doesn't stop there. So a contingency of this program is that the, the expectation would be that a public park would be opened in a reasonable amount of time. So, we couldn't sit idle on just the land at this point. If we accepted these funds, we would have to work towards development of at least getting it open as a public park.

That's where our second partner program comes in. That is the Land and Water Conservation Fund. So, again, we applied for a half a million dollar grant with this program which provides matching assistance for the acquisition or development of outdoor recreation sites and facilities and I am happy to say that we were awarded the full half million towards the development of phase 1 of the Carpenter Nature Preserve. So, if you're keeping count, that is \$3.5 million towards, of reimbursements or grant funding, towards construction of phase 1. But it doesn't stop there –

So the Carpenters, they certainly have not sat idle over these past couple of years. They have been having the same conservations that we're having with other parties and they introduced me to the Indiana IN SWMP program. So this is all on behalf of the Carpenters. They met with the Indiana Stream and Wetland Mitigation Program – that's the IN SWMP acronym – to develop a vision to utilize in lieu credits for the Eagle Creek corridor within Carpenter Nature Preserve. So the IN SWMP Program is a statewide program where contractors and developers are allowed to pay a in lieu fee as opposed to redeveloping low quality habitat on their sites. So, when a contractor clears a wetland or a mitigated area, instead of producing that in the middle of a new subdivision where it's completely going to be impacted by storm water and other things, they can pay essentially this in lieu fee and then those funds are utilized to create these high quality habitat corridors. So the Carpenter Nature Preserve was a fantastic participant and applicant for that program and the IN SWMP team for the past year has been envisioning utilizing \$4 million dollars' worth of credits for this program. So the best thing about this is with those credits they will do exactly what we're doing with the LARE program but throughout this two-thirds of a mile stretch of Eagle Creek. So, they will

fortify the shores, they will clear invasives up to 50 feet back from the banks as well as within and then any remaining funds of those \$4 million dollars will be put into an endowment for a 10-year maintenance program. So we're talking about essentially one-third of the park that would have funding for upkeep and maintenance on day one. So just a fantastic program. That project is completely separate so we would not see those funds necessarily we develop phase 1 but they would improve the park and then at the end of their project they would have a fund leftover for us.

So with all of this information in hand, we'll talk kind of how the next three years could look as we being this process. So, I just want to note that the first three steps are absolutely required before we can move in on this timeline. So, tonight would be your consideration of a declaratory resolution on the preliminary determination to issue bonds. Upon approval of that, we would have a public hearing at the next meeting concerning the bond issuance and the additional appropriation of those funds and upon the findings of that and the approval of the Park Board, we would move forward to the Town Council meetings and introduce an ordinance establishing the 2023 Carpenter Nature Preserve Bond and the request, again, is \$5 million dollars and that is without capital interest and other fees which we do have Becca of Crowe here to talk about the logistics of the bond and answer any technical questions.

So just to go through the timeline, upon award of this bond, we would work with the Carpenters this late spring or early summer, once funds are received, for the closing and the acquisition of the preserve. So that is approximately that \$4.5 million. Then with those remaining funds, we would begin the permitting, surveying and construction design of phase 1 planning. So currently the, the phase 1 construction estimate is between \$2.9 and \$3.8 million. We will continue to work with the designer on that project to find ways that we can have additional cost savings. There's some opportunities out there. We don't need to completely dig up all the asphalt. Some of it just needs resurfaced and we can utilize certain things on the park to save a little money in the long run. So upon that acquisition for \$4.5 million, we would receive the \$3 million dollar reimbursement from the Next Level Conservation Trust which would allow us to begin phase 1 of construction and upon bidding and award and as expenditures begin, we could seek the reimbursement of the half million dollars from the Land Water Conservation Fund. And while our project is actively going on, again, assuming this timeline in 2024, the DNR would also start their project along Eagle Creek and at the end of that establishing that endowment. So there is the opportunity for synergies of disturbance as well as mobilization out there for that. And if all things go well, we could



be looking at the park opening up very late 2025 or as early, or early 2026. So in these years between that time, we would have the opportunity to fortify our budgets to ensure that we can, once the park is open, we can accommodate the operational cost associated with that.

So as Chris explained this evening, we are beginning to have that baseline data for exactly how much our park system costs to operate and even for, even further, we can extrapolate once we have our trailhead later this year exactly how much of those supplies are going to a restroom facility, we can look at Turkeyfoot how much are going to more of a natural park and kind of put those statistics and multiply that and get a pretty good number for what we're going to need to maintain Carpenter Nature Preserve on day one. Additionally, within the 5-Year Master Plan, we also included that staffing study which did list the recommendations for staffing that facility. So certainly being 215 acres, that is 50% of our existing park so there would need to be a dedicated team out there onsite certainly to offer the, the top level of service that that would require but also to be present just to keep eyes on things and more of a patrol as well so both maintenance, enforcement of rules and making sure that it, it's maintained to its vision which is to primarily be a nature preserve and then a public park and recreation facility.

### **Carpenter Nature Preserve Bond**

So, in conclusion, tonight before you is a consideration of a \$5 million dollar bond to begin that process and that would be our investment in this project. If acquired, Carpenter Nature Preserve would be the first park in Union Township as well as the largest park in Boone County and would serve as a fantastic capstone to all of the initiatives our park system has been doing for the past 50 years. Additionally, outside funding there is \$7.5 million dollars on the line from grants and assistance programs for the facility. There is a continued maintenance fund beyond that for the riparian areas and there is always the potential for future partnerships and opportunities with our Foundation, future grants as well as public/private partnerships. We have been receiving emails and phone calls since this project was announced of how school groups and other volunteer groups can get involved and begin to work out on the site as well. So that is all I had prepared tonight so I'm happy to answer any question as well as Becca of Crowe any of the technical questions of the bond.

Stehr

Well I know Sarah has some questions so you want to go ahead?

Moore I do and also, by the way, when I said in the email that I sent you to give you a head's up, I sent that at 5. I just closed my computer afterwards and then when I got here connected to the internet it sent it to you at 7 so I apologize but you answered a lot of my questions so I really appreciate that. It seems like you've done a lot of work on this. So, I'm just wondering now what will be the estimated tax rate for residents to pay for the bonds in the first year?

Zakowski Good evening. Becca Zakowski with Crowe, municipal advisor to the town. The tax rate now we're estimating to be about 1 cent per \$100 of AV and I can give you an estimate for a \$300,000 home value, that's about \$20 per year.

Moore Okay, all right. And do you know what the total parks base tax rate is right now? If you add that together what that would be?

Zakowski Yes, that would be about 2 cents per year with the existing 2019 bonds.

Moore Okay, so for a \$300,000 home it'd be about \$40? Okay. And you did get a new assessment so that's great. And it looks like the Carpenters are going to, they said a million dollars below the assessment is what they would take and they're even less than that now?

Stehr Yeah, \$1.5.

Moore Yeah, that's great. And then, so when I saw that \$3 million that you got from one of the various sources and that's a reimbursement, does that reimburse the bonds immediately or is that going to reimburse future work on phase 1?

Logsdon So that would be a reimbursement for the land acquisition but contingent upon accepting that there is the expectation that it becomes a public park. So, we think it's best use to just utilize those funds, not ask our local community for more but work within those means to get that project opened up to the public.

Moore Okay, that makes sense. I mean one way or the other, that's--okay. And is the Foundation funding any of the acquisition or any of phase 1?

Logsdon Because the Foundation currently is, the President is Nancy Carpenter, there's a conflict of interest there for selling the private land but once that land is transferred, we see a great partnership opportunity for any of those amenities on the site. That's clearing the gray area for any conflict and just

allowing the full might and strategies of the Foundation to be realized and we've talked about creating essentially billboards onsite that allow people to know where to donate and how they could fund improvements to the site and with those renderings from the Master Plan, with this phase 1 it would be about \$1 million dollars to tear down the old clubhouses, so rather than do that, I think the, the better use is to put a fence around it to keep people out but that fence can serve as a, a billboard to all the things we're doing and want to do out at the site.

Salewicz We'll be able to get that presentation emailed to us?

Logsdon Absolutely.

Salewicz Okay.

Moore Yeah, I would like that. And then have you gauged interest with the Town Council yet? Have you talked to them about this?

Logsdon Yes and as we learned last year, their biggest two concerns were where does this fall in priority with our 5-Year Master Plan which we were able to answer as well as what is the, what is this going to cost us? What is the updated appraisal? Which we were also able to answer. So upon movement of tonight, I will have myself and hopefully John will have conversations with them about exactly satisfying those two and any remaining questions they may have that we can answer before March.

Moore Okay.

Stehr We'll have more data from our public hearing next month to take to them in March.

Moore Gotcha.

Stehr Which, which should round up everything that they need and, and yes, we are planning to have individual meetings with each Town Council member to make sure that this has the momentum it needs to pass.

Moore Okay.

Stehr I'll just say one thing. That you talked about the, the \$3 million dollars that we're going to get back and whether or not that can be used to pay off the bonds.

Moore Uh huh –

Stehr Generally speaking, you don't pay off bonds early. Investors don't like that.

Moore Yeah, that's true.

Stehr So it's, it's a, an opportunity for us to take that \$3 million dollars and use it for –

Moore Yeah.

Stehr Engineering and actual physical work at the, at the nature preserve and have, have you been out – I don't know if you've been out there recently –

Moore No, just when we all took a tour.

Stehr Yeah, but the –

Moore That was the last time.

Stehr The pavement out there is really compromised. I mean, there's no way –

Moore I think it was at the time.

Stehr Yeah and the parking lot is kind of overgrown and, I mean there's, there's going to have to be some minimum work done to just make sure it's accessible and we have to have a restroom, right? So there's some, some minimum things that you have to do that this money will help us get to.

Moore Well and it makes sense if you're, you were, you were going to have to in order to take the \$3 million dollars start working on its development as a park and you think that that phase 1 is somewhere between \$2 and \$3.5 million dollars that that's where that could go. I mean –

Stehr Yes.

Moore It'd be the same thing –

Stehr Yeah.

Moore You're just saying we'll put the money here –

Stehr Right.

Moore But it's money that would've been spent upon getting it anyway.

Stehr Right, right, yeah.

Moore Yeah, okay.

Stehr So.

Logsdon And, and additionally, we'll explore every opportunity for impact fees to be utilized in this project as well.

Moore Okay.

Stehr Anybody else have any questions about this? Okay, Amy, what do we need to do to?

Nooning Sure, so before you tonight is Resolution No. 2023-2 and that's the declaratory resolution that Jarod mentioned. It's titled Declaratory and Preliminary Determination Resolution of the Park and Recreation District of the Town of Zionsville, Indiana. This is a preliminary finding. Again, you'll have your public hearing which will be followed, if you so choose, by a confirmatory resolution. So this is just the very first initial, no commitment step at this point but to get the ball rolling but you are making a preliminary finding by approving this resolution that it is necessary and will be of public utility and benefit to complete the projects that Jarod spoke about and that it is necessary and will be of public utility and benefit to complete the land acquisition of the real property necessary for this. So if you so choose, you could entertain a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-2.

Stehr Okay, I'd like to make a motion that we approve Resolution, Declaratory Resolution 2023-2.

Salewicz Second.

Moore I'd like to second that.

Stehr I think John Salewicz, I think John Salewicz was first on that seconding it. Let's, let's take a roll call vote.

Pack Can I ask a question first? If I'm looking at the right document, it mentions \$5.5 million dollar bond versus \$5, so I just want to make sure that –

Zakowski Yeah, so the max parameters in the Resolution are \$5.5 million dollars –

Pack Okay.

Zakowski And the 5% interest rate with a 20-year term. The \$5.5 would include like capitalized interest. We'd have to include capitalized interest in order to make those payments because we won't have a levy in place and would cost or would include costs of issuance and paying professional fees.

Pack Okay. I just, since it was different than what Jarod was talking about in his presentation I was just--

Logsdon Yeah and I, I did sneak that in there mentioning excluding capital interest. If you'll recall when we began this process in July, the max parameter was \$5.3 so now it's \$5.5 just because of different interest rates –

Pack Okay.

Logsdon And things like that.

Pack Okay. Thank you, that answers my question.

Stehr All right, let's take a vote. Jill Pack?

Pack Aye.

Stehr John Salewicz?

Salewicz Aye.

Stehr Sarah Moore?

Moore Aye.

Stehr Ryan Cambridge?

Cambridge Aye.

Stehr Kris Barksdale?

Barksdale Aye.

Stehr And I say aye as well making that unanimous. And don't forget we have to sign that before we leave tonight too.

### **Memorial Bench Donation**

Okay, ready to move on Jarod? Memorial bench donation.

Logsdon Again, our memorial bench program is well received and appreciated in the community as they assist us to add more seating facilities throughout. These two memorial bench applications are for the Rail Trail. One would be on the 100-foot bridge which we already have one assigned to that so that would make a nice pairing, and the other would be on the northern expansion where we could certainly use seating in that new territory. So, with your approval, we'll move forward with the ordering of those two benches and getting those installed by our maintenance team.

Stehr Okay. This is from our old friend, Dave Brown, who, former Parks Board member and long-time Zionsville resident. Part of the trail is named after him so –

Logsdon I think that was a secret to his wife, though.

Stehr Yes, okay. Let's just do that by acclamation. All in favor? Well, I guess somebody has to make a motion right to accept it so anybody want to make a motion to accept?

Pack I will move to accept the two memorial benches.

Stehr Jill Pack makes a motion. Anybody have a second?

Salewicz Second.

Stehr John Salewicz seconds. All in favor say aye.

All Aye.

Stehr All opposed?  
[No response]

Okay, that motion carries unanimously. Thank you.

Cambridge Jarod, I just have a quick question – the pads the benches are on as a standard do they include an ADA allowance space?

Logsdon Yeah, so these are priced so they can accommodate both replacement as well as the base.

Cambridge Cool.

Logsdon Yep.

Stehr Everything we do these days includes an ADA compliant base so but thank you for asking the question. Okay, do you want to move on to Old Business now?

Logsdon Go for it.

**OLD BUISNESS**  
**Overley Worman Park**

Stehr Okay, Overley-Worman –

Logsdon Overley-Worman Park we continue to work with HIS to wrap up that project completely. The construction fences have finally gone down. Just a couple of items remain, one of which is temperature dependent and that is the asphalt repairs. There's also concrete repairs and a little bit of final grading and planting that needs to be settled up but we're hoping that we can continue to work in good faith and get this project wrapped up very soon completely but that certainly hasn't stopped the community from enjoying it in the meantime safely.

Moving on, I'll just take it from here if that's all right, John? The Rail Trail Northern Expansion, again, so that project I would say about 90% of that has been paved. We did reach a wet spot near Heritage Trail Park as that is, as you know from the small dog side when we had those drainage improvements, it's a very wet, retaining portion of our trail system. We were a little alarmed that the Rail Trail was saturated as it was thinking that a 100-year-old rail line would've had some fortitude against that but – so that portion is unpaved but as soon as the plants open up in the spring, that'll be paved along with the phase 1 so that'll all get wrapped up in April and then we will look to move on to phase 2.



We kind of spoke earlier about the widening of phase 1. Again, that projected timeline is to keep that project moving now while the plants are closed, get the entire length of corridor up to the Mulberry tunnel stoned in and then once asphalt plants open, we'll finish out that project, re-plant and then move on to the final phase 2 of that.

And finally, the Rail Trail Trailhead, as you saw in the photos of the presentation, a lot of earthwork has been going on out there. I know in the last couple of weeks they're pivoting to actually building the restroom facility since they can continue that even if snow starts falling here in the next month. So once temperatures rise up again and the asphalt plants open, we should expect that to wrap up pretty quickly this spring as well so very happy with the, the progress of these capital projects.

Stehr And there's been some talk of trees being cut down there as well but that's a necessary part of that kind of construction –

Logsdon Absolutely.

Stehr So I think we should make that note.

Logsdon Yep and, again, replanting is, is the name of the game. We enjoy doing that so we're, it makes sense to have reforestation, filling gaps. We are more than happy to do that.

Stehr And, Ryan, in your neighborhood there's been some discussion about that, about the trees.

Cambridge Yeah, I actually sit on the Board of our HOA and we've tried to, I know that Jake, the Board President has been in touch with Jarod, with you multiple times and we have a, a pretty small neighborhood so everybody's pretty well connected and, and we've tried to keep people abreast of the progress and what to expect and why it's needed and, yeah, so I think in general there is probably just going to be some surprise as people were catching up on things that they maybe didn't pay attention to but I think there's really broad support in Vonterra for the parks, Overley-Worman and the trailhead included.

Stehr Good, good. Great to hear. Okay. Other Board Related Items – does anybody have anything that they want to bring up –

Salewicz No.

Stehr Before the Board? No? Okay. Then we move on to Claims. Has everyone had a chance to look at the claims?

Salewicz Yes.

Pack Yes.

Salewicz Look good.

Stehr Anybody else have any questions or anything? Okay, do we have a motion to accept the claims as presented?

Salewicz I'll make a motion to present the claims as presented.

Stehr John Salewicz makes a motion. Do we have a second?

Barksdale Second.

Stehr Kris Barksdale seconds. Jill Pack?

Pack Aye.

Stehr John Salewicz?

Salewicz Aye.

Stehr Sarah Moore?

Moore Aye.

Stehr Ryan Cambridge?

Cambridge Aye.

Stehr And Kris Barksdale?

Barksdale Aye.

### **Claims**

Stehr Okay, we accepted the claims unanimous –And I say aye as well absolutely. And, again, we have a lot of paperwork to sign tonight including the oath that we took at the beginning of the meeting so with

that we will go ahead and adjourn tonight. The next meeting is February 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00. Do we have a mot –

## **Adjournment**

Moore I make a motion to adjourn.

Stehr Yes, do we have a motion to adjourn?

Pack I will second that motion.

Stehr Okay, so Sarah makes the motion. Jill Pack seconds. All in favor say aye.

All Aye.

Stehr All opposed?  
[No response]

All right, thank you everybody. We'll see you again on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:00.

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John Stehr, President

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John Salewicz, Secretary

Respectfully submitted,  
Bonnie Black  
Parks MAC Professional – 2/8/2023