

The Michigan City Park and Recreation Board met in regular session on Thursday, January 4, 2007 at the hour of 5:00 P.M. in the Michigan City Parks and Recreation Office, City of Michigan City, Indiana.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

On the call of the roll, the following Board Members were found to be present or absent:

Present: Messrs. McKee, Latchford, and Mr. Freese (3)

Absent: Mr. Milcarek (1)

Also present were: Darrell Garbacik, Park Superintendent; Patrick Donoghue, Park Department Attorney; Joe Doyle, City Council Liaison; Shannon Eason, I.T. Manager; Hezzie Mitchell, 5th Ward Representative; Dean Price, Haas & Associates; Johnny Martinez, Zoo Director; Jeremy Kienitz, Recreation Director; Cornell Davis; Carolyn Saxton, Lake Front Art Festival; Fred Klinder; Don Przybylinski; Leonardo Victory; Jason Miller, The News Dispatch; and Andre Steele, ALCO TV.

- ❑ **On a motion** made by Mr. Latchford, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted unanimously by the Board, the Board elected Bob McKee as the Park Board President.
- ❑ **On a motion** made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Mr. McKee and voted unanimously by the Board, the Board elected Phil Latchford as Park Board Vice President.
- ❑ **On a motion** made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Mr. McKee and voted unanimously by the Board, the Board elected Tom Milcarek as Park Board Secretary.

Mr. McKee appointed Mr. Freese as the Park Board Liaison to the Washington Park Zoological Society.

Mr. Freese agreed to accept the liaison position.

- ❑ **On a motion** made by Mr. Latchford, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the minutes of the December 14, 2006 Park Board meeting.

Mr. Garbacik reported the Festival of Lights was a huge success again this year and the maintenance staff did an excellent job with it. This will be the final week and weekend to view the lights so hopefully people will come back around and enjoy it one last time over the course of the next few days. Mr. Garbacik reported that for some reason we are getting some skateboarding activity at our Amphitheater where they are setting the benches up and using some of the rocks from the planters and such. The Police are assisting with that, and that has been a recent occurrence. Mr. Garbacik stated that he doesn't understand it because we have such a fine skate park.

Mr. Freese asked if the skateboarding at the Amphitheater was on the week days or weekends and if we have noted any trend.

Mr. Garbacik stated that we haven't had that situation since the skate park has opened so it is odd and there is no trend.

Mr. McKee asked Mr. Garbacik to comment on the Holiday Lights noting that he received a couple of calls between Christmas and New Years about big blocks of the lights being out. Mr. McKee congratulated Darren Westphal who was down here on a number of the holidays plugging things back in.

Mr. Garbacik stated that basically some juveniles, three younger folk decided it would be fun to unplug as many of the displays as possible. They even stole some of the t-plugs. We have had a little bit of that in the past and Mr. Westphal keeps about a half dozen of those in his truck for that reason. They also adjusted some of the switches so that the musicians in the bandstand, for example, were going about 200 miles per hour. The Police assisted us with that situation and since that time it seems to be neutralized.

Attorney Donoghue reported regarding pending litigation that involves the Northern Indiana Communication Company case and the Board will recall that this case involves the defective video cameras that were originally installed for the Washington Park security system. There will be a status meeting in the LaPorte Circuit Court tomorrow, January 5, 2007. There are some issues regarding what is called in litigation, discovery, which means the exchange of information from one side of the case to the other side. There isn't anything of critical concern to the case. This is a routine matter and Mr. Donoghue will report the results at the next meeting.

Mr. Donoghue reported that the North Course Irrigation Project Contract, the North Course Irrigation Project Escrow Agreement, and North Course Irrigation Project Local Hiring Agreement documents all relate to the project coming up in the spring for the irrigation system at the north municipal golf course. The Board has been provided with copies of the main Irrigation Project Contract and also the Escrow Agreement and the Local Hiring Agreement which as the Board knows is a new requirement that was established by the City Council last year and this is the first project that the Park Department has and maybe one of the first projects that the City has which will require the use of the Local Hiring Agreement. If the Board would review those documents that you have been given before the next meeting which is next Thursday then Mr. Donoghue would expect to request at the next meeting that the Board approve those contracts if

there are no questions or concerns and that we complete the paperwork for that project. If the Board will recall that project is expected to start some time in the spring. If there is any harsh weather it will be after that, if there isn't they may start sooner so we will just have to see what the weather brings for that project.

Mr. Latchford stated that this is the first project where we are subject to the Michigan City Local Hiring Agreement and he wants to know how they define a Michigan City local person.

Mr. Donoghue explained that the Human Rights Department is given that responsibility under the Ordinance. It is their responsibility to request applications, review the applications and to make that determination before they recommend that a particular person be interviewed by the contractor to see if the contractor wants to hire them for the job.

Mr. Latchford asked if the contractor would then contact City Hall for the labor pool.

Mr. Donoghue stated that yes, the contractor is required to do that and we'll work to make sure that he understands how this works and who to contact there and we will make that a part of the preliminary work that he has to do.

Mr. Latchford asked if the contractor had to do that or could he do it on his own.

Mr. Donoghue stated he thinks he would have to present that person to the Human Rights Department and obtain an approval from them, that is the way the Ordinance reads; it has to be done that way.

Mr. McKee stated that his understanding is, and it is covered on page 2 and it talks about a compliance officer at the company that is going to be performing the work and they need to have on file one of the five items listed and that is what keeps it in compliance.

Mr. McKee stated that the date of commencement listed is April 1, 2007 with a mobilization date of March 15, 2007, what is mobilization and what is commencement as far as this contract goes.

Mr. Donoghue stated that when a similar job was done at the south municipal golf course all of the pipe and equipment starts to show up ahead of time and that is the mobilization which would start on March 15, 2007.

- **On a motion** made by Mr. Latchford, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted unanimously by the Board, the Board agreed to table the North Course Irrigation Project Contract, the North Course Irrigation Project Escrow Agreement and the North Course Irrigation Project Local Hiring Agreement to the meeting of January 11, 2007.

Mr. Garbacik reported on the Park 5-Year Master Plan and made available to the audience members copies of the draft. Mr. Garbacik stated that for the purpose of tonight's presentation he intends to go rather quickly through the action portion of the plan; he will give a brief description and review of the table of contents and then we would like to open it up for public

comment and suggestions. Mr. Garbacik stated that if you take this home and digest it and find anything else that you would like to make us aware of, suggestions, corrections or what have you, please do not hesitate to either email us here at the Park Department or give us a call. We certainly will get those adjustments in prior to final approval which we anticipate at the Park Board meeting next Thursday. Upon approval, we will follow up by submitting it to the D.N.R. for its approval which is a very important element of this whole process. We feel that this plan is a thorough a document and is as comprehensive of a planning document as this Department has ever produced and we say that because it not only incorporates the neighborhood parks and the things that we tend to focus on through our typical 5-year master plan process but at the end of it, listed as Appendixes "A", "B" and "C", are the Washington Park Master Plan which the Park Board approved this past year, the Washington Park Zoo Master Plan, "Blazing a Trail to the Future", and that was a project that was completed and approved a little over a year ago, and within that we have already accomplished quite a bit, and then certainly the Trails and Greenways Master Plan. This is all a pretty big document but it is important and thorough and it represents a pretty good compilation of what this Department has been up to for the past couple of years. Certainly explanations as far as the method to our approach, inventories and the like are included. Mr. Garbacik pointed out item 3., d. on page 53 which is the inventory of recreational opportunities in our area, not just what the Park and Recreation Department does, and Mr. Garbacik thinks that is a great answer to those that contend that there is nothing to do around our area. There certainly are a lot of things to do if you just look for it. Mr. Garbacik reviewed the Action Plan that lays out what we intend to do over the next five years; the priorities, some explanations as to why, etc. It starts out in narrative form and will culminate with a matrix that lays out some of the priorities over the next five years and some very preliminary estimated costs. Mr. Garbacik read through the Action Plan section. Mr. Garbacik reported that pertaining to the neighborhood parks, that we have identified some real key points and some good information. We had an excellent work shop with the City Council and a lot of what came out of that the Council will find within the pages of this document. Basically all of our neighborhood parks and probably in need of some sprucing up, some beatification, rules signs, and eventually we would like to make some improvements to the playground equipment. Some of the playground equipment is just old, yet usable and fun to play on but doesn't look good. Some items are as simple as sprucing up and maybe painting. All of our neighborhood parks, and there is a complete inventory of them and what has been accomplished at those parks over time, through the bond process, in 1999, received new modular play equipment. It is still in pretty good shape. Again, some maintenance needs to be done to certain elements of the equipment but Mr. Garbacik doesn't think that we have to worry about an immediate replacement of at least the modular playground equipment. Mr. Garbacik stated that one of the other things that we thought was a really good idea, and took to heart, and that will be approached in these priorities would be the concept of having a primary neighborhood park logistically focused on in the different areas of Michigan City. Obviously Washington Park would cover the north end of town. Pretty much Gardena Park is the center of town these days and we are suggesting that Adams Park would make a good south end park to prioritize and focus on. Adams Park represents a park that needs a total redesign and engineering due to some drainage issues and some soil problems so we will have to be a bit more methodical with that as compared to say Washington Park or Gardena Park. We think this is a good concept and we intend to use Gardena as sort of a prototype or model for those other parks and then thereafter we

would, over time, focus on making improvements at the rest of the neighborhood parks. The golf courses, obviously, have the big issue of drainage. The golf course operates out of a non-reverting fund, which means that its operational costs are covered exclusively by user fees, or the golfers themselves. The same is true for the capital improvements to the golf course. User fees, over time, have basically, exclusively, paid for the capital improvements albeit we are going to reap the benefits of an irrigation system in which the Mayor and the City Council approved \$300,000 for that project out of Riverboat Funds. Efficiencies are going to be very, very important for the golf course. There is a national trend that rounds of golf are down and there is a lot of competition and good golf courses in our area so we have identified that and are cognizant of it and certainly the focus is going to be to improve drainage out there. Patriot Park was an item listed in the Parks' previous 5-Year Master Plan; that we wanted to finish Patriot Park. We haven't been able to do so, however, it is a high priority for us in 2007 and we'll be pursuing getting the remaining construction of the larger ball fields, additional parking areas and finishing up the soccer area. The Trails and Greenways System, and again the history of that over the past decade is that Michigan City was the missing link, or the bottle neck, in the whole system but thanks to the hard work of Laura New and various staff throughout the entire City of Michigan City, we have been able to make some good progress there and again, the Master Plan for that is an attachment to this Master Plan. The Washington Park Zoo has it's own Master Plan and you can review that but the Zoo, for awhile, was experiencing some real financial constraints and the Park Board, at that time, put in some measures to control costs and contain costs. It has proven to be very effective. There has been capital investment and new things going on at the zoo and we think that we are heading in the right direction there. When Mr. Garbacik talks about that cost containment program; the zoo was well on its way to being close to a \$750,000 operational deficit at the time it was addressed. A benchmark was set at that time to get that operational deficit to around \$350,000. Two years ago the zoo finished with approximately a \$357,000 operational deficit and this past year, in 2006, we were at a \$360,000 operational deficit so we are pretty close and we are definitely doing better there. Certainly Mr. Garbacik would encourage everyone to read all about the exciting plans for the zoo. Mr. Johnny Martinez is here tonight and he has been instrumental in turning that corner for the zoo and has been an excellent addition to this team and this staff and of course he brought over 30 years of prior experience into his position at the zoo. Memorial Hall is one of our rental facilities which is very popular and historic and is a property that our Park Department is charged with managing. We have some very ambitious plans to finish up the remodeling of that. Over the past five or six years we have gotten a lot done there and it is a great facility but we have a little bit more work to do and of course it will cost some money but we have that addressed within the Master Plan as well. The previous Park 5-Year Master Plan targeted and identified Memorial Park to be used more frequently and more effectively for community events and other functions and that arose again and in fact Mr. Milsap is here tonight and that was one of his suggestions that it could serve very much as a community center for Michigan City. We have acknowledged and recognized that and will try to have some additional programming, and community dances and the like at Memorial Hall as we move forward. The Senior Center is one of our newer facilities and is in really good shape, not a lot of recommendations there other than that we will pay particular attention to preventative maintenance issues and costs and the like. The Washington Park Master Plan identifies a system of boardwalks and viewing decks and we certainly would like to see that in the area of the Senior Center and actually connecting to the north side or the

back of the Senior Center. Mr. Garbacik stated that there has been a lot of talk about the field house for the Michigan City community and the City of Michigan City; not just through this process but probably over the past five or six years. Mr. Garbacik stated that he thinks the Michigan City Area Schools are potentially interested in such a facility. Of course the problem is that it is a very, very costly endeavor to undertake and then of course there would be annual costs and budget effects to that. In discussing capital and those sort of things with the Mayor, and I think we would tend to agree, that for a sole entity to take on an endeavor of that magnitude is not feasible and certainly that would be one area where a partnership, such as with the Michigan City Area Schools, might make that happen. Mr. Garbacik stated that he won't get into the budget and finance all that much because the reality of all of these ambitious plans and the good ideas in it; the reality sets in when we start looking at some of the costs. We have identified about everything that we possibly could think of, whether it comes to analyzing past budgets or current budgets and what is available to the Park Department to pursue in the form of our own City's funding opportunities or grant programs and some other things but that is pretty thorough as well. In the Action Plan matrix we tried to lay out, over the course of the next five years, an approach to accomplishing this. Of course the key element is going to be funding and the Park Department, in itself, does not have a capital budget line item, rather capital projects are proposed by the Mayor, via consulting with the Park Board, and then ultimately it is up to the City Council to approve funding for those proposals. If we take a look at that matrix we basically laid things out by the task to be accomplished along with the facility or site that it pertains to. There are some very preliminary estimates and costs that are simply there to give us a starting point and an idea of what we might be looking for. Throughout the next five years, Mr. Garbacik thinks that what you will find in here as you take your time to digest it, is that we have addressed every neighborhood park to a certain extent and we have addressed all of the major components of not only this 5-Year Master Plan but the supplemental inclusions within the Washington Park Master Plan and the Trails Master Plan. Mr. Garbacik opened the meeting to questions from the Board or the audience.

Mr. McKee stated that there is a lot of information to cover and obviously if we tried to do it in detail we would be here until two in the morning. Mr. McKee asked Mr. Garbacik to cover the Sheridan Beach Esplanade and a new park office or doing something with this building at some point and time before it caves in on us. Mr. McKee stated he thinks a lot of people had an interest in this when the story broke that the Naval Armory could very well become available and certainly the Park Department would view that as a great asset to capture, either for a Park Office, some type of community center or whatever it may be, it would be a great asset to fall under our jurisdiction or at a minimum the City's jurisdiction.

Mr. Garbacik stated that interestingly enough, the Park's previous 5-Year Master Plan targeted and identified exactly that, if an opportunity would ever present itself to acquire the Naval Armory that we should pursue that. Ironically, and at this time, we have such an opportunity. A methodical approach will be taken in analyzing what kind of costs would be involved in that up to and including potentially having that become the new Park Office.

Mr. McKee opened the meeting to public comment and reminded the public that they can call the Park Office next week with comments or suggestions noting that the Board does want to take

action on a final plan next Thursday, January 11, 2007 but we are still certainly open to suggestions and thoughts.

Mr. Fred Klinder asked what the “ACF” indication on funding means. Does that mean when you get around to getting the money?

Mr. Garbacik answered that that simply identifies potential funding sources and “ACF” stands for all City funds, whether it be Park Department funds, Riverboat dollars, Streets and Roads, etc.

Mr. Klinder asked that it would have to be brought up and determined where the priority comes.

Mr. McKee stated that is correct.

Mr. Don Przybylinski stated that he has been at some other meetings as far as the Master Plan goes and he is speaking about Gardena Playground and in particular an issue that we have discussed, the fencing around the park and getting that repaired. Also, the lighting at the basketball courts, he really does believe that the courts need lighting. Last night he stopped by Pullman Field and that basketball court is lit up like a football field. You have five or six huge lights and one or two would be sufficient at Gardena if we could get it there for the neighborhood kids to play basketball there later in the evening. Mr. Przybylinski stated that when you get into the finalization of the Master Plan and as you move forward with the projects, as he stated when he came to the first meeting, regarding Bismark Hill, and he doesn't know if you still have plans to look into putting a water park up there, or a sledding hill on the south side. He would agree with the sledding hill but he does disagree with the water park and/or a hotel up there. Mr. Przybylinski thinks that what we should do with Bismark Hill is to possibly just leave it the way it is; if you really take a look at it, it is like the last wooded area in Michigan City. The Michigan City Council just approved a million dollars a year or two ago to save Ruby Woods and Mr. Przybylinski would hate to see Bismark Hill destroyed to put a water park up there because he doesn't think we will be able to put a water park on the very top of this hill without digging down into the hill itself and reducing the height of. Mr. Przybylinski stated he doesn't know if any of your gentlemen had the opportunity to take a walk up to the top of that hill, but he did back in the summer time and it is one gorgeous view of Michigan City so maybe something else could be done up there. Mr. Przybylinski stated he thinks it is a good idea to have an outside consultant come in and take a look at the whole project and the funding of it and in closing, and this will be his last point, he took the opportunity to take a ride up to St. Joe, Michigan, because he kept hearing talk about the ice skating rink that they have up there and he doesn't know if any of you gentlemen have had the opportunity to go up there, but with talking to the manager up there he did say that Mayor Brillson was up there and took a look at the operation and for those of you who are on the Board and haven't had the opportunity yet, Mr. Przybylinski thinks that it is an outstanding operation. Maybe you could put that into the plan and maybe nothing to that extent, but he does think that the City of Michigan City needs an upgraded, first class, ice skating rink for the citizens that live in this community. In the wintertime there is no where to ice skate, and Mr. Przybylinski knows that the Park Department does the best you can with the rink that we have had at the old Jewel parking lot, but the operation that they have up there in St. Joe, the

gentleman said, even when it is fifty degrees, they can make ice. Mr. Przybylinski stated it was forty five degrees when he was there and he did see some people from Michigan City up there. Mr. Przybylinski would certainly hope that you guys would take a look at something like that. Now whether that falls under the master plan or if that is under recreational programs, he doesn't know, but if you need some help or advice or if you need an advisory board he would be more than happy to look at something like that. Mr. Przybylinski stated that he knows right now that you guys have a sledding hill out at Patriot Park and on his way home from St. Joe he took a look at that too and that hill, the base of it is encompassed in water, the hill itself has two foot ruts in it and he thinks that in Michigan City if we want to go to Mullen Hill or somewhere and say that this is the sledding hill for Michigan City and do something first class with it. For the youth of Michigan City during the wintertime and even for the general public there is not ice skating. If you could take a look at that, and he knows it is costly, but this is a five year plan; things don't happen overnight and he understands that.

Mr. Garbacik stated that once Mr. Przybylinski has a chance to review the plan he thinks he will find that everything that he just mentioned, with the exception of a detailed report on the rink in St. Joe, which Mr. Garbacik saw with Mayor Brillson and some City Council members and a few others. Mr. Garbacik agreed that that is a very nice facility and one of the great things for them was the initial donation to get it going. Mr. Garbacik stated that we have addressed, in the narrative of the action plan, that topic and we need to take a better approach and explore alternatives to better ice skating opportunities in Michigan City. We talked about it at the City Council workshop and at that time the City of Chicago has, and this could be an alternative that we could look at, a mechanical portable system that keeps the ice even when it is forty or fifty degrees, and Mr. Garbacik thinks that could serve us well here; there is a certain amount of cost still but not to the extent of a year round facility per say. The sledding hill is also addressed; that we want to stabilize the soil on the hill at Patriot Park. It is awful sloppy at the base and we think we can solve that problem, and we are continuing to look into it, by basically some flora or some plantings that will have a root system that will take care of that; similar to what they plant on the sides of highways. We think an approach similar to that will solve that problem. The fencing is in here as well and it is listed as a zero cost because we are going to get that done in 2007. Mr. Garbacik stated that we need to improve some electric and lighting at the basketball courts in Gardena; we need to improve lighting for security anyway and he thinks that at that same time we could take a look at some better sports lighting.

Mr. Milsap stated that in addition to Mr. Przybylinski's requests for Gardena, he would like to know if the bids for the security cameras have been received.

Mrs. Eason stated that poles and electric are being installed and the cameras should be installed in the next few weeks.

Mr. Milsap asked what the protocol is for a business that wants to help take care of a park.

Mr. Garbacik answered that they should give him a call and we will become best friends in a hurry.

Mr. Milsap asked about scheduling community events in 2007 at Memorial Hall.

Mr. McKee stated that when Mr. Milsap and Mrs. Martin asked that at the workshop he had Mrs. Eason send over a calendar of available dates for the next two years. We set a policy last year that allows people to rent facilities two years ahead. Mr. McKee will get an updated calendar and will meet with Mr. Milsap to schedule events. Mr. McKee stated that there were quite a few dates that were available if we want to put a program together.

Mr. Garbacik reported that the Board received the Description of Responsibilities and Compensation of Park Board Attorney for 2007 and he certainly will enthusiastically recommend that this Board retain the services of Mr. Patrick Donoghue who does a fine, fine job, and has for a long time, for this Department.

Mr. Donoghue stated that this contract is the same terms, same responsibilities and same cost as it was last year and has been for probably about ten years.

Mr. McKee stated that he would certainly echo Mr. Garbacik's thought on this that Mr. Donoghue has served this Board well, and that is probably an understatement. You have done a great job over time, your knowledge and history has served us all well.

- **On a motion** made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Mr. Latchford and voted unanimously by the Board, the Board approved retaining Mr. Donoghue as the Park Board Attorney and approved the attached Description of Responsibilities and Compensation of Park Board Attorney for 2007.

Mr. Garbacik reported that the Board received a request for the 2007 Lake Front Art Festival and he would certainly recommend approval of this event. Last year's event went very, very well and he thinks the Art Festival was happy with its new location and happy with the Park Department and we were very happy to work with them. They are a fine organization. Mr. Garbacik reported that Carolyn Saxton is present to answer any questions that the Board may have. Mr. Garbacik stated that the lease is the same as last years and he recommends approval.

Mrs. Saxton stated that she is the Executive Director of the Lubeznik Center for the Arts and she thanked the Park Department for allowing them to have their Lake Front Art Festival in the space where they held it last year; it was perfect. They had a wonderful response from the artists. They had great attendance and they were really able to get nice responses from the surveys from people who attended as well as from the artists who were there.

Mr. McKee stated that he thinks he speaks for the Board that this is mutually beneficial and you guys do a great job for the community on a lot of fronts and we appreciate having you.

- **On a motion** made by Mr. Latchford, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached 2007 Lake Front Art Festival Major Event Lease.

Mr. Garbacik stated that the Board received a request from the Michigan City Exchange Club to host a fundraiser for the rodeo that the Exchange Club puts on annually. Mr. Garbacik stated that they have done this fundraiser at an alternate location and basically they would like to bring it to the Senior Center in Washington Park.

Mr. Doyle added that they requested the Senior Center after they had their Christmas party there and they really enjoyed it and they would like to host their event there.

Mr. Garbacik added that certainly the Exchange Club is one of the many fine organizations and service clubs that we have here in Michigan City and he would certainly recommend approval of their event.

- **On a motion** made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Mr. Latchford and voted unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the request of the Michigan City Exchange Club to host their fundraising event at the Senior Center on March 31, 2007.

Mr. Dean Price of Haas and Associates presented Change Order No. 4 of the North American Carnivore Exhibit stating that during the construction of the NACE exhibit that some items were outside of the scope; replacing some sidewalk and pouring new sidewalk in the amount of \$1954.00; adding locks to the drainage grates in the bear exhibit so the bears cannot remove the grates in the amount of \$120.00; and a water line had to be relocated because it was in conflict with the Otter Exhibit area in the amount of \$295.00. The total cost of the Change Order is \$2,369.00.

Mr. McKee commented that Change Orders usually have some bad connotation to them but we are actually still in the positive.

- **On a motion** made by Mr. Latchford, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached Change Order No. 4 on the North American Carnivore Exhibit.

Mr. Martinez stated that the problems that they have had on the North American Carnivore Exhibit were weather related. Tomorrow there will be a construction meeting and the designer will be there to answer any questions we may have and Mr. Martinez invited the Board to attend if they have questions. Work is being done as weather permits.

- **On a motion** made by Mr. Latchford, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted unanimously by the Board, the Board approved Payroll #26, 12/03/06 through 12/16/06, in the amount of \$45,864.55.

Mr. Garbacik reported charges to the Park Department credit card in the amount of \$217.20 were paid by the Controller's Office.

Mr. Freese commented that he is looking forward to the new year, it looks like it will be exciting with the opportunity to get a lot of things accomplished and if not accomplished at least started off the drawing board and it will be a challenge. The Festival of Lights were awesome.

Mr. Latchford commended everyone on the Master Plan, it is a thorough document of where we have been and where we are going. It is pretty impressive especially considering it was all done in house.

Mr. McKee stated he saw the work that was put into it and it was a great job behind the scenes. Mr. McKee stated that this plan, in its entirety, he is sure would have cost the City \$50,000 or so had we taken it out to consultants and probably more than that. It does encompass just about everything and Mr. McKee thinks the park staff, Mr. Garbacik and the Board have done a really good job of incorporating all of the thoughts that have come in and understanding that any park and recreation type of things mean so many different things to so many different people. It is tough to be in our seats sometimes but all in all we do a pretty good job on these things and that is reflected in this Master Plan. Mr. McKee wished everyone a happy new year.

Mr. Donoghue echoed Mr. McKee's thoughts on the Master Plan and he commended Mr. Garbacik and Mrs. Eason who did such a good job putting it together. Mr. Donoghue can remember back when the Park Department used outside consultants for this purpose and it was rather costly and the product was not as good, in his opinion, as what you have done here. So, not only have you achieved an unbelievable result with what you've done but you have also saved the City a rather substantial amount of money so you are to be congratulated for that. Mr. Donoghue wished everyone a happy new year.

Mr. Doyle echoed what was said. Mr. Doyle stated that working in private industry where we developed, many times in house, what we called users, of how much more productive the procedure was because you had the people that are really involved. When you have that much more expertise in the Park systems you get a much better end product and glancing through this it looks very, very complete. Mr. Doyle reported that he had a question from Councilwoman Martin about the \$60,000 the Park received and his understanding was that it was from the soccer group and for a wish list.

Mr. McKee stated that he is always happy to talk about a great situation and that is what it is. The Soccer Club has given the Park Department \$60,000, and any time you are dealing with those kinds of dollars it is good to get a Memo of Understanding of how it is to be used, etc. and that is really what it is. There is more than a wish list. We are going to proceed with some of the things that they wanted. One of the main items was that they wanted an out building that could be used for storage for some of their nets and balls and all of the things that go with soccer. We also need to do some research and see if they want to use it as a concession area, a restroom area, etc. and get some final pricing for that and we will use those dollars primarily for that. If there is some left over, certainly they also had a list of other amenities that as a Park Department we would like to see them have. But they want to use those dollars to stretch the amenities as far as we can. We are taking care of the fields and so forth. They deserve a good home and that is

what we are trying to build them. This is just a situation of having a great partnership between the Park Board and a user group and they are a good example of it.

Mr. Doyle reminded everyone that on January 20, 2007 the Summer Festival will host their Meltdown event at the Senior Center. There will be dinner and dancing to the band The Current. On January 27, 2007, for the first time in conjunction with the Exchange Club, Summer Festival will have partial sponsorship of the youth amateur boxing event at Rag Tops Museum. The doors open at 6:00 p.m. over there so hopefully some of the people will get a chance to see some of these kids who Mr. Doyle understands are really talented. This is another opportunity for some of our youth to do things that they normally couldn't do.

Mr. Fred Klinder commented that the Festival of Lights is fantastic. He has grown children who are from out of town now and it is neat to see that when they come in to town with their spouses and children that they want to show them what Michigan City has. Everybody is proud of where they are from and it is neat that they are able to do those types of things and he thinks a lot of what the park is involved in is what continues to make Michigan City a place where people are proud to be from. It is a great Master Plan and being from the same industry that Mr. Doyle is from, Mr. Klinder has seen a lot of this kind of stuff before. If you have the wherewithal to make portions of this succeed as you did the last Master Plan it will be a great 5-year plan and Mr. Klinder commended everyone for that and for keeping Mr. Donoghue as the Board Attorney.

- **On a motion** made by Mr. Latchford, supported by all members of the Board, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Darrell L. Garbacik, Superintendent
Michigan City Park Board

Tom Milcarek, Secretary
Michigan City Park Board

Attachments to the January 4, 2007 Park Board meeting:

1. Description of Responsibilities and Compensation of Park Board Attorney 2007
2. 2007 Lake Front Art Festival Major Event Lease
3. Change Order No. 4 North American Carnivore Exhibit

Minutes prepared by Shannon Eason