

The Michigan City Park and Recreation Board met in regular session on Thursday, September 10, 2009 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. Latchford, Freese, Milcarek and Mr. Dabney (4)

Absent: None (0)

Also present were: Jan Orlich, Superintendent; Jeff Katz, Park Board Attorney; Joe Doyle, City Council Liaison; Shannon Eason, Director of Administrative Services and Special Projects; Bill Greene, School Board Liaison; Jeremy Kienitz, Recreation Director; Marilyn Steinhiser, Studio M; Barb Malewicki; Juanita Kreidler; and Andre Steele, ALCO TV.

- ❑ **On a motion** made by Mr. Dabney, seconded by Mr. Milcarek, and voted for by Mr. Latchford, the Board approved the minutes of the August 6, 2009 Park Board meeting. Mr. Freese abstained from the vote stating he was not present at that meeting.
- ❑ **On a motion** made by Mr. Dabney, seconded by Mr. Freese, and voted for by Mr. Latchford, the Board approved the minutes of the August 6, 2009 Park Board meeting. Mr. Milcarek abstained from the vote stating he was not present at that meeting.

Ms. Orlich reported the Park Department received the R.O.S.E. award from the LaPorte County Convention and Visitor's Bureau for outstanding work on the 2009 Super Boat Grand Prix.

Ms. Orlich stated she would like report on the splash pad to keep the Board abreast of the improvements and changes that are currently going on. Ms. Orlich stated she met with City Electrical Inspector Francis Rooney and there are a few more things that need to be grounded including the wrought iron fence which is being installed today and tomorrow. An exit light in the women's restroom had to be fixed, it did not light the ingress and egress and that was completed today. Ms. Orlich stated there is a ground from the HVAC unit that needs to be grounded and that will be done by Continental Electric. Ms. Orlich stated the Mechanical Inspector has given us an ok and the gas meter was installed by NIPSCO today. NIPSCO had some concerns with the HVAC unit and the water heater being in the same room; there was not

enough ventilation and they would not turn on the gas water heater. It was determined by NIPSCO if the Park Department cuts a vent in the bottom of the door that would suffice as the extra ventilation needed in the room. Ms. Orlich stated the door has been removed and Park Maintenance will cut the vent in the door. Ms. Orlich stated the LaPorte County Health Department was here and she spent three hours with them going over their list of do's and don'ts. Ms. Orlich stated we have five more things to accomplish with them and the first is that the signage must be installed and that should be done at the beginning of next week. Ms. Orlich stated the fencing must be installed and Northwest Indiana Fence is on site and that will be accomplished today and tomorrow with the wrought iron fence going up and the additional gates being installed. Ms. Orlich stated three of the flow meters in the splash pad must be working. Due to the nature of the splash pad and the area sand does get into the flow meters and they constantly have to be taken off, cleaned and put back in; they must be in working order. Ms. Orlich stated an emergency phone must be located on the premises with signage and we are working on that. Ms. Orlich stated we must take bacterial and plate count tests on a weekly basis and a lab has to test those. The cheapest lab we found to do that would be in Merrillville, Indiana at \$55 per week. Ms. Orlich stated we weren't planning on doing this; we were counting on the County coming in and testing, but they stated they will not do that; we have to take that to a lab and the closest and least expensive is in Merrillville, Indiana. Ms. Orlich stated we will have to make weekly trips to Merrillville to make sure our water is balanced and correct enough for us to be open to the public. Ms. Orlich stated they want directional arrows on all piping in the mechanical room so directional flow is apparent. Ms. Orlich stated currently the splash pad is operational. However, the mechanical controllers are not working properly. Ms. Orlich called Water Odyssey and they said they sold us the package but the chemical controllers came from Chemtrol so call them. Ms. Orlich called Chemtrol and they said the controllers are working but the pumps that pump the chemicals to the splash pad are not working and they are not in charge of that; you have to call Stingray. Ms. Orlich called them and she is in the process of bleeding the system and priming the pumps for the acid and chlorine and hopefully that will solve the problem. Ms. Orlich stated brick pathways have been installed, ground cover plantings have been planted, the front entrance has been cleaned up and mulched, the trees at the entrance have been trimmed and the restrooms have been cleaned and serviced by Park Maintenance. Ms. Orlich stated she has a final walk through scheduled with Jerry Fedorchak to create a final punch list tomorrow at 8 a.m. Ms. Orlich reported she worked with Tom Thomas who came out to make some revisions to some of the trench drains; some of them pose a little bit of a pinching hazard and he rectified that. Ms. Orlich reported Continental Electric came back out to work on a switch in the mechanical room that operates the sediment pump; the sediment pump controls that water that cleans the pad or rain water and directs it to the sewer system instead of the recirculation tank. Ms. Orlich stated the pump was set on 4" blocks which left 4" to 5" of water which would mix with the recirculation tank. Ms. Orlich called them back to remove those blocks because she had to literally empty the entire sediment tank in order for the water to go to recirculation. The pump itself has 2" legs so she couldn't get the last 2" of water out so she asked Woodruff to come back in and pitched the bottom with some cement to the pump in the middle of the sediment tank which took care of all of the water in there. Ms. Orlich stated LaPorte County Health Department was happy with that and we passed that phase of their inspection. Ms. Orlich reported she contacted Kyle Kazmierczak with the Michigan City Fire Department to get his recommendation for extinguishers for the equipment room. The room

houses electric and toxic chemicals such as acid and chlorine and Ms. Orlich wants to make sure that room is protected. Ms. Orlich reported there will be fire extinguishers in the concession room.

Mr. Greene stated they have a swimming pool at the high school and we used to have a swimming pool at the Y.M.C.A. and he almost sure they never had to have that testing and he knows the school system doesn't do that so he thinks the Health Department is pinching on Ms. Orlich and he thinks Mr. Katz can straighten them out a little bit.

Ms. Orlich reported she can tell you that she spoke with Tom Przybylinski who she believes has something to do with the swimming pool commission and the State and he had told her LaPorte County had made their own set of rules governing swimming pools and splash pads in the County. Ms. Orlich stated the State rules cover swimming pools and not splash pads; this is a zero depth facility and it looks like they have created their own set of rules that they want everybody to follow and from what she understands, there is going to be a revision of the State rules and she believes Mr. Przybylinski is on that commission and right now she has to play by LaPorte County's rules in order to operate otherwise they will not allow us to open up or operate. Ms. Orlich stated she does agree somewhat with some of Mr. Greene's thinking. Ms. Orlich stated from her experiences in Lake County, she never went through any of this; it is just a LaPorte County deal and she is trying to comply.

Ms. Eason reported there was an incident at the skate park last Friday at 8:30 p.m. A fight broke out; it was captured on video tape and the police think they know who the offender is and it should be taken care of quickly. Ms. Eason stated our camera system will play a role in investigating that case.

Ms. Orlich stated she has to go back out to Gardena Park where they continue to vandalize the bricks. Ms. Orlich stated she will have to contact Ray Cermak to supply us with some of those bricks because she doesn't want to continually call him out to do the job when we can do it; we might have to buy a pallet of bricks.

Mr. Milcarek asked if there is any way to position a camera on that area.

Ms. Eason stated yes, she can do that.

Mr. Latchford report last Sunday the port-a-pot was tipped over and the water fountain was broken and had water spraying out of it.

Ms. Eason commented the water fountain is about a \$1,700 item to replace. This is the second time in a year.

Mr. Latchford asked the neighbors to be diligent and call if they see or hear anything suspicious.

Mr. Freese reported he missed the Zoo Society meeting but he made a few phone calls and the majority of their meeting was about the appreciation night they are having this Saturday.

Mr. Latchford stated there was a meeting to review the Memorandum of Understanding with the Zoo Society and he believes there are some very minor changes they requested and we didn't have any problems with those.

Mr. Freese stated everything they brought up and everything we brought up was agreeable to both sides. Mr. Freese stated he talked to Julie Wozniak just before tonight's meeting and Atley Price has the agreement right now and is reviewing it.

Mr. Latchford stated some of the changes we will run by Mr. Katz.

Mr. Freese stated he thought the meeting went pretty good with both sides and it was really minor things they wanted changed.

Mrs. Eason reported she and Jan met with Roger Potratz and John Schaaf of Dh2w this morning regarding the Amphitheater Renovation Project. Ms. Orlich is in the process of getting a Wage Determination Hearing scheduled prior to September 22, 2009 which is outside of their normal monthly schedule. If they can accommodate us the following schedule would allow us to begin construction this fall. Dh2w will have the revised specifications and drawings completed by September 18, 2009. We would advertise for bids on September 22 and 29, 2009. We would hold a public bid opening on October 3, 2009 at 4 p.m. at the Park Office and then a bid award recommendation to the Park Board at your meeting on October 15, 2009. Mrs. Eason stated if we are not able to get a hearing scheduled and fall under the State's schedule we are looking at a hearing date of Wednesday, October 7, 2009 which pushes everything up another month and we would pretty much have to hold this project until spring because of the weather. Ms. Eason stated the majority of the work is concrete work and we feel it would be more costly to try to complete the project in the winter because the contractor would have to bring in heating elements and things of that nature. Ms. Eason stated the bids were very close to the funding we have available so we don't want to add anything to the project; we are trying to scale it back. Mrs. Eason stated they asked Dh2w to take the retaining wall out of the project because it has been completed and asked them to scale down the building addition to an 8' width instead of 14' and that should knock some dollars off of the project. Mrs. Eason stated if we get the hearing in by September 22, 2009 we'll stick with that schedule and hopefully start the project this fall.

Mrs. Eason reported regarding the Adams Park project stating Haas & Associates is currently working on the final drawings and estimated construction costs. Mrs. Eason reminded the Board the final drawings will not include baseball fields; the fields will be moved to Patriot Park. Haas & Associates should be able to present the final drawings and costs to the Park Board at their second meeting in October or October 15, 2009.

Mrs. Eason stated we have good news on the Rock Garden project. Mrs. Eason and Ms. Orlich met with Judy Pinkston who is the Community Development Block Grant Administrator for the City and she thinks the Rock Garden Project may be eligible for HUD grant funding; maybe in it's entirety if we break it up into two phases over two years. Mrs. Eason stated she did some research and we are vaguely listed on the National Historical Register; the language states "WPA

structures” and the rock garden is a structure that was built by the WPA. Ms. Pinkston will let us know this month if we are eligible for the grant and if we are the timeline would be applying for the grant in April of 2010; funds would be released November of 2010; phase I construction would be completed in spring of 2011; we would reapply in April 2011 for phase II; funds would be released in November 2011; and final construction of phase II would be completed in spring of 2012. Mrs. Eason stated this project has been on our priority list for many years and it keeps getting bumped for projects like the Washington Park Electric Upgrade which posed a safety issue so Mrs. Eason thinks it would be great if we can get the funding for this project. It will be a couple of years out but at least it would be completed, and completed entirely including lighting and landscaping.

Mr. Latchford asked if it is a matching grant.

Mrs. Eason stated no, it is 100% funding. Mrs. Eason stated the Mayor is aware of this project and we have his full support. Mrs. Eason stated she will keep the Board posted.

Mrs. Eason reported a camera has been installed at the splash park and it will be operational tomorrow. Mrs. Eason stated there are internal and external cameras and if the Board is interested in the details she would speak with them outside of a public meeting. Mrs. Eason stated the point of sale system was installed and tested today and there was a minor software glitch to work out but it should be fixed tomorrow morning. Mrs. Eason stated a fiber optic line was installed from the zoo to the splash park which will run the new phone system, the camera system, the point of sale. The fiber is also available to run almost unlimited electronics that would be placed in that area in the future.

Mrs. Eason stated on Saturday, September 19, 2009 we will be hosting our annual Adopt-a-Beach cleanup. Registration is at the Dodgem Building in Washington Park at 9:00 a.m. and the cleanup will conclude at noon. Mrs. Eason invited everyone to come down even if you only have an hour to spend helping us out. Mrs. Eason stated kids are welcome; they love the clean up. Mrs. Eason stated on Sunday, September 20, 2009 the Eco Fit Challenge will be held in Washington Park and that includes an 8K run, paddling event and spike volleyball tournament. Mrs. Eason stated the information is available on our website.

Mr. Latchford asked Mrs. Eason if there is any update on the bike trails, especially the Singing Sands Trail that leads to Washington Park.

Mrs. Eason stated she received an email from Mayor Oberlie this morning. We are working with INDOT and the Federal Highway Administration. Mrs. Eason stated there hasn't been much progress but the Mayor has contacted Congressman Visclosky for help. There seems to be a letter writing campaign going on to try to get people interested. Mrs. Eason stated she believes the issue did not go to the FHWA in April of last year for approval. Mrs. Eason stated FHWA may make a permanent finding to make the original agreement stand for these projects but until then there is nothing we can do.

Mr. Latchford asked Mrs. Eason is there is any chance we could lose the grant money.

Mrs. Eason stated she doesn't believe so; FHWA would have to take the funding back from us and she doesn't believe they want to do that; they just want to resolve the licensing/easement language issue. Mrs. Eason stated nothing is happening yet but everyone is talking and at least they are finally talking.

Mr. Latchford asked Mrs. Eason if she is confident that the right people are involved to resolve this and if there is anyone else that we need to tap.

Mrs. Eason stated we are talking to the Governor and our Congressman and without asking for some type of mediation between the FHWA and INDOT she doesn't know where else we could go.

Recreation Director Jeremy Kienitz stated Marilyn Steinhiser is here this evening from Studio M. Ms. Steinhiser approached Mr. Kienitz a couple of weeks ago and wants to develop some type of partnership or working relationship with the Park Department and her dance studio. They talked about a couple of different ways we could go about this such as the program coming through us with us handling everything or just making this a park sponsored program. Mr. Kienitz stated he feels it would be best if they became a park sponsored program; everything will still run through them but we would assist them with marketing; we would put a link on our website. Mr. Kienitz stated this would be similar to how we handle the Piranhas and the Soccer Club. Mr. Kienitz asked Ms. Steinhiser to explain her program to the Board.

Ms. Steinhiser stated she has been teaching dance with Studio M for over 25 years. She stated she worked in Chesterton for about three years but Michigan City is her home town. Ms. Steinhiser moved back to Michigan City and has been teaching on the corner of Poplar and Pearl streets ever since 1987. Ms. Steinhiser stated they normally carry around 75 kids, generally girls, throughout a school year. However, over the last 10 years or so they have seen their numbers decline and last year they ended the year with 43 students. Ms. Steinhiser stated she is not ready to give it up, but at the same time there comes a point where, because of the economy, because of advertising costs, she needs some help. Ms. Steinhiser stated they do have a good program and asked the Board to review their mission statement. Ms. Steinhiser stated they want to teach dance with a gentle approach; they offer good quality training but they are not really strict with the children; the ones that do have potential can definitely become very good dancers and they ones that are there for recreation purposes, we don't break their spirits by pushing too hard. Ms. Steinhiser stated she currently has one teacher that assists her and she has been with her for five years. Ms. Steinhiser stated she hired someone to teach jazz, modern and tap but there are not enough students to actually start. Ms. Steinhiser stated she has also hired a brother and sister hip-hop team who would come from Highland but they have the same situation; only four girls and we need to have six, especially with them coming from so far; we have to pay them more. Ms. Steinhiser stated they have lots of good ideas. They did advertising on the radio, in the newspaper and on an on-line newspaper that originates in LaPorte and they rely on word of mouth. Ms. Steinhiser stated it is just not getting the numbers that she feels they need.

Mr. Kienitz stated we have no financial obligation to this program outside of sponsoring them and assisting them with potentially getting facilities, whether it be Michigan City area school facilities or park facilities for recitals at the end of the season. There is no other financial obligation we are giving to Studio M.

Mr. Milcarek asked Ms. Steinhiser how our involvement would help her.

Ms. Steinhiser stated Mr. Kienitz explained to her that they could possibly get into the school system to perhaps do a demonstration during a lunch hour that might help. Ms. Steinhiser stated the hip-hop team stated if they can just show people what they do; the kids will want to learn it. Ms. Steinhiser stated there is no other place in Michigan City that does what they do; they are street trained; they are not classically trained; it's just fun.

Mr. Milcarek asked if her response is that it would basically give her access to the children.

Ms. Steinhiser stated for the most part yes, and she would hope she would gain some benefit by simply being on the website; people would see it and look further to inquire about them.

Mr. Milcarek stated he likes their mission statement and he would like to see this promoted and regenerate interest because dancing is not what it used to be.

Ms. Steinhiser stated she has a vision of adding ballroom dance but sometimes you have to take baby steps and get one thing in place first and then expand.

Mr. Dabney asked if the classes are for children only.

Ms. Steinhiser stated they have a pre-school program for ages 3 and 4 that was just started this year and there are maybe 6 girls in that class and they go through age 18. Ms. Steinhiser mentioned the photo on their home page is one of their students; she is no longer there, but that is a professional photo she had taken.

Mr. Latchford stated the Park Board can sponsor whomever we like but it doesn't automatically grant access to school facilities. Mr. Latchford stated we would have to work with the school system to see if they would embrace the concept of also sponsoring the dance studio. Mr. Latchford stated he would be willing to speak with Mr. Greene who is our School Board Liaison. Mr. Latchford stated Ms. Steinhiser submitted a wish list and many of the items have to do with the school system.

Mr. Greene asked what the charge is for a class.

Ms. Steinhiser stated the charge is the same for all ages; \$45 per month for a 1 hour session each week through the school year and there is a recital at the end. Ms. Steinhiser stated right now, because of their numbers being small they have been using Marquette High School for the year end recital and that fits them but she is hoping they can grow and then they would need to use a larger school.

Mr. Latchford stated the dance program brings the diversity that we are looking for in our programming. Mr. Latchford stated his daughters are involved in the dance class and he has seen, firsthand, what it can do; they love it, it is a great program and Ms. Steinhiser does a great job.

- **On a motion** made by Mr. Milcarek, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted unanimously by the Board, the Board agreed to sponsor Studio M for the 2009/2010 season.

Mr. Latchford stated he would be happy to act as a liaison with the school system to see if we can help with the items on the list.

Mr. Kienitz presented a report on the Triathlon that was held a few weeks ago in Washington Park. Mr. Kienitz stated he would like to give the Board a run down on the numbers, the planning process and everything that went into the event. Mr. Kienitz reported they ended up with 301 participants which he was very pleased with. Mr. Kienitz stated we took the event in-house this year and did not bring in someone from the outside to run it and we exceeded our numbers from last year and was very happy with that; if you don't bring a brand name in sometimes you don't get the numbers. Mr. Kienitz stated we have the venue and people want to be here and this is a race we can grow. We had participants from all over the Midwest including Iowa and as far east as Maryland; we are pulling a good population out of the Midwest and beyond and we were very excited to see that. Mr. Kienitz stated looking at some of the message boards we see areas where we can improve; there are definitely areas we can build upon and there were definite areas where we hit gold. Mr. Kienitz stated they did fight Mother Nature and they ended up having to cancel the swim portion and go to a run, bike, run format which doesn't necessarily make triathletes very happy, especially those doing the relays because now the person that was going to swim has to run. All in all it went very well; there were no major accidents and we are looking forward to next year. Mr. Kienitz stated, amazingly enough, the planning for next year has already begun. Mr. Kienitz thanked the LaPorte County Convention and Visitor's for their help and their partnership for this event. Mr. Kienitz thanked Debbie Studtman and Michelle Glidden from the Park Office who really put in a lot of extra time and assisted him in the planning process for the event. Mr. Kienitz thanked the rest of the staff for taking up for them when they were out; it was a team effort and we couldn't have done it without any of those pieces in place. Mr. Kienitz thanked the Board for giving him the go ahead to run the show and be the Race Director; he is looking forward to doing it again next year and doing it that much better.

Mr. Dabney asked Mr. Kienitz what kind of feedback he got; did people say it went really well or did they give things we can improve on.

Mr. Kienitz stated the obvious reason it went really well was the venue; the course itself, the layout. It was a very fast course using Lake Shore Drive where looking to your left you see the lake and you are going past beautiful homes; that in itself was the biggest upside. Everyone said this race has good potential which was great to hear but if you have potential it means you aren't hitting your mark. Mr. Kienitz stated he mentioned Mother Nature and they had to bring registration down to the basement that morning; it was a little chaotic. We didn't have enough

volunteers; we had about 60 and we probably need 120; we need to tap on more volunteers. Mr. Kienitz stated they were scraping the last three days to find enough volunteers to make it happen. Registration was slow because we didn't have the help we needed; we thought we had enough help but we didn't, that was bad judgment on our part but something we learned from. Mr. Kienitz stated the main complaints were registration and people not knowing until the last minute that the swim was actually cancelled although that was kind of obvious and we did make that announcement prior to the race.

Mr. Milcarek stated it is great to hear about the cooperation between the Park Department and the LaPorte County Convention and Visitor's Bureau. Mr. Milcarek asked Mr. Kienitz if he is giving any consideration to the Pin Swap event, will you get LaPorte County CVB because last year they were kind of upset that they weren't involved. Mr. Milcarek stated it is very early but have you thought about it.

Mr. Kienitz stated he doesn't know if the World Series is coming back; the NSA has not announced it yet. Mr. Kienitz stated in his opinion, everybody should be involved. Mr. Kienitz stated he will push for that; he will always push for that but whether NSA can work with LaPorte County CVB he does not know but as a liaison between the two he would like to make sure that happens because it should happen.

Mr. Dabney stated he has a suggestion for volunteers. All year long we have requests to discount fees or waive fees and we could go to the people that come to us and ask them to volunteer in exchange; that would be good. Mr. Dabney stated we do a lot; we do a lot of waiving of fees or reducing fees and we should be able to go back to those people and ask them to help out with these events.

Mr. Kienitz stated that is definitely a good idea.

Ms. Orlich commended Mr. Kienitz on the work he did on the Triathlon. Unless you have actually coordinated a triathlon, you don't know what is involved. You have to go through it to find out what you can make better next year; it is a big feat. Ms. Orlich is sure Mr. Kienitz learned a lot this year and she is sure he will get support from the office staff and other groups next year.

Mr. Latchford asked if the report Mr. Kienitz handed out was given to the LaPorte County Convention and Visitor's Bureau.

Mr. Kienitz stated he just finished it and it will be hand delivered to them tomorrow.

Ms. Malewicki asked if the race results were published in the paper because she was looking for them.

Mr. Kienitz answered unfortunately, they were not. Mr. Kienitz stated another huge complaint was that local press did not cover the event. The Post Tribune covered it but our local paper did

not; they had two pictures in there the day after but we couldn't get them to publish any kind of a story or the results.

Mr. Latchford stated maybe we can look to them for sponsorship next year and that might help. Mr. Latchford stated the Internet had a host of feedback on the race and Mr. Kienitz has access to that and there are a lot of bullet points for suggestions on how to improve; it is actually a great way to receive feedback; there were some great suggestions out there. Mr. Latchford told Mr. Kienitz that having great potential is not a bad thing and he is looking forward to next year.

Mr. Kienitz stated if you look at the financial section there was a 50/50 split between the Park Department and LaPorte County CVB. Mr. Kienitz stated for a first year event, with everything we had to purchase to make the event ours, next year we will be able to turn it around, significantly the other way. We had a little over a \$3,000 loss for each department, which Mr. Kienitz is happy about.

Mr. Latchford asked if we ended up better than we projected.

Mr. Kienitz answered a lot better than we projected and next year we should turn it around and then some.

Mr. Freese stated the Gunnery Sergeant at the High School that is in charge of the R.O.T.C. might be able to provide volunteers so perhaps before school gets out in June you might contact him to see if any of his students can help.

Mr. Kienitz stated they did have a few of their volunteers this year. He is also looking into the National Honor Society who needs to log hours. Again, we did it, we learned from it and now we have a few different angles going into it next year.

Mr. Dabney stated just a minute ago he stated maybe we could possibly ask some of these people for volunteers. Mr. Dabney stated Mr. Kienitz gives a lot of reports of some of the things that he does and one thing he always says he needs is more volunteers so we really need to push that; if somebody is asking us for facilities we need to push that; it is important for us to get help and to get volunteers down here. We have a lot of requests throughout the year and we need to be strong in pushing that; we need to tell them we need their people to help us out. Mr. Dabney stated it is really strong in his mind that we should do that.

Mr. Latchford asked if we have a need for volunteers outside of the Triathlon.

Mrs. Eason stated yes, all of the time.

Mr. Latchford stated he believes the Zoo Society had a volunteer coordinator who just worked on recruiting and training volunteers and maybe that is something we could start here and it would help us maintain a block of volunteers and associations with groups to volunteer throughout the year.

Mrs. Eason stated we can use volunteers for any interest you can come up with, building trades, horticulture, animals, sporting events, etc. Mrs. Eason asked Mr. Latchford if he would like to volunteer for that position.

Mrs. Eason reported Resolution No. 677 titled "A Resolution Setting Salaries for Park Department Employees of the City of Michigan City, Indiana for the Calendar Year 2010" was tabled by the Board at your last meeting. There has been a revision to the copy that is before the Board tonight. Mrs. Eason stated the revision includes a range for lifeguard hourly wages and the reason for that range is Mr. Kienitz submitted a request to the City Controller, the Mayor and now the Council for a raise in lifeguard pay. Mrs. Eason stated if the City Council approves a wage increase for this position this year and the Board does not include it in the salary order we would have to come back to the Board to have it revised at a later date. Mrs. Eason stated as long as the Board approves the range they can still set wages within that range and then either way you are covered. Mrs. Eason stated she wasn't sure if that was the correct approach, but it made sense to her.

Mr. Latchford stated it seems logical and again the reasoning is that our competitive wage for lifeguards is extremely low and we are trying to get that into the range of the local community positions.

Mrs. Eason stated that is correct.

- **On a motion** made by Mr. Dabney, seconded by Mr. Milcarek and voted unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached Resolution No. 677 titled "A Resolution Setting Salaries for Park Department Employees of the City of Michigan City, Indiana for the Calendar Year 2010."

Ms. Orlich stated we have an outstanding balance with Reese Recreation in the amount of \$16,459.70 to pay for the splash pad equipment. Ms. Orlich stated all of the equipment is here, it has been installed and it is working properly and she would like to release the final payment to Reese Recreation. Ms. Orlich stated Reese Recreation already paid Water Odyssey for the equipment.

Mr. Latchford asked Ms. Orlich if she is satisfied that they have completed their responsibilities.

Mr. Milcarek asked Ms. Orlich if she is sure that Reese had paid for the equipment.

Ms. Orlich answered yes, Reese Recreation already paid Water Odyssey for the equipment. Ms. Orlich stated she would not release funds to Reese Recreation who acted as the middle man until all of the equipment was installed.

Mrs. Eason stated it is outlined in their contract that we would retain 10% until final installation and testing is completed and Ms. Orlich is satisfied with that testing.

- **On a motion** made by Mr. Milcarek, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted unanimously by the Board, the Board agreed to release the final payment of \$16,459.70 to Reese Recreation for the splash park equipment.

Mrs. Eason stated the Park Board granted permission to Moe Mroueh of Sahara Restaurant to host an event; it was a last minute request and required a Major Event Lease Agreement. Mrs. Eason thought the event was a good idea and the Board rushed it through but the day of the event the weather was horrible and he had to cancel the event. Mrs. Eason asked the Board to approve a full refund because we would like to have more of their events in the future. They like the Millennium Plaza venue and the new deck. They will bring some diversity to the park in the way of music and different types of food. Mrs. Eason stated she would hate to see them lose \$1,300. The event did not cost us anything at all other than Mrs. Eason's time to prepare the contract. Mrs. Eason stated she does not want to leave a bad taste in their mouth so they won't want to work with us next year to bring some events to the park. Mrs. Eason stated the refund includes a \$500 security deposit, the \$500 alcoholic beverage fee and the \$300 rental fee for the plaza.

Mr. Latchford asked if they have been a vendor down here for other events.

Mrs. Eason stated they were a vendor at the boat race and they sponsored an event with Summer Festival at the Senior Center called 1001 Nights.

Mr. Doyle stated they were also the vendor at Millennium for the Burnham Century kayak tour.

Mrs. Eason stated they are trying to be an active member of the community; they bring some diversity such as ethnic foods and music that we don't have in our area so they will be a great asset next year.

Mr. Latchford asked Mrs. Eason if she considers them a good partner.

Mrs. Eason stated yes, she thinks they will be a good partner.

- **On a motion** made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Mr. Dabney and voted unanimously by the Board, the Board approved a full refund of \$1,300 to Moe Mroueh of Sahara Restaurant for their cancelled event on August 22, 2009.

Ms. Orlich stated Ed Arnold of Harbor Grill approached the Michigan City Park Department and would like permission to place a permanent sign in a location where the temporary existed. Mr. Arnold claims the new sign would be constructed to comply with local ordinances and it would be beautified with either a white picket fence or a natural look with shrubs so he requesting a sign that he would purchase to be erected on park property. Ms. Orlich stated Mr. Arnold is not here tonight.

Mr. Latchford asked Ms. Orlich if Mr. Arnold offered to pay the Park Department for the right to put a sign up.

Ms. Orlich stated it sounds like he is possibly not going that route; from the letter she received he said the sign would be available for the Park Department to put message on so it looks like he is hoping that we would not charge him.

Mr. Milcarek stated since Mr. Arnold is not here to answer questions or discuss this we should table it.

Mr. Freese asked where Mr. Arnold wants to put the sign.

Ms. Orlich stated he wants to put it in the little triangle area east of his restaurant.

Mr. Milcarek stated he is not too sure we are interested in putting signs up and down in that area; there are probably other alternatives.

- **On a motion** made by Mr. Milcarek, seconded by Mr. Dabney and voted unanimously by the Board, the Board agreed to table Mr. Arnold's request to erect a sign on park property.

Mr. Latchford stated if there are any discussions we can have prior to that to help move this along he would be happy to get involved in those discussions.

Mr. Kienitz stated the National Softball Association and Baseball Players Association will host their annual conference on October 31 through November 5, 2009 in Panama City, Florida. Mr. Kienitz stated he did not attend the conference last year; he has only been to one national conference. Mr. Kienitz stated he has not attended the last few zone conferences either. Mr. Kienitz asked the Board to approve a travel request to go to the national conference this year in hopes of keeping our long standing relationship with NSA/BPA to bring back the World Series and some of the bigger events that we could and should be hosting in years to come. Mr. Kienitz wants to keep that relationship fresh. Mr. Kienitz noted Patriot Park has received an outstanding park award from them every year since its existence. Mr. Kienitz has also received some personal awards from them and would like to keep that relationship positive. Mr. Kienitz stated the only cost to the Park Department would be airfare and that cost is estimated to be around \$350. Mr. Kienitz can room with others that are attending so there would be no cost for rooms for the days he will be there. Mr. Kienitz stated he is not staying for the entire conference; he will come back on November 3, 2009. He will stay for the main dinner and awards ceremony. Mr. Kienitz stated he will attend a lot of different sessions and rule interpretation meetings. You are considered more highly for national tournaments if you attend the conference. Mr. Kienitz stated he would very much appreciate the Board's approval of his request.

Mr. Freese stated he has personally attended national conventions and you make a lot of contacts and he would love to see Mr. Kienitz go. Mr. Freese stated for that cost he thinks this is a good investment on our part; Mr. Kienitz will meet people and get our name out there.

Mr. Milcarek stated he feels the same way and in the past we have asked if there were other alternatives and as Mr. Kienitz has stated he has given up going down there for a couple of years and he thinks it is time to send him; to refresh and reestablish what we have been doing.

- **On a motion** made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Mr. Milcarek and voted unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached travel request submitted by Recreation Director Jeremy Kienitz.

Mr. Freese asked Mr. Kienitz to provide a summation of the conference highlights when he returns.

Mrs. Eason presented three Resolutions that were not on the agenda; Resolution No. 679 transferring funds in the Zoo Fund; Resolution No. 680 transferring funds in the Recreation Non-Reverting Fund; and Resolution No. 681 transferring funds in the Recreation Fund. Mrs. Eason stated these are all typical end of season transfers and you will be seeing quite a few of those toward the end of the year.

Mr. Latchford stated he has the Resolutions in front of him and they are as Mrs. Eason stated typical transfers between funds at the end of the season.

- **On a motion** made by Mr. Freese, seconded by Mr. Dabney and voted unanimously by the Board, the Board approved the attached Resolution No. 679, Resolution No. 680 and Resolution No. 681.
- **On a motion** made by Mr. Milcarek, seconded by Mr. Dabney and voted unanimously by the Board, the Board approved city claims filed on account of appropriations for the Parks and Recreation Department in the amount of \$50,639.00.
- **On a motion** made by Mr. Milcarek, seconded by Mr. Freese and voted unanimously by the Board, the Board approved Payroll #18, 08/09/09 through 08/22/09, in the amount of \$90,072.63.

Mrs. Eason read the following minor transfers into the minutes:

RECREATION DECREASE

1301 0803 01 411.001	Salaries	\$5,178.28
1301 0803 01 411.016	Overtime	\$2,191.48
1301 0803 01 412.023	Buy Back Vacation	\$1,523.00

RECREATION INCREASE

1301 0803 01 411.014	Seasonal Salaries & Wages	\$8,892.76
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RECREATION NON-REVERTING DECREASE

1311 0000 02 423.003	Small Tools	\$ 600.00
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RECREATION NON-REVERTING INCREASE

1311 0000 02 422.235 Misc. Other Supplies \$ 600.00

Mr. Latchford asked what the difference is between the minor transfers and the Resolutions and if it relates to the dollar amount.

Mrs. Eason stated no, it is dictated by the sections of the budget such as Personal Services, Supplies, Services, etc. If the transfers is within a particular section it falls under a minor transfer but if you move fund between sections it must be done by a Resolution.

Mr. Milcarek reported the Board of Works paid invoices totaling \$141,875.41 at their September 8, 2009 meeting.

Mr. Milcarek reported credit card charges totaling \$2,043.33 were charged to our credit card.

Mr. Milcarek reported it was a busy Labor Day and once again the Park Department and Joe Doyle came through and got everything cleaned up and put back to normal very quickly. Mr. Milcarek commended Ms. Orlich and her staff for once again doing an excellent job.

Mr. Latchford echoed Mr. Milcarek's comments thanking the Park Department for how quickly they turn around from one event to the next; it is pretty amazing. Mr. Latchford thanked Mr. Doyle for all of his efforts; we can't thank him enough for his time and effort. Mr. Latchford stated Mr. Doyle thanks everyone else on his committee but a lot of thanks and gratitude goes directly to you.

Mr. Doyle thanked Mr. Latchford for the compliment. Mr. Doyle stated we have a good group of people who really know how to work together and the Park Department has always been there; they get it done; they have the experience and the knowledge and there isn't any complaining, it is enjoyable even though it is a challenge. Mr. Doyle stated the weather was great. Mr. Doyle asked Ms. Orlich if there is any possibility of putting an ATM machine near the splash pad. Mr. Doyle stated they had a lot of requests for an ATM machine when we have events down here.

Ms. Orlich stated that is a consideration and she expressed that to Mike Dempsey since he has two ATM machines. Ms. Orlich stated Mr. Dempsey doesn't feel that he wants them in a location where you have to pay to get in to the park. Ms. Orlich stated Mr. Dempsey is looking for an outside location and looked at the service entrance road at the zoo but after reviewing that we feel that it really is not an accessible location since you would pull in to the ATM machine traveling east on Lake Shore Drive and the driver window would be on the opposite side. Ms. Orlich did offer the splash park as another choice and she believes they even discussed the downstairs of the Park Office. Ms. Orlich stated the splash pad might be a good location and we'll bring that back up.

Mr. Doyle stated you would be surprised how many people they send to the zoo to use the ATM during Labor Day weekend and if we can make a commission on that it would be good. Mr. Doyle stated if it was at the splash park it would be used.

Ms. Orlich stated that is definitely a possibility and all of the transaction fees would go into the zoo operational budget; that is what the Society would like to see and she is all for it. Ms. Orlich stated she thinks this is an added service we can provide and she will approach Mr. Dempsey again.

- **On a motion** made by Mr. Freese, supported by all members of the Board, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Jan Orlich, Superintendent
Michigan City Park Department

Tom Milcarek, Secretary
Michigan City Park Board

Attachments to the September 10, 2009 Park Board meeting:

1. Studio M Dance Class Request
2. 2009 Michigan City Triathlon Report
3. Resolution No. 677 Titled “ A Resolution Setting Salaries for Park Department Employees of the City of Michigan City, Indiana for the Calendar Year 2010”
4. NSA/BPA Travel Request Submitted by Recreation Director Jeremy Kienitz
5. Resolution No. 679
6. Resolution No. 680
7. Resolution No. 681
8. Claims Docket Allowance for Vouchers Dated September 10, 2009

Minutes prepared by Shannon Eason