

**SOUTH BEND BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 16, 2020**

The Board of Park Commissioners of the City of South Bend, Indiana met on Monday, March 16, 2020, at Howard Park Event Center, 219 S. St. Louis Blvd., South Bend, Indiana for its regular meeting. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting were duly given as required by law.

Park Board members present were as follows:

Mr. Mark Neal, President  
Mr. Dan Farrell  
Ms. Aimee Buccellato

Park Board members absent were as follows:

Ms. Consuella Hopkins

VPA staff members present: Aaron Perri, Executive Director; Eva Ennis, Operations Coordinator; Bridget Noonan, Special Events Coordinator

Other city representatives present: Clara McDaniels, Assistant City Attorney

I. Call to Order

President Mark Neal called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes of the February 21, 2020, Park Board meeting by Dan Farrell, supported by Aimee Buccellato, motion carried.

III. Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the consent agenda by Dan Farrell, supported by Aimee Buccellato, motion carried.

IV. Use of Parks – New Events

a. Recover Michiana | September 20 | Howard Park

Bridget Noonan explained that Recover Michiana would like to hold their annual event at Howard Park on September 20. The event is a free and open to the public event with kids' activities, music, speakers and more with the purpose of connecting people to resources for addiction and bringing awareness. They anticipate 300 or more attendees.

Motion to approve Recover Michiana on September 20 at Howard Park by Dan Farrell, supported by Aimee Buccellato, motion carried.

V. Interviewing of Interested Citizens

Mark Neal opened the floor for citizen comments. There were no comments.

VI. Unfinished Business

a. Resolution 0003-2020: Endorsement of Park Bond E Transfer

Aaron Perri explained that the Park Bond E transfer will redirect the proceeds of the Series E Bonds to the Series D Project to improve and expand a mixed-use trail from Howard Park, along Governor Joe Kernan Park south to Sample Street. The total amount of the Park Board Series E proceeds approved to be redirected to the Park Board Series D Project shall not exceed \$725,000, and the total cost of the Series D Project shall not exceed \$2,000,000. There were no changes to the resolution from the last meeting where the projects were discussed in detail.

Motion to approve Resolution 0003-2020 by Dan Farrell, supported by Aimee Buccellato, motion carried.

## VII. New Business

### 1. Resolution 0004-2020: Howard Park Property Transfer

Aaron Perri explained that an additional parcel of land at Howard Park that was previously under the ownership of the Redevelopment Commission should be transferred to the Board of Park Commissioners to include all Howard Park property under their ownership.

Motion to approve Resolution 0004-2020: Howard Park Riverwalk Property Transfer by Aimee Buccellato, supported by Dan Farrell, motion carried.

### 2. Howard Park Use Agreement

Aaron Perri explained that the Howard Park Use Agreement is a blanket agreement to be used when people rent out the event rooms at Howard Park.

Motion to approve the Howard Park Use Agreement by Aimee Buccellato, supported by Dan Farrell, motion carried.

### 3. Resolution 0005:2020: Honorary Recognition at Pulaski Park

Jonathon Geels, Troyer Group, explained that there is along history of advocacy for Pulaski Park to be renamed since the 1970s to reflect the transition of the neighborhood demographics. Groups that use the park most frequently are seeking more representation. The renaming of the pavilion and field at Pulaski Park to Dolores Huerta Pavilion and Field would recognize both the Latinx community and women, both groups that have little representation among landmarks in our community.

Mark Neal requested that if the sign at the corner of Western and Walnut is replaced that the new sign include the name of the Dolores Huerta Pavilion and Field as well as the park name.

Motion to accept Resolution 0005-2020 to name the fields and pavilion at Pulaski Park to Dolores Huerta Pavilion and Field by Aimee Buccellato, supported by Dan Farrell, motion carried.

### 4. O'Brien Center Childcare Program

Amanda Bender presented the O'Brien Fitness Center plan to offer childcare services to fitness members. She reviewed policies and procedures that will be required of staff and reviewed the fee structure. Aaron Perri noted that the board will need to approve the new fees and the policy changes.

Mark Neal requested an update on how the childcare services are going in 6-8 months.

Motion to approve the fee structure and the policies by Dan Farrell, supported by Aimee Buccellato, motion carried.

## VIII. Report by Executive Director Aaron Perri

Aaron Perri gave the following updates regarding the city's next steps to address the COVID-19 crisis.

- Office workers will begin remote work after today.
- All playgrounds will be cleaned and sanitized daily.
- VPA will host virtual experiences daily on the Facebook page at noon. The virtual experiences will feature behind the scenes tours and activities for people to do at home.

No other questions or comments from the Park Commissioners, meeting adjourned at 5:42 pm by President Mark Neal.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, April 20, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. in the Ribbon Town Room at Howard Park.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eva Ennis