

**Minutes of the July 8, 2020 Meeting of the Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners**  
**Location: Marilla Recreation Center, Morgantown, WV**

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 3:06pm.

**Establish Quorum:** Board Members Present – President Patrick Hathaway, Danielle Trumble, Rachel Fetty, Vice President Jenny Selin, Rick Landenberger, Susan Klingensmith, Director Melissa Wiles, Assistant Director Marissa Travinski, Ex-Officio Treasurer Jim Goff and City Attorney Ryan Simonton also present.

**Minutes:** Rick Landenberger requested two amendments to the June, 2020 minutes, replacing the word "illegal" with the word "unsanctioned" in the trail presentation discussion and also to expand on Jenny Selin's additional information in the Executive Director's report. The June, 2020 minutes were approved by consensus as amended at the request of President Hathaway.

**Correspondence:** No correspondence was reviewed.

**Oral Communication:** JoNell Strough, representing Mon Valley Greenspace Coalition, gave another presentation on parks and trails, focusing again on White Park, increased trail usage due to COVID-19, trail maintenance and planning.

City Engineer Drew Gatlin was also present to provide an update on the MUB project as it relates to White Park trails and speak about the IMBA trail grant study. A map of the existing White Park trails was provided, information on reforestation and design are not independent and will include consultation with the Tree Board. Also, environmental permitting has been a timetable issue and the same permit process will need to happen during the trail development portion of the project. Rick Landenberger stated that it is the trail standard that needs to be chosen and that is BOPARC's decision. Drew indicated that it is the designer that determines the standard. Ryan Simonton indicated that according to the terms of the licensing agreement, Appalachian Dirt would be making the design decisions, with the Board's input. Rick Landenberger stated that he would like the Board, somebody from the neighborhood association, a bird watcher, a trail runner because he feels a larger stakeholder group will result in a better decision.

Drew also provided an update on the IMBA comprehensive plan for mountain bike and multi-use trail development. The study is a result of WVU asking the City of Morgantown to join in a comprehensive trail planning exercise. This study was to be made possible utilizing a trail accelerator grant through IMBA (International Mountain Biking Association). The City has been asked to inventory parcels they might like to be included/excluded and the study will look at things like design, maintenance cost, personnel. Public input has not yet been opened, but will likely begin in September. Drew laid out details of locations and tracts being analyzed. Rick asked to what extent, if any, has the larger greenspace property within the City been discussed. Easements have been discussed, as well as more strategic management of greenspace management.

**Financial Report:** Jim Goff reviewed the financial information and stated that it was very preliminary. BOPARC has issued approximately \$235,000 in programming and rental refunds due to COVID-19. At the point of the meeting, there is still cash available and no additional funding has been needed. Jenny Selin asked about possible Federal funding through CARES or other methods. Jim Goff and Director Wiles will meet to discuss. President Hathaway asked for approval of the Financial Report and it was approved by consensus.

**Executive Director's Report:** Director Wiles reviewed her report and included updates on pool operations (attendance has been steady, season passes have been at about half of their normal revenues), Riverfront Park (logistical meeting has taken place). President Hathaway inquired as to revenue split and duties. Director Wiles reviewed that the initial discussion with then City Manager Brake was that the City would be forming an Arts and Culture component per the funding agreement and that BOPARC would still be involved in some of the park side of the care. BOPARC is providing grounds services, maintaining the public restrooms and picking up the trash on our normal runs. It is the expectation of Director Wiles that given the City's new division and the fact that they wish to manage the venue side of the equation, Arts and Culture will want to retain the revenues. BOPARC will track the staff time and supplies on the park side, which Director Wiles will discuss with Jim Goff during budget formulation.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

- A. **Trail Policy Discussion** – Director Wiles opened the discussion regarding a trail policy, indicating that this would be a discussion item, as there would not be time to form a policy in one meeting. For future items such as this, they will be placed on the agenda as separate discussion items first, then moved to action items when appropriate. Rick Landenberger is interested in a policy detailing what the process, (or lackthereof), is when people want to build trails. He asked what it would take to re-assign a current staff member to trails only. Director Wiles stated that was not need to reassign work at this time because all of our full-time staff is mowing grass. Rick Landenberger feels BOPARC mows too much grass. We do not have maps of BOPARC trails. Director Wiles reminded the Board that funding and staffing are still major issues for BOPARC, compounded by the current pandemic and financial situation.

Rick Landenberger stated that BOPARC just needs to try harder to get more funding. Rachel Fetty stated she wished to remind everyone that it is the Board's job to do the fundraising and to do some of the things that are being discussed and that the Board is the mechanism that is required to funnel the policy. She suggests that the Board comes up with a plan to secure more funding for BOPARC or figure out how to donate enough time and energy into coming up with solutions for things that frustrating. Rachel stated that if BOPARC could drill down into the things that can be right now, the conversation would have been very different if it would have taken place a year ago. With regard to the trail policy, President Hathaway would like the policy to detail how BOPARC does official tracking of approved trails. Drew Gailin stated that part of the IMBA study will address trail inventory and then what is wanted can be addressed. Jenny Selin asked if as part of the study, IMBA could suggest policies that communities can put into place for trail development. Drew stated that all of the discussion was describing the process that will occur in the IMBA study.

**Board Comments:** Danielle Trumble stated that BOPARC is trying to do a lot of recovery in White Park and suggested we place signs there now directing people to stay on marked trails. She announced a future clean up in Whitemoore as well. Rick Landenberger gave an update on the Marilla Park trail. Jenny Selin stated that she has appreciated being able to swim at Krepps Pool. She also pledged to do what she can to work towards money for staffing for trail needs. She thinks the IMBA study could be beneficial and welcomed Susan to the Board. Rachel Fetty welcomed Susan as well, expressed her appreciation for everyone. Susan Klingensmith stated she was happy to finally be a part of BOPARC and that it is obvious everyone is invested and cares. She stated too that it was good to see the pools open. Patrick Hathaway stated that he appreciates all the hard work everyone is putting in and doing to keep everyone as safe as possible. He would like BOPARC to continue project planning and focusing longterm planning. He mentioned the ice arena project as a major focus for the past few years. He would like everyone to keep in mind that things do not just happen and take a great deal of planning in order to get where we need to be. He would like the priority to be things that generate revenue for the organization.

**Adjournment:** Jenny Selin moved for adjournment and the meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

Melissa Wiles

August 12, 2020

Respectfully Submitted, Melissa Wiles, Executive Director

Date

Via Zoom - MW for P. Hathaway

8-12-20

Approval Acknowledged, Patrick Hathaway, Board President

Date