

**Minutes of the July 18 , 2018 Meeting of the Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners**  
**Location: Marilla Recreation Center, Morgantown, WV**

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 3:01pm.

**Establish Quorum:** Board Members Present –Jenny Selin, Patrick Hathaway, Ed Cordwell, Rachel Fetty (at 3:05pm), Joey James. Director Melissa Wiles, Associate Director Marissa Travinski, City Attorney Ryan Simonton, Ex-Officio Treasurer Jim Goff were present as well.

**Election of Officers:** Joey James nominated Patrick Hathaway for President. No further nominations. Unanimous vote for Patrick Hathaway as President for the 2018/2019 fiscal year. Joey James nominated Jenny Selin for Vice President. No further nominations. Unanimous vote for Jenny Selin as Vice President for the 2018/2019 fiscal year. Patrick Hathaway nominated Joey James for Secretary. No further nominations. Unanimous vote for Joey James as Secretary for the 2018/2019 fiscal year.

**Minutes:** Joey James motioned and Ed Cordwell seconded for approval of the June minutes. Minutes approved unanimously.

**Oral Communications:**

Jamie Lester was in attendance to present a park sign concept for Whitemoore Park. This is a project that the neighborhood and Marissa Travinski have been working on. There was an initial modest budget of \$2,500 established and Jamie has agreed to donate additional signage to finish out what has been proposed for the park as a whole. Following the presentation and discussion it was reiterated that Marissa would continue to work with Jamie and the neighborhood to complete the project. We will plan a sign unveiling at the appropriate time.

Deputy Mayor Mark Brazaitis spoke and requested that the contents of his comments be entered into the minutes. Those comments attached.

Resident Tony Christini spoke regarding his hope that a levy would be run in the November election and also suggested some minor wording changes to the planned Whitemoore sign.

City Manager Paul Brake was also in attendance, as well as a representative from the Dominion Post. Colin Dierman, of the White Park Trail Advisory Group, was in attendance as well and was scheduled to speak during the Director's Report.

**Correspondence:** Correspondence was reviewed.

**Financial Report:** Jim Goff reviewed the Financial Report, stating that revenues were in line with projections at the end of the fiscal year, as were expenses. Overall, BOPARC's actuals were within a near match to the budget at year's end. He commended the Director and staff on this. Joey James moved for approval of the Financial Report and Jenny Selin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Executive Director's Report:** Director Wiles answered questions on her monthly report, beginning with a synopsis of what had been done thus far on the South Middle side of the White Park trails. This amounts to trimming at two to three feet on established trails and monitoring trails for trash and the like. These trails have been mapped. Colin spoke to discussions of a tool cache somewhere on White Park property similar to the cache that we have at Marilla for trail purposes in Marilla Park and other areas. Colin and Director Wiles will work on this. The Director also reviewed with the Board the draft of the sign for Beverly Shumkaker's contribution to tennis in Morgantown. This sign was a project for Dr. David Smaldone's Parks & Recreation class. The draft will be forwarded to Beverly's husband, Bob Shumaker, for content consultation and Director Wiles also asked for the Board's comments over the next couple of weeks.

**Unfinished Business:**

None

**New Business:**

- **Shirt Factory Demolition** – Director Wiles reviewed the outstanding demolition of the vacant shirt factory building behind Marilla Center. She explained that the demolition was actually an item from BOPARC's most recent Master Plan update. With the new fiscal year's funding from the City's 5-Year Capital Improvement Program, the project can be accomplished. Anderson Excavating previously provided former Associate Director Moss with a demolition price of \$24,357.60 and will honor that price. Rachel Fetty motioned and Ed Cordwell seconded for approval of the contract and project with Anderson. Motion passed unanimously.

**Board Comments:**

- Joey James spoke about BOPARC Board representation, noting that if BOPARC use was comprised of such a large percentage of County residents it might make sense to have County representation on the Board as well. Ryan Simonton clarified State Code and BOPARC By-Laws in relation to the number of City Council members that could serve as well as that City residents could apply currently regardless of membership on other Boards and Commissions.
- Jenny Selin stated goals moving forward on cooperative ventures and helping BOPARC be the best that it can be, mentioning the success of the summer series with concerts and movies. She also hopes to find kayak space at the riverfront as part of the renovations to HRM Park and said she felt that there was a great group of professionals working with the Ice Arena project. She stated that BOPARC is accomplishing things, noting again the Ice Arena project, Krepps Aquatic Play Area RFP, Marilla water slides. She stated that the Board needed to engage in strategic planning, priorities as a Board and key projects and reminded everyone that BOPARC administration would be working with Paul Brake as part of the upcoming budget season.
- Rachel Fetty stated that several things had been weighing on her mind with regard to our areas of difficulty as of late, including needed upgrades to the Ice Arena, Krepps and Marilla Pools. Funding issues have been raised, both short-term and long-term. There is a need to not plow forward when not prepared yet to address "go quickly" vs. "plan". She asked for patience.
- Ed Corwell stated that the University is not paying its fair share.
- Patrick Hathaway reminded the group that BOPARC had openings on the Board and also stated that he appreciated everyone's passion, which also needs harnessed with goals in mind.

The Chair suspended the Rules to allow the following comments:

- Nancy Ganz: BOPARC's circumstances have evolved and must move forward. Conflict hurts. The community has more resources, including County resources, City resources, City residents are carrying majority of the load, stressed strategic planning and long-term funding.
- Mayor Bill Kawecki stated that "Monday morning quarterbacking" was blocking the road forward. We need a plan, timeline, cost. He stated that Council is being torn and that confrontation is not needed.
- Deputy Mayor Brazaitis stated that confrontation is the only way to bring about change.

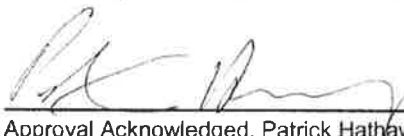
**Adjournment:** Rachel Fetty motioned for adjournment and the meeting adjourned at 4:35PM

Melissa Wiles

8-15-18

Respectfully Submitted, Melissa Wiles, Executive Director

Date



8/17/18

Approval Acknowledged, Patrick Hathaway, Board President

Date

PLEASE Add to the minutes

My name is Mark Brazaitis. My wife and I are the parents of two daughters who have relied on BOPARC facilities since we moved to town in August of 2000. As a professor of English at WVU, I am the faculty adviser to the WVU Figure Skating Club. Our skaters rely on the Morgantown Ice Arena. I am the co-director of the Mason-Dixon Figure Skating Club/BOPARC learn to skate program. We had about 80 skaters—children and adults—in the program over a mere 12 weeks last year.

I am also the city council representative of Morgantown's sixth ward. All of my constituents, which include men, women, and children in Norwood, Jerome Park, South Hills, Southpoint Circle, and Greenmont, are in walking or bike-riding distance of Marilla Park and the Marilla Pool.

I was raised in a split Catholic-Protestant home, and I married a Jewish woman. I am therefore part of the Judeo-Christian tradition. For a long time, I wasn't as familiar with the Sermon on the Mount as I should have been. Here is its parable of the "Tree and Its Fruit"

### **The Tree and Its Fruit**

<sup>15</sup> "Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. <sup>16</sup> You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup> A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. <sup>19</sup> So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions.

BOPARC is a good and beautiful fruit tree. But thanks to the wolves in our midst—and I don't think I have to name names since I've done that already—it has been stripped of its wealth and is now in danger of becoming firewood.

We cannot let the wolves cast it into the fire. We must restore it to its full and productive beauty.

You have spoken of the situation BOPARC faces as a "crisis." You have told us how old your facilities are: Marilla Pool: 58 years old; Krepps Pool: 38 years old; Morgantown Ice Arena: 36 years old; Marilla Water Slide: 26 years old.

You have said this didn't happen overnight. It didn't. It happened over the last 20 years—the same 20 years you were influenced by wolves.

You have also said it can't be fixed overnight.

To use an animal metaphor: Bull. Bull, bull, bull. And I won't even mention the animal's excrement.

our community's

Since you know what ~~your~~ needs are, and have known for years and years—and I have proof of that—you have a moral obligation to our community to address the crisis you've acknowledged. You have a moral obligation to our community to put a price tag on those needs right now.

You have a moral obligation to our community to present to the city council at our next meeting—and certainly no later than the first week of August—a draft of a county-wide levy we can review and move forward to the County Commission before August 27<sup>th</sup>.

Pools and baseball fields might be all we can offer with a levy because, as you know, the levy to fund the ice rink was utterly botched by the wolves.

As for long-term funding: You have my promise on a sales tax that will realistically acknowledge where the bulk of that revenue would come from: bars and the legal gambling industries that are coming our way. A sales tax is far easier to collect than B&O tax. Sad but true.

If you don't act now, or very, very soon, you're lying down with the wolves in continuing BOPARC's ongoing crisis. You're bringing us all closer to the fire.

Don't listen to me: Listen to the people of Morgantown. They have told you—angrily and clearly—that they want a fully-funded, fully-functional BOPARC.

To delay is to lead us into the fire.

Do the right thing.

Also: The Norwood neighbors request that you hold meetings at 6 pm to accommodate the schedules of working people. They said they would attend if the times were more suited to their schedules.