

Marion County Parks And Recreation Commission

__January 27, 2025__ – Regular Meeting Minutes

6:00 PM CVB Conference Room

COMMISSIONERS

PRESENT:

Jay Ford, President
Robert Brookover, Vice Pres.
Craig White, Secretary
J. Philip Burton, Treasurer
Jimmy Bledsoe
Tracy Evans
Rick Garcia
Cathy Maxwell
Josh Rice
Dave Shaw
Butch Tennant

STAFF

PRESENT:

Tony Michalski, Director
Tina Mascaro, Sports Management Director

GUESTS:

Andrew Noshagy – Baxter community,
phone in
Ben Smith – MCPARC Maintenance
Supervisor

I. Opening of the meeting and approval of minutes

The meeting was called to order at _5:56_p.m. by _Jay Ford_(President).

The motion was made by __Dave Shaw__ and seconded by _Josh Rice__ for the **approval of the minutes** for _December 16, 2024_. Motion Carried __X__ Motion Denied _____

Andrew Noshagy phoned in to the meeting to thank MCPARC for all they have done for the Baxter community. He also thanked Tony for helping to write grants for the community and getting them an additional \$70,000 in funding. MCPARC is blessed to have Tony.

II. Financial Report for __December 2024_____

MCPARC made the first loan payment for the MLR project to the County Commission for \$11,666. Next large levy check won't be until March. We like to start the summer with ~\$300-350,000.

The motion was made by _Josh Rice__ and seconded by __Phil Burton__ for the **financial report and invoices** for __December 2024__. Motion Carried __X__ Motion Denied _____

III. Committee Reports

- a. Program and Planning – the committee met 1-21-25; report will be given
- b. Finance
- c. Nominating – need to reach out to the committee to work on a slate; current officers are willing to remain in office

The motion was made by __Dave Shaw__ and seconded by __Josh Rice__ for the **approval to defer elections until the February meeting**__. Motion Carried __X__ Motion Denied _____

- d. Personnel

IV. Director's Report

- a. MCPARC Board Officers – By Laws indicate that officers for the 2025 calendar year need to be appointed. Current slate: President – Jay Ford, Vice President – Bob Brookover, Treasurer – Phil Burton, Secretary – Craig White.
- b. January 21 Program and Planning Committee Meeting –
 - i. Current fiscal year budget capital development projects include MLR Youth Park renovations (20 x 60 area still needs excavated and repaired and some blacktop needs repaired), Worthington Park multi-purpose field and park improvements (a list was included in the board packet), West Fork River/Ralph S. LaRue Trail repairs (4 spots need new black top and topping and hillsides need repaired), and the maintenance shop expansion.
 - ii. Next fiscal year capital development projects and obligations include the EM tennis court/pickleball court project (~\$200,000), EM softball field lighting project (~\$25,000 for the new electric and ~\$220,000 for lights, ~\$20,000 for Duraedge); Korean War Memorial completion; Pavilion 1 paving project; MLRYP loan repayment
 - iii. MLR youth park continuing improvements – additional shade structures for other areas of the park.
 - iv. Middletown Commons project update – Tony attended the Whitehall Town meeting and MCPARC is excited to partner with them
 - v. Curtisville Lake Trail Development and the WV Land Trust Partnership – they will be creating ~ 10 miles of trails.
 - vi. Rails to Trails cross town connection – partnership with the City of Fairmont.
 - vii. Bunner's Ridge Raptor center property – still haven't heard from Mike Book and the property hasn't been transferred yet. MCPARC will create a development committee for the property – Tony, Phil, Josh and we will ask maintenance employee Paisley Bunner and supervisor Ryan McDonald.
 - viii. Baxter Motor Sports park AML update.
 - ix. Horizon projects – wave pool control panel, Big Jon site, paving and sealing, East Side Rail Trail connection and Indoor Recreational facility.
- c. White Hall Town Council meeting – Tony attended to discuss the possibility of a possible partnership to develop the property. They are interested in an amphitheater, walking track and dog park; MCPARC would like to turf the property. We will continue to partner with them.
- d. 2025 Community Grant program

The motion was made by Bob Brookover and seconded by Jimmy Bledsoe for the **approval** of the community grant application for 2025. Motion Carried X

Grants are due by March 12th and will be awarded at the March 17th board meeting. Applications are available at the mcparc.com website or the office.

- e. MLR project update – the latest pay application was included in the board packet, once paid there will be only \$50,000 left in retainage. MCPARC is in the process of obtaining estimates to fix the drainage and lay sod in between the new buildings and the football field and for repairing several areas of the black top. The amount of both estimates will be deducted from the final payment application. MCPARC has begun to repay the \$700,000 loan to the County Commission for the project. Monthly payments are \$11,666 and the annual commitment to the loan is just under \$140,000.

V. Sports Management Director Report

- a. Community Engagement – MCPARC provided weight certifications for EFHS wrestling.
- b. Programs
 - i. MLR project update – waiting on Veritas to complete all items and turn property over to MCPARC.
 - ii. K-3 Basketball program in in mid-season and everything is going great.
 - iii. 1st draft of the 2025 MCPARC program calendar was submitted for review.
 - iv. MCPARC is working to develop a new adult basketball program and hope to partner with the new owners of 5th Street gym.
 - v. Someone has done donuts on the For the Kids soccer fields. We won't know the extent of the damage until the snow melts. Gates are now locked

VI. Maintenance Report

MCPARC maintenance team worked on the Christmas tree program -delivering and picking up trees that will then be placed in our parks; built 20 new picnic tables; started building the new dugouts for the tball fields at MLR; snow removal; cleaned up fallen trees on the trails; decorated the CVB/MCPARC office for Christmas; dismantled the float; started winter maintenance on mowers and trucks; painted some of the offices and split firewood.

VII. New Business

- a. MCPARC job postings: part time office assistance, community garden program coordinator, Guyses Run Park, and maintenance. Internally – MCPARC maintenance assistant supervisor.
- b. Palatine park sponsorship request was included in the board packet

The motion was made by _Josh Rice_ and seconded by _Dave Shaw_ for the **approval of** _MCPARC to donate \$5000 to Palatine Park_. Motion Carried ___X_____ Motion Denied _____

- c. Julie Sole would like to come to the February meeting to give an update on the DAC project.
- d. Ben Smith – MCPARC supervisor – spoke to the board. His comments are paraphrased: “when I took over the equipment wasn’t in great shape and there were safety concerns – all equipment is in working conditions and there have been no safety issues under him; I encourage and welcome all board members to stop by the shop and see the crew and what all they are involved in; and if you are ever in the parks and see any crew members to stop and talk to them; I’ll be around to offer guidance when needed and assist with training; thank you all for allowing me to do my job for the past 10 years!”

VIII. President’s Remarks

Recognized Ben Smith for his faithful and loyal years of service to MCPARC. On behalf of all board members ‘thank you Ben’.

IX. Around the Horn

- a. **J. Bledsoe** – no comment

