

**Board of Park Commissioners**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 13, 2023**

**Call to Order:** Mr. Kara called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was held open to the public and a call-in number for remote public participation.

**Roll Call:** Commissioners in attendance: Mr. Kara, Ms. Grabczak. Present via remote call Mr. Such and Council Representative Mr. Huddlestun. Also present: Park Board Secretary Ms. Montes and Park Director Mrs. Goodpaster. Absent: Commissioner Mrs. Galka and School Board Representative Mrs. Hillan.

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion by Ms. Grabczak, seconded by Mr. Such to approve the agenda as presented. All aye, motion carried. (4-0)

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Ms. Grabczak, seconded by Mr. Such to accept the March 13, 2023 minutes as presented. All aye, motion carried. (4-0)

**Approval of Register of Claims:** There were questions in regards to the Midwestern Electric and Pro-Am Team Sports. Mrs. Goodpaster explained that the Midwestern invoice is for the light poles for Festival Park and the Pro-Am Team Sports is where we order our softballs for the summer league. Mr. Such stated that he would look into ordering softballs with the little league since they get a discount rate. Motion by Ms. Grabczak, seconded by Mr. Such to accept the register of claims. All aye, motion carried. (4-0)

**Correspondence:** nothing under correspondence

**Director Report:** Mrs. Goodpaster reported that a temporary fence will be installed tomorrow at Festival Park by Holladay Construction for the bathroom project. Breaking ground will begin at April 1<sup>st</sup>. We are also working with BF&S for the sewer project; there were some changes to the project. The sewer project was supposed to go straight through our building parking lot. They are moving it out of the park and to going down Rugby on the West side behind the old bathrooms and close to the dumpsters.

The playground for Robinson will be start next end of March, once that's done we will install the bench that was donated for the park.

Our field rentals have opened up and our summer softball league will start in April. We are also working on getting a new gym floor for the large wooden floor at the PCC and that is being funded through the Mayor.

Mrs. Goodpaster announced that the Park Department has taken over Events and we have already started with sponsorships and getting everything over to the Parks Department.

**Plan Commission Report:** nothing to report under plan commission

**Common Council Report:** nothing to report under common council

**School Board Report:** nothing to report under school board

**Old Business:** nothing under old business

**New Business: Emberly's smiles- signage in parks:** Rachel Brazil addressed the board to talk about Emberly's Smiles a non-profit organization that started in memory of her daughter Emberly Reese Brazil, forever 7, who passed away in June of 2020. Emberly suffered with Rett Syndrome and was nonverbal. Mrs. Brazil explained that Emberly's main way to communicate was with eye gaze and the use of a Tobii eyegaze machine. Emberly loved the park and would tell you on her Tobii what she would like to do at the park. Tobii is an eye tracking communication device, opens world of communication for non-verbal individuals. Eye tracking, a fairly new technology, makes use of the iris to give commands to a computer system that in turn speaks for the user. Mrs. Brazil also mentioned that Emberly was also in a wheelchair, so while the park was fun, what parks they could visit were limited. Her goal is to enable other children with special needs to have accessible parks in their community, where they can feel included with everyone else. Through fundraising efforts, they will strive to improve parks and include activities for all types of abilities. They hope to spread more smiles just like Emberly's especially when the happiness comes from playing. Mrs. Brazil is working with the Parks Department to add ADA signage throughout the parks. We are excited to see first signage at the new destination park followed by City Ball Park. Mrs. Goodpaster also mentioned that we will also work with Mrs. Brazil to help build a free book station for our community.

**Announcements:** nothing under announcements

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn by Ms. Grabczak, seconded by Mr. Such. All aye, motion carried. (4-0)

*Maria Such*  
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*M. Grabczak*  
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*[Signature]*  
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