

MARION PARKS AND RECREATION  
BOARD MEETING  
October 6, 2025

Members Present: Kellie Street, Jim Gartland, Jim Brunner and Bria Coil.

Others Present: Rose Cadena, Andy Davis, Kiera Reynolds, Keenan Davis, Julie Fauser, Julia Glessner, Melissa Rogers, Jeremiah Horvath, Randy Hiatt, Joe Murphy, Chris Greisl and Andrew Mouser.

Meeting called to order at 12:00 pm by Kellie Street.

**Motion to approve minutes from September 9, 2025 meeting was made by Jim Gartland; second by Jim Brunner. Motion carried.**

**New Business:**

**Resolution 1**

Joe Murphy stated that the city currently has an outstanding Park Bond that will conclude at the end of this year. He explained that it is important to begin the process of establishing a new bond for upcoming park projects before year-end, as failure to do so could result in a tax rate increase once the current bond expires. Attorneys Chris Greisl and Andrew Mouser advised that in order to proceed with these projects, Resolutions #1 and #2 must be passed. The related documents will be attached for the record. Mr. Murphy shared that the proposed projects include the installation and reconstruction of Southside Park. He noted that there are currently no parks located south of 30th Street in Marion and that the identified property has remained vacant. The plan for this area is to create a public event venue that will feature a large lawn space for activities, a picnic area with tables and umbrellas, a designated parking area, and a rooftop stage for performances. The venue will have the capacity to accommodate medium-to large-sized concerts, performances, and community events. The second project involves redefining and improving the skate park at Hogin Park. Phase 1 of the project will begin first, with additional phases to follow. Mr. Murphy stated that the city is working with Hunger Skate Parks on the design. The total bond amount will have a maximum of \$2 million, with both projects projected to cost approximately \$1.5 million in total. The bonds will have a maturity date of 1/1/36.

**Motion made to approve moving forward with Resolution #1 was made by Bria Coil; second by Kellie Street. Opposed by Jim Gartland. Motion carried.**

**Resolution 2**

Joe Murphy presented Resolution 2 to the Board. This resolution serves as a declaratory resolution. Mr. Murphy explained that this resolution marks the beginning of the process to move these two projects forward, which includes the installation and reconstruction of Southside Park and the redevelopment of the skate park at Hogin Park. The estimated construction cost are \$750,000 for each project. (skate park and event space/Food truck/stage)

**Motion made to approve moving forward with Resolution #2 was made by Bria Coil; second by Kellie Street. Opposed by Jim Gartland. Motion carried.**

### **Removal of Clifford Townsend Park**

Rose Cadena stated that the new splash pad is going great! She explained that the Parks Department no longer owns the property, as it has been transferred to the Redevelopment Commission. Consequently, it will be removed from the list of Parks. The Street Dept. will maintain the parcel moving forward. The park is being renamed "William 'Bill' Henry Park", and the splash pad will be titled "The Splash Factory".

### **Splash Pad Update**

Mike Graft was not present to provide an update on this topic.

### **Buck's Complex Update**

Rose Cadena stated that the Bucks Sports Complex has been progressing well overall. Although there have been a few minor kinks, we are getting through them. She noted that the parking lot has been completed and lines have been painted, and all of the courts will be painted soon.

### **Dog Park Update**

Mike Graft was not present to provide an update on this topic.

### **Splash House Financials Update**

Andy Davis reported that the Splash House experienced a strong season, with attendance averages remaining high throughout the year. Concession sales were also successful, and the Riverwalk saw increased visitor numbers as well. Andy noted that staff returns were excellent, with 22 returning employees this season. He also mentioned a few challenges, including a \$20,000 leak and ongoing issues with the bowl slide and lazy river, for which quotes are still pending. Overall, the Splash House had a very positive season.

### **Other Business**

**Motion to adjourn made by Jim Gartland; second by Kellie Street. Motion carried.**

*Kellie Street*

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**Park Board President**

**Next Meeting is Monday, November 3, 2025 at Noon in the second floor conference room at City Hall.**