

**CANAL FULTON  
SPECIAL PARK BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES  
Tuesday, January 12, 2003– 7:00 P.M.**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Fred Etheridge, Chair; Mary Ann Higgins, Scot Svab. Fred Fleming had been called away due to a family illness.

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

**MINUTES:**

Mr. Etheridge asked for approval of the minutes of the December 19, 2002 meeting. Mr. Svab made a motion to approve the December 19<sup>th</sup> minutes. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Higgins. Roll: Yes – ALL.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Softball Fields

Mr. Etheridge stated that there was some danger in losing the funding last year for this program if the Board did not get a purchase agreement put together by the end of the year. That has been done. The purchase agreement has been made out to Chris Kyler in the amount of \$6,500.00. He stated that it does not mean that the work would necessarily be done by Kyler. Mr. Etheridge suggested that Mr. Svab and Mr. Fleming work on putting the specifications together. He said the Board also has the \$2,500.00 that has been designated to the Summer Recreation Program. Mr. Etheridge also stated that the Board has received the funding they asked for last year. So, in total, the Board has approximately \$34,000.00 for this year's work.

Summer Recreation Program

Mr. Etheridge stated that Tim Shetzer has had one meeting with the Township Trustees, but they have not bought into the program yet. They are seeking more information. Mr. Svab said that, other than wanting more information, their budget was not set up to give them \$2,500.00 so they could not approve the proposal at that time.

Mr. Svab said he received the packet from the Jackson program of last year, which shows the full agenda of the program. He said he would make copies for everyone. Mr. Svab asked how many weeks the Board wants this program to be and what should we charge.

Mrs. Higgins asked if the Board needs to make some decisions and take them back to Tim Shetzer. Mr. Etheridge said yes.

Mr. Etheridge stated that Tim Shetzer sent him a copy of the survey they will be sending out to the schools. He reviewed the survey.

Mr. Etheridge said he also spoke to the owner of the Varsity Athletic Club. He told Mr. Etheridge he was interested in doing another proposal again for this year. Mr. Etheridge said he asked him to base the proposal on “per child” as opposed to one lump sum.

Mr. Etheridge said he also talked to Tim McCully who owns Slugger and Putters. He also is interested in doing a proposal. Mr. Etheridge said that Stark Parks indicated that they would be willing to work in Community Park with education programs, etc.

### Open Space Fees

Mr. Etheridge stated that the open space fees are too low in Canal Fulton. Right now they run about \$80-\$100, depending on the size of the house. He said, in his opinion, they should be double that - \$200 a unit. He said he’s done some research on that. He said Stow is \$500 per dwelling unit, Streetsboro is \$200 per dwelling unit, Green has no fees, Barberton has \$50 per unit. He said he wanted to look into a few other cities.

He said Mr. Fleming has spent a lot of time on user fees. He said he would like to present open space and user fees as one unit to City Council. He said the City also charges on commercial and industrial property and he feels this is a mistake. He feels it is unconstitutional and will ask the law director about that. Mr. Svab agreed.

### Tree Nursery

Mr. Etheridge stated Mr. Svab is interested in a tree nursery and he feels that is altogether fitting. Canal Fulton is a Tree City. He said he spoke to Dan Mayberry about the sludge beds and he indicated that there were twelve of them and he only needed a few for emergency purposes. He said he also talked to an arborist in Stow.

Mrs. Higgins asked about the other suggestion of locating the greenhouse at the Senior Center. Mr. Svab said they wanted it, but also wanted a retail center in front of it to display their crafts. He said they felt the best location for the greenhouse would be at the back of the parking lot. He said they still need to find the money.

It was stated that the initial cost of the tree nursery is very low and Community Service people.

### Community Park

Mr. Etheridge said he talked to Dan Mayberry and he said the designs and drawings can start this year and we could go to contract in July of 2004. That would be Phase 1 in Community Park. He said this is a joint venture. We need a professional engineer and a landscape architect. He said that money has already been committed.

### Grant Status

Mr. Etheridge said Dan Mayberry has applied for a grant for Discovery Park. He has requested about \$80,000.00. If the grant goes through, it would provide 75% funding, with 25% local share. The grant awards will be announced early in April.

He said there also was some grant money available from Stark Community Foundation. He asked Mrs. Higgins and Mr. Svab to look into that funding.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### James D. Schalmo Nature Center

Mr. Etheridge stated that Don Schalmo told him that the \$100,000.00 would be available in December 2004. He said Mr. Schalmo recently told him that the money will be available in December 2003. So there is the \$100,000.00 plus the land granted to the City, with the stipulation that it always be called the James D. Schalmo Nature Center to be used as a public park. He said they need to have City Council accept it. He then showed a conceptual drawing, which was reviewed.

A discussion followed.

#### Park Board Vacancy

Mr. Etheridge said the Board had thought about getting a young person on the Board. He said there is some resistance from a Councilperson, Mrs. Zahirsky, who is opposed to appointing anyone who is not old enough to vote. He asked how the Board felt about this. Mr. Svab said she has a valid point, but whoever this student may be has parents who pay taxes and vote. He suggested having someone serve a half of term and find someone in the honors program. Mrs. Higgins said Mr. Orr, one of the teachers, called her back and said there was one student who is interested.

#### April Park Board Meeting

Mr. Etheridge said Sherry Reiter brought to his attention that there will be a State run "Building Doctor Clinic" held in Canal Fulton on the Park Board's regular meeting date in April. It was decided to have the April meeting on Tuesday, April 8, at 7:30 p.m.

### Purple Martin Houses

Mr. Svab asked the Board to consider purchasing some purple martin houses for the parks. He said a small one costs about \$60.00. He said the poles are about \$70.00, which comes to \$130-140.00 a unit. He said Community Service would put them up. Mr. Etheridge said he would especially like to see them at Discovery Park. A short discussion followed.

Mr. Svab made a motion to purchase three purple martin houses, one for each park, not to exceed \$600.00. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Higgins.

Roll: Yes – ALL.

Mrs. Higgins stated that Mrs. Zahirsky has begun getting signatures of people who want a dog park in Canal Fulton. She said several hundred people have signed it. Mr. Svab said Massillon has one off Hankins Road. Mrs. Higgins said she has been there with her dog and it is very nice.

The meeting was adjourned.

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Fred Etheridge, Chair