

# **THE CITY OF CANAL FULTON**

## **PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MINUTES**

**January 8, 2004**

Present:

Fred Fleming, Mary Ann Higgins, Robert Wagner, Rebecca Shimer, David Prather.  
Shannon Waggoner was absent.

Also In Attendance: Linda Zahirsky, City Council President; John Houser, Ohio & Erie Canal Corridor Coalition; Diane Gunter, Clinton Historical Society; Almonta Markwood, Clinton Historical Society; Phyllis Mayberry, Mayor of Clinton; Rochelle Rossi, Dana Kosia, Maureen Hinton, Krissy Cuenot, Bret Stephan.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mrs. Higgins made a motion to approve the minutes of December 11, 2003. Mr. Wagner seconded the motion.  
Roll: Yes – ALL.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **Budget.**

Mrs. Zahirsky said she does not yet have the exact figures of the funding, but she could tell the Board about a few things. She said for the Parks & Recreation operating budget, the Summer Recreation Program was budgeted at \$10,300.00 for contracted services and \$6,000.00 for operating supplies. She said the capital improvements total is \$807,634.00 and of that amount the Community Park Improvements, Phase 1 is \$583,634.00. Mrs. Zahirsky said part of those funds are from Historic Transportation and \$167,000.00 is coming from the City. Mr. Fleming asked where the \$167,000.00 is coming from. Mrs. Zahirsky said several years ago the Starkweather family gave the City \$100,000.00. She said Council urged that the money be set aside for a project in the parks. She said the remaining \$67,000.00 comes from funds derived from Open Space fees. She said part of the money will be used for Discovery Park. She said the City is also going after grant money.

She said they also set aside \$10,000.00 for a dog park. It will be behind the Police Department. Mr. Fleming asked who is designing the dog park. Mrs. Zahirsky said she has done some of the preliminary numbers as far as the cost of the fencing. Further discussion followed regarding the dog park.

Mr. Fleming asked Mrs. Zahirsky if the Board needed to appoint a citizens' committee to examine this further. Mrs. Zahirsky said it was up to the Board. She said she would welcome citizen input. She said they may want to have a special meeting for those who wish to give input regarding the dog park. Mrs. Higgins said they may want to start with the list of names Mrs. Zahirsky had gathered for those people who wanted a dog park. Mrs. Zahirsky said she would bring it to City Hall.

Mr. Fleming stated that he will go out of the agenda order and move to the Ohio & Erie Canal Corridor request.

## NEW BUSINESS:

### 2004 Request for Community Park by the Ohio & Erie Canal Corridor.

John Houser from the Ohio & Erie Canal corridor Coalition said his organization is a nonprofit entity that works with Stark, Tuscarawas and Summit Counties in the development of the Canal way. He said the historic Towpath is their primary function, but they also work with the counties on the development of green space and other projects. He said this year marks their 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which they will celebrate throughout the year.

He said they are planning a focal event called “Canal Fest 2004”. He passed out an outline of some of the ideas they have come up with. He said they would like to use Canal Fulton’s Community Park on Sunday, August 15, 2004 for Canal Fest. He then went into detail concerning the day’s activities.

Mr. Houser asked the Board if they would agree to having this event in Community Park on Sunday, August 15, 2004. He asked what he would need to do as far as paper work, fees, etc. are concerned. He said they also wanted to have it in Canal Fulton to help the Heritage Society by exposing people to the St. Helena III and the Canal boat rides. He said there will be much publicity throughout the Corridor regarding the event.

Mr. Fleming said the Board is working on a letter right now to let people who have reserved the park that the Board has no idea right now as to the timing of electricity and water hook up, parking, etc. He said they are hoping by the August 15<sup>th</sup> date they will have completed basic work and be up on the hill putting in the visitors’ center. He said, however, that the Board cannot guarantee that everything will be ready and available. He said there could be a problem if construction is running late.

Mr. Fleming said if these conditions are okay with Mr. Houser, all he needs to do is come in to City Hall and see Tammy Luther so she can put him on the schedule. Mr. House asked if alcohol is permitted in the park. The Board answered no.

## (RETURN TO OLD BUSINESS)

### Stark Parks.

Mr. Fleming said Stark Parks will be coming in at the next meeting. But Mr. Fleming said the Heritage Societies from both Canal Fulton and Clinton will need to take the lead in the “traveling display” partnership proposed by Stark Parks. Mrs. Rossi said Stark Parks is also getting Massillon, Akron, Navarre, and the McKinley Museum involved in this traveling exhibit.

Mr. Fleming said the traveling exhibit is not scheduled until 2005. He said Stark Parks wants to borrow historical artifacts from these various museums and Heritage Societies for the exhibit. Mr. Fleming said this Board will be glad to support this activity.

Mr. Fleming made a motion to support the Stark Parks Rotating Exhibit Program to start in 2005. Mr. Wagner seconded the motion. Mr. Fleming noted that this Board is the responsible party for scheduling activities in that facility. Roll: Yes – ALL.

Mrs. Rossi suggested that the Heritage Societies meet with Stark Parks and that way they won’t have to take up the Park Board’s time. Mr. Fleming said that’s a good idea, since the Board has already approved it. They asked Mrs. Rossi to advise them of when the meeting will be in case someone on the Board would like to attend.

## 2004 Summer Recreation Program

Mrs. Higgins said she had a meeting this past Tuesday with Marge Loretto and Pam Leddin from the YMCA. She said Mrs. Loretto was very happy about having the Y involved. She said they talked about preliminaries before they will actually put together an agreement between the City and the YMCA. She said the Y would like to administer and plan the program. She said the Y would hire the staff. She said, basically, they would be a contractor for the City. Mrs. Loretto, Mrs. Higgins and the Y felt that last year's coordinator, Leslie Evans, was very good and they are hoping to get her back.

Mrs. Higgins said she has not yet heard from Lawrence Township and Clinton as to whether or not they are interested in contributing to the program. She said if they are not interested, they discussed a two-tiered fee. Canal Fulton youth would pay one amount and Lawrence Township or Clinton youth would pay a higher fee. Mrs. Higgins said another good thing about the Y taking the program over is the fact that under Ohio law the program is considered a day care program and there are policies that need to be followed.

She said they are checking with Sts. Phillip and James as a possible indoor sight for the Program.

It was asked what would happen if the Y takes the City's \$10,000.00 and they go over budget. Mrs. Higgins said the Y is bringing in \$5,000.00 from United Way funding and she said that was a pretty sure thing. Mrs. Higgins said they will just have to make sure the Program stays within budget.

Mr. Wagner suggested as far as busing is concerned, they should not rule out SARTA.

## Ball Field Renovations

Mr. Fleming said everything is still on hold because of the weather, but they still have the purchase orders.

## Tennis Courts & Nature Trail

Mr. Fleming said they met with Dan Mayberry on the tennis courts. They want to get the tennis courts moved. He said they have been told by FEMA they can move the courts and they will pay toward it. He said the estimate is \$39,000.00. Mr. Fleming said he is still considering moving the courts to the end of the parking lot at the Northwest Senior Center, but he's waiting until they know what they have.

## Phase 1 of Community Park

Mr. Fleming said Ron Goode had asked whether there was water available or would be available after they got through with Phase 1. He said the answer is yes. He said there will be a letter going out to those reserving Community Park to let them know about the construction going on.

The acquisition of new park land was then discussed.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### Election of Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary

Mr. Fleming stated that in the City Charter this Board does not have to have a secretary that is a member of this Board. He said he took it upon himself to see if Tammy Luther would be available to be the secretary. He said he talked to her and she said yes.

Mr. Fleming said if she comes to the meetings she would have to be paid overtime, but right now that is not a possibility.

Mr. Fleming then opened the floor for nominations. Mrs. Higgins made a motion to nominated Fred Fleming as Chairman. Mr. Wagner seconded the motion. A motion was made and seconded to close the nomination for Chairman. Mr. Fleming accepted the Chairmanship.

Mr. Fleming then opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairman. Mrs. Higgins nominated Mr. Wagner and Mrs. Shimer nominated Mrs. Higgins for vice Chairman. Mr. Fleming seconded the nomination for Mrs. Higgins. Mrs. Shimer made a motion to close the nominations for Vice Chairman. Mr. Wagner seconded the motion. Mrs. Higgins accepted the Vice Chairmanship.

Mr. Fleming then opened the floor for nominations for Secretary. Mrs. Higgins nominated Tammy Luther as Secretary. Mrs. Shimer seconded the nomination. Mrs. Shimer made a motion to close the nominations for Secretary. Mr. Wagner seconded the motion. Roll: Yes – ALL.

It was also noted that Mrs. Luther could help with a column in the City Newsletter for the Park Board.

The meeting was adjourned.

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Fred Fleming, Chair