

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 10, 2005 – 7:00 PM

REGULAR PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

Fred Fleming called the November 10, 2005 Parks & Recreation Board meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALLING OF THE ROLL

Present: Fred Fleming, Rebecca Shimer, Ed Fousek, Mary Ann Higgins, and Mary Ann Hupp

Members Absent: Courtney Morgan and Nate Ogg

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 13, 2005 MINUTES

Mrs. Higgins made a motion to approve the October 13, 2005 Parks & Recreation Board Meeting minutes; seconded by Mrs. Shimer. **Corrections:** Under Off-Leash Park, the verbiage "The PO would have to be written for "the whole \$1,375 and payable in halves," doesn't apply to the dog park (said out of context).

ROLL CALL: Yes – ALL

OLD BUSINESS

SKATE PARK REQUEST (Tabled)

OFF-LEASH PARK: Report - Fred Fleming

Board members have been working on the Cal-Can donated "big sign." (Note: Council President's Mike Mouse's daughter works for Cal-Can.) Sign(s) locations, lettering and colors were discussed. Mrs. Higgins suggested all park signs look the same (if affordable), with the "standard" being the dog park sign.

The cork board (communication) message center cost is \$531 for a 37-1/2" high bulletin board (smaller board is \$415). They had considered putting it on the fence, but the fence isn't high enough or heavy enough to hold it, so they are going to get the leg set (adds \$53 to the cost). The Park Board will pay for this sign.

Mrs. Higgins made a motion to approve the purchase of the dog park sign (indicated by Fred Fleming) with the Cal-Can donation fund; seconded by Mr. Fousek. **ROLL CALL: Yes – ALL**

There has been a problem with standing water on the patio/bricks. There is going to have to be a concrete curb level with the patio all the way around it at ground level to keep the water out of it. Perforated drainage pipes were also discussed. The man who put in the bricks said to call him in the spring before the concrete is installed; he'll take the bricks out and put them back.

The Board discussed the smaller signs that are to be placed in the fence (make sure gates are closed, etc.).

Dog Park Advisory Committee: Mary Ann Higgins

Dog Park Advisory Committee By-laws were recommended to the Park Board. Mr. Fleming stated they have to be approved by the Law Director and Council. Mrs. Shimer said on Page 2, 1st paragraph above Section 6 should be corrected where it says, "vacancies occurring on the committee by death, resignation or otherwise shall be filled the Park Board for the unexpired terms," should read, "vacancies will be filled by appointment of the Park Board for the unexpired terms." Mrs. Higgins volunteered to be the liaison between the Park Board and the Advisory Committee. Regarding committee members, Mrs. Higgins had asked people for a letter of interest to be on the committee before the January meeting so they could select the committee members. Linda Zahirsky told the committee that the Clerk of Council will not be doing the meeting minutes; the committee will have to do their own minutes. Mrs. Higgins made a motion to approve the Dog Park Advisory Committee By-laws pending any suggestions from the Law Director; seconded by Mrs. Shimer. **ROLL CALL: Yes – ALL** Mr. Fleming will take the by-laws to Council for approval.

The committee decided to table the changing of the dog park's poundage due to disagreement within the committee; they agreed to study the matter further. (There is a group of medium-size dogs that are not using the park.)

Dennis Mayberry has had one rules sign made. Two more signs have to be made for the gates for the up to 25 pounds dogs.

The committee suggested reseeding the bare spots and pea gravel needs to be placed around the fountains. Mr. Fleming said he has some gravel. Mr. Fleming will speak with Dan Mayberry about reseeding.

A directional sign on Rt. 21 was discussed, but it was decided not to do it.

Mrs. Higgins mentioned she made up some signs regarding the dog flu. Mr. Fleming suggested the signs reflect that if there is a reason to suspect your dog has dog flu to call City Hall.

BRICK FUND: Report - Mary Ann Hupp

Mrs. Hupp has a brick in her trunk; Mr. Fleming suggested she put it in his garage.

2005 SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM: Final Report and Invoices Due - Mary Ann Higgins

Mrs. Higgins received a final report summarizing the program. Overall, she said, it was very good; 51 kids was the final number (35 families/33 boys/19 girls); ages were spread out. Six children had financial assistance. Newsletters were given out (reminders, etc.) for the families. There were some problems with SARTA buses. Pam Leddon requested they think about (for next year) whether or not to increase the number of weeks and the timeframe, staffing costs, registration fees to offset costs of making registration packets, the need to slightly increase the program fee due to other rising costs (EXA: admission fees/staffing), transportations and cost of same. Mrs. Higgins said as far as time changes, most of the parents liked the hours so the kids still have time for other things. Money is an issue for parents; Pam Leddon suggested increasing the fees. Mrs. Higgins stated Patti Troccoli already has a heavy workload, so instead of an additional \$5 registration fee, she thought the program fee should just be increased instead. Mrs. Higgins said it only cost the YMCA \$8,100, and the city gave them \$13,150. Mrs. Shimer said she opposed to raising the fees. Mrs. Higgins said largest cost surrounds transportation. Mrs. Higgins said they could propose to the YMCA that they would like to do the same program, the same costs, and keep all the same – that at this point they don't feel a fee increase is necessary, but they can also ask them about the amount of trips, etc. to cut costs, which will also help the bus issue. Trip changes were discussed also; \$15,000 is budgeted for the 2006 program.

TENNIS COURTS: Report - Fred Fleming

The courts are coated, done and look great. Regarding the dedication, Mr. Fleming talked to Scott Fellmeth who will take care of same. There is apprehension about putting the nets up because cold weather is so close, although the nets are all-season. Mrs. Higgins suggested padlocking the gates. There also needs to be caps on the poles to keep out water. Mrs. Shimer wrote about the tennis courts in the newsletter (today is the deadline), but it needs corrected. Mrs. Higgins said Mrs. Shimer should check with Patti Troccoli Monday about the rewrite of the newsletter article. People who walk around the gate will get muddy; they are going to put in a cement walk (estimated at \$1,800) which would run from the parking lot to the gate. They might have to do some signs to keep skate boarders out of the tennis courts also. Mrs. Higgins made a motion to approve \$1,800 for a cement walkway to the tennis courts; seconded by Mrs. Hupp. **ROLL CALL: Yes - ALL**

PHASE I OF COMMUNITY PARK: Canalway Center Partnership and Meetings

Canalway Center is not open; still working on it; meeting regarding same Thursday. Mr. Fleming said he put \$17,000 in the budget for part-time help (32 hours per week max per person/\$10 per hour) for April through October. He said a city employee is needed in the center. The center will be also manned by volunteers and "other organizations." There was a discussion about getting a grant to place a person to work at the center from CF-Main Street. There was a short discussion about a playground at the center.

DISCOVERY PARK: Report

NEWSLETTER ITEMS: Report - Rebecca Shimer
(See above under "Tennis Courts")

Stark Realities – Local Access TV (No issues)

STUDENT MEMBERS: Report – Ed Fousek

Mr. Fousek talked to Steve Young, Principal at Northwest who is going to talk to Courtney and Nate. Mr. Fousek wanted to secure what their terms are, etc., and told Mr. Young the Park Board is trying to get in touch with them. Both students are heavily involved with student activities currently. Mr. Young will talk to them; also suggested a couple of High School Juniors; will try to come up with alternatives. Changing their terms was discussed, as Seniors get very busy. It was suggested that Mr. Young be invited to a Park Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

PARK RESERVATIONS: Reservations (None)

PUFFENBURGER PROPERTY

Mr. Fleming said they are in the process of drawing up the contracts to attain five acres for a park, which is in Mrs. Puffenburger's will. The city has purchased 24 acres. Via T.A.P., there is currently a survey being conducted for the Health & Wellness facility, and Mr. Fleming suggested to Marvin Hardgrove about going in on the survey for an outdoor park. Mr. Hardgrove will talk to the other Lawrence Township Trustees about same. Mrs. Higgins said the Puffenburger is quadrupling the city's park land, and once the park gets going, the city needs a Park Director, possible staff. Mrs. Higgins made a motion to spend \$1,375 for the city half of the survey for the Health & Wellness center; seconded by Mrs. Hupp. **Discussion:** Hopefully they can include the Puffenburger Park survey. **ROLL CALL: Yes - ALL**

FEE STRUCTURE FOR TENNIS COURTS, CANALWAY CENTER

There are questions regarding losing immunity if there are charges for same. Mr. Fleming will speak with the Law Director about same.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting will be December 8, 2005 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall. Mr. Fleming adjourned the November 10, 2005 Parks & Recreation Board meeting.

Fred Fleming, Chair