

The City of Canal Fulton

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 10, 2005 – 7:00 PM

REGULAR PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALLING OF THE ROLL

Present: Fred Fleming, Mary Ann Higgins, Bob Wagner, Mary Ann Hupp, Rebecca Shimer, Courtney Morgan and Nate Ogg

Guests: Stark County Horsemen's Council Members (Michael Bagley, President), 4-H, Tri-County Trail Association

NEW BUSINESS

Michael Bagley from Stark County Horsemen's Council: Mr. Bagley spoke about Stark Parks "throwing us off the Towpath in this area and expects the horsemen to use the Olde Muskingham Trail," which is dangerous, as it is beside the railroad tracks. Young riders, especially, can't control horses when trains come along. "Horses are animals of flight; a train will scare them to death." Bob Wagner said there was a problem with the holes the horses made. Mr. Bagley said Bob Fonte (Stark Parks) stated Canal Fulton did not want them to use the Towpath in this area and or use Community Park to park their horse rigs, and there is no place for them to park. He went to a Council meeting and stated nobody knew about this, and he sent a letter to Council copying Stark Parks' letter. Mr. Fleming told Mr. Bagley that they are governed by the ordinance, which says, "No person being the owner of any horse or pony shall permit same upon the public sidewalks of the City or within the boundaries of the City Park." Tri-County Trail Assoc., from Paris, Ohio wanted to put a hitching post in the park previously, and they showed them where they could put one or two hitching posts against the tree line. A representative said there was only 10 feet there, and her granddaughter got thrown – ending up in the river. Mr. Fleming said Stark Parks have the right-a-way on the Towpath, but the Canal Fulton has rule on the park, and suggested they park the trailers park between the area of Cherry and Market. He said he showed Tina Gregory the area; she thought it good, but it was tabled and never built. A woman said that would be fine for three or four rigs only, but there could be up to 50. A woman pointed out that the parking lot is owned by Stark Parks; Mr. Fleming will check it out. Mr. Bagley asked if there was a problem with them using the Towpath, and Mr. Fleming said he had a problem with it personally because it represents a dangerous situation with the child carriages, bicycles, elderly, etc. He thinks their argument is with where they are putting the horse trail, and it should be taken up with Stark Parks; he does not want to change the ordinance, as it's there for the safety of the park and the children using the park. Somebody asked about Community Park's parking lot. Mr. Fleming said they were enlarging it, but that wouldn't be a good place to park either. The horses that pull the Canal Boat were brought up, as well as the fact that the horse trailer gets parked in Community Park. Mr. Fleming stated, "That has been a part of the history of this City." It was said that was a "double-standard," but it is actually a part of the program in Canal Fulton. To Mr. Fleming's knowledge, the ordinance has not been enforced. Mr. Bagley stated after talking about going to Mr. Fonte and not getting anywhere, "My main purpose for coming here was to find your position, and I see that you pretty much side with him." Mr. Wagner said they could talk to Mr. Fonte about their objections in a mass meeting. They asked who would enforce the ordinance; the trail is patrolled by the rangers; the ordinance is for the City parks. The group asked about the train traffic; Mrs. Shimer said during the day, it goes about five

times; the speed is slow. Mrs. Shimer suggested they draft a letter to Mr. Fonte and send the letter to Mr. Fleming. If they agree with it, the Board will write a letter of support stating how that trail affects horses. It was said there needs to be signs stating this is an active train line. Mr. Bagley thanked the Board.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 10, 2005 MINUTES

Mrs. Higgins made a motion to approve the February 10, 2005 meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Wagner.
ROLL CALL: Yes – ALL (Special Meeting Minutes of February 28 were not prepared yet.)

OLD BUSINESS

SKATE PARK REQUEST – No Report

OFF-LEASH PARK

Grand Opening Report from Bob Wagner

Mr. Wagner said guests at the Feb. 28th meeting are “really go-getters.” They have been in touch with Dick Goddard, who needs a date. It was suggested the opening be held on a Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. The Board is waiting to hear from Cheryl Rosenberger and the owners of Dogs & Paws regarding Goddard. The opening will be held either the 1st or 2nd week of June. Joe LaPuma, who owns Pizza Pan (Cell: 216-406-6595), is interested in the opening and told Mr. Wagner he would pay more money if he could have exclusive rights for pizza advertising for the opening, bricks, doggy bags, etc., and Mr. Wagner suggested they sell him a tile for \$200. There were questions raised about “exclusive rights,” as Dominoes has supported them in the past. Ms. Rosenberger has brought up the need for Porta’ Potties, and suggested hanging planter boxes on the fence as catch baskets for people’s toys, tennis balls, etc. She also said the entrance needs graded and gravel. Dennis Mayberry said there were ruts with water, but Mr. Wagner said that wasn’t needed as there is drainage at the top of the hill, and the entranceway (gates) need mulch on the inside and outside due to the mud. Linda Zahirsky said during Council the dog park needs gravel. Dennis told Mr. Fleming to line it off where they wanted it; he would deliver the gravel. Scot Svab trimmed the trees.

Gift to the Fire Department

The Honuchan Society wants to give an animal resuscitation unit to the Fire Department. They want Chief Green and Mr. Fleming to accept it publicly and at the Grand Opening. They want the Fire Dept. trained ASAP, so they can give demonstrations at the Grand Opening. Mr. Fleming will speak with Chief Green to talk about the feasibility. There was (no) letter sent to Cheryl Rosenberger about her tree donation.

Discuss Parking Lot

There was a discussion about the entranceway being changed and drainage. Mr. Fleming (does not want) wants another set of gates. Dennis Mayberry said they are going to have to drain “whatever is up by the roadside, around that park to get it down to the catch basin.” Ms. Rosenberger said she would donate the drainage tile.

BRICK FUND

Report from Bob Wagner

There have been no more bricks bought. The bricks cost about \$1,266 for 300 sq. feet to put a patio on the planter side (10’ x 20’ on the outside and or 8’ by 10’ on the inside – about 1,300 bricks @ \$4.50 per square foot.) It was said for the people who bought bricks, the Board should have them in place by the Opening.

2005 SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM

Report from Mary Ann Higgins

The program is ready to go; City Manager and YMCA have signed the agreement. Information will be in the newsletter; distribution of the schools will be like last year; all the same as last year (program, activities, and fees.) They are getting their packets ready for when they start registration at the end of April.

TENNIS COURTS

Report from Fred Fleming

There is a purchase order for CTI that is going before Council next week for the engineering. The project will go up for bids after paying for the engineering. They could not have the engineering done by one of the certified tennis builders companies if they were going to bid on the project.

NATURE TRAIL – No Report

PHASE I OF COMMUNITY PARK Schedule of Construction

Mr. Fleming did not get new schedules of construction; the last word was they were ahead of target.

Stark Park Lease Agreement

Mr. Fleming said he was going to meet with Mary Ann Higgins next Friday at her house (at City Hall).

DISCOVERY PARK PLANS

Report from Fred Fleming

They are still waiting for the grant to come back. If the grant doesn't come back, they have \$65,000 in open-space fees. They have \$25,000 as their portion of the grant, and between the two of them they have the money if they don't have the grant. Mrs. Shimer asked if they would need any of that money for the Lawrence Township/T.A.P. Committee, and Mr. Fleming said that money was the City's responsibility.

NEW BUSINESS

Park Reservations

Canal Land Ladies Softball

Mrs. Shimer made a motion that they have Tammy Luther schedule the Canal Land Ladies Softball; seconded by Mrs. Hupp. **ROLL CALL: Yes – ALL** Mrs. Higgins made a motion to waive the park fees if the Canal Land Ladies Softball maintains the field as done previously; seconded by Mrs. Shimer. **ROLL CALL: Yes – ALL**

American Diabetes Association

The Association has scheduled a cycling fundraiser Sunday, June 5, 2005. They requested Community Park be a rest stop for their 15- and 30-mile riders and need access to the rest stop and restroom facilities from 7:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Mrs. Higgins made a motion to approve the American Diabetes Association's request with the stipulation that if they need more than the restrooms we currently have in Community Park that they provide Porta' Potties for their use and remove them after the event, and that they let the Board know the estimated number of participants for that day; seconded by Mrs. Shimer. **ROLL CALL: Yes - ALL**

Newsletter Items

Report from Rebecca Shimer

Mrs. Shimer stated *Our Town* is no longer in business. The *City of Canal Fulton Newsletter* is now the only newsletter in Canal Fulton. (NOTE FROM TRANSCRIBER: The deadline is May 11 for the June newsletter.)

RESIGNATION OF ROBERT WAGNER

Mr. Wagner gave the Board a letter of resignation, saying he has extended his business and has so many things going on right now that he feels like he just can't do justice to the Board. He has also been approached to run for "something else." He thanked everyone on the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting will be April 14, 2005 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall. Mr. Fleming adjourned the meeting.

Fred Fleming, Chair