

The City of Canal Fulton

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 10, 2005 – 7:00 PM

REGULAR PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

Fred Fleming called the February 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 and Rebecca Shimer

Guests: Ron Goode, Cheryl Rosenberger, Kim Caunah and Barb Walter

Guest Introductions – Courtney Morgan; Nate Ogg; Ron Good, Northwest Jackson Soccer; Cheryl Rosenberger, Resident

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of Student Representatives

1. Courtney Morgan said she is a Junior, a cheerleader, has two sisters, and she works for Heritage Square Pharmacy. 2. Nate Ogg said he plays basketball and soccer for Northwest High School. He just turned 17 today. He said he has 2 sisters, 2 stepsisters and no brothers.

Mr. Wagner made a motion to appoint Courtney Morgan and Nate Ogg as student representatives on the Parks & Recreation Board; seconded by Mrs. Higgins. **ROLL CALL: Yes – ALL**

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 13, 2005 MINUTES

Mrs. Shimer made a motion to approve the January 13, 2005 meeting minutes; seconded by Mrs. Hupp.

ROLL CALL: Yes – ALL

OLD BUSINESS

SKATE PARK REQUEST

Report Mary Ann Higgins

Mrs. Higgins spoke with Ian Losch. Ian told her he preferred to wait until next year to see if there is a possibility of getting more funding. He'd prefer to wait rather than getting "a little this year," and he said you really can't do much with \$2,000. Mr. Fleming agreed with Ian, and he said that would give him more time to look at other parks and check into costs for the next budget.

OFF-LEASH PARK

Grand Opening Report from Bob Wagner

Mr. Wagner said there was little to talk about, but he introduced a friend of his and supporter of the dog park, Cheryl Rosenberger.

Ms. Rosenberger said she is of the opinion from past experience that they have the Grand Opening set too early (April). She suggested ways to approach the invitation to Dick Goddard, perhaps telling Mr. Goddard's they would like to see him promote the Woolly Bear Festival while he was here and ask him for recommendations – getting him more involved. Ms. Rosenberger said, "He's got a draw like nobody's business, and he certainly could do a lot of good for us." She also spoke about some ladies that are

interested in building a pet sanctuary in Stark County (the Honuchan Sisters). The sisters own Paws & Claws Grooming Salon in Canal Fulton. Then the sisters walked in as Ms. Rosenberger was speaking and she introduced Kim Caunah and Barb Walter; they represent the Honuchan Pet Sanctuary. They bought Lynn's Grooming and said once they pay off the business the proceeds will then go to help abandoned, abused and relinquished animals. The sisters spoke about a grant called the Matty's Fund and there is over \$200 Million in it, and they will pay for equipment. There is a Blue Ridge Mountain grant that is available that would pay for staff (three years for staff, equipment – but you have to have a building – and show solidarity in the community). They said the only option we have for animals now is euthanasia, and it is not the only option. They said animals are valuable resources. Examples: Animals are used in the police force and in the military; they are used for the hearing and sight impaired. They are bringing animals into nursing homes now and they show that reduced medication is needed because of the calming effect they have. They are doing testing with Jack Russell Terriers and Schnauzers, showing 97% accuracy rate in detecting cancer the size of a pinhead. It was said if people would think, they would realize we are destroying a valuable resource. The sisters want to become an active part of the community and stated the Canal Fulton Dog Park is a “step in the right direction.” Mrs. Rosenberger said they have offered to bring their bus to the Grand Opening to have on display, and “It will cause lots of tongues to wag because it's precious. And to have animals inside of it is even a sight to behold.” SARTA donated the bus; in the windows there are animals. They are a “no kill” group, unless the quality of life is so bad they can't make it better. They said that if they can show one community that will be solid that will say they will do this and provide a building, Matty's fund could bring in jobs and Canal Fulton would be a trend-setter for Northeast Ohio. Donation of land is a tax write-off; the City would have a Board where citizens would be on the Board. Honuchan is an Indian word meaning “the voice for those who cannot speak.” The sisters belong to a group of animal lovers that is called Coalition for Animal Concerns. Ms. Rosenberger said that coming to the Grand Opening would provide exposure to this group that they might not ordinarily have and vice versus. The Coalition for Animal Concerns is buying a brick (which is tax deductible). They are still looking for land to build their building. The Board gave Ms. Rosenberger her engraved brick. Ms. Rosenberger stated she gave Patti Schauwecker (Clerk of Council) pictures that she said she would try to put on the City's website.

The discussion turned to settling on a date for the Grand Opening and it was decided to give Dick Goddard a choice between the first or second week of June for the date. The sisters will talk to Dick Goddard also. The Board decided on a Sunday also, and Ms. Rosenberger reiterated the need for handicapped parking. She also added there needs to perhaps be an invitation to anybody in town that might want to add to the benches that are there, whether it's picnic benches and tables or just benches, and the Board might consider the ability to engrave a little bit of advertising in the backs, courtesy of so-and-so because they might want to pay for those if they get the advertising free. She said people were actually bringing chairs with them because there is no place to sit at the dog park, inside and out. She also suggested a walking track around the outside of the dog park. Ms. Rosenberger said people gravitate to the dog park; it's beginning to become the social area of the town. She added there was a need for a place for peoples' cigarette butts.

Mr. Wagner mentioned the need for a drain tile being installed later on. Ms. Rosenberger said she would give them some 4” perforated drain pipe if they needed it.

Award Ribbons

Discuss Parking Lot

More parking was discussed. (There has been no leveling since the planters have been moved in due to the weather.) Mr. Fleming stated, “We need to delineate where that parking lot really is at the top of the hill because there should be room enough up there for at least six cars, if not eight.” He said they don't want to go beyond the crest of the hill because backing out will be terrible, and he doesn't want anybody going out the other way because it gets “pretty close to the neighbor's lot.” There is a need for additional parking spaces and rather than taking them down over the hill, Mr. Fleming said the other end is the way to go and Dan Mayberry agreed with him. He said he sees no reason to move the gates now, but Mr. Wagner stated, “That's a long walk for the older people though.” Mrs. Rosenberg said she didn't think there were any spaces designated for Handicapped.

BRICK FUND

Report from Bob Wagner

Mr. Wagner said they have a lot of helpers, and Ms. Rosenberger talks to people daily about the brick fund and the park. She said they were getting a good response. She also said Noah's Bark will be coming to the event (she has the Doggy Day Care in North Canton), and she will have handouts.

2005 SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM

Report from Mary Ann Higgins

Mrs. Higgins stated Lawrence Township approved \$200 per child – up to 30 Lawrence Township children to participate in the Summer Recreation Program, so that's up to \$6,000 towards the program to cover them. They usually have quite a few children participating. Clinton Village said up to five will be covered at \$200 per child – up to \$1,000. Everything is moving forward. The YMCA sent her a draft budget and proposal to attach to the agreement that the City Council will approve. There needs to be a few changes. FirstEnergy is contributing \$5,000 through United Way towards the program costs; they want to show that in the budget (wasn't in there initially). Trinity Church said the program can be held there again (mid-July to mid-August). It will run the same hours (10 AM to 2 PM). Patti Schauwecker is going to do the registrations at City Hall, which Marge Loretto approved. There will be two evening registrations (end of May and June). Ms. Schauwecker will try to put in the newsletter the dates, etc., and the following one they will have a registration form insert. Stiles Art Studio said they could not offer art classes for \$5 per child, but they would consider \$10 per child (two years ago it was \$12 per child). Mrs. Higgins said the YMCA can include arts and craft classes in their rates, and she said \$10 per child is definitely more expensive than any other activity they'll do in the whole program. This \$10 charge from Stiles would amount to \$10 per hour per child, so it would actually be \$20. The high quality of the Stile's lessons was noted. Ms. Higgins will talk with Pam at the YMCA about this issue and get back to the Board with the information.

TENNIS COURTS

Report from Fred Fleming

CTI is working on Engineering right now to move the tennis courts from Community Park to Muhlhauser Park. Mr. Fleming said when you build tennis courts, the people who build them do the engineering, and CTI is doing the engineering. It's going to cost the City \$40,000 for the two new "tennis association courts." FEMA put up the other \$29,000.

NATURE TRAIL – NO REPORT

PHASE I OF COMMUNITY PARK

Schedule of Construction

Patti Schauwecker made copies of an updated construction schedule so everyone could have it. It is supposed to be done in August.

Stark Park Lease Agreement

At the last City Council meeting, Mr. Fleming was given a draft of a lease from Stark Parks to lease the Visitors Center. Mr. Fleming didn't have time to read the lease, at the time, but he did say to Council that this is a Park facility and the Parks & Recreation Board is responsible for that facility and what goes on there, and that it should go back to the Park Board. Mr. Fleming said this lease draft is really a reaction to a request from us as well as the Historical Society; they could not man that building when they were talking about building it. They asked Bob Fonte (Stark Parks) is he could help them. Mr. Fonte put an office with one of Stark Parks' people in the Heritage House. What Stark Parks is doing, Mr. Fleming said, is they want to put a kiosk in the center. He said all of the information they are going to have in that Center; there will be a person in there. They will have all of Canal Fulton's data in there on pamphlets, etc., and what's going on in town, as well as the area, and this person will be responsible for it. So Mr. Fonte drafted a lease agreement to start "from here." It was agreed to meet with Mr. Fonte and the Historical Society to come up with what we think this contract should say. The City does the \$1 per year lease, but the recommendation comes from the Park Board. After meeting with Mr. Fonte and the Historical Society, the Park Board will send the

recommendations to City Council through the City Manager and the Law Director. Mr. Fleming will call a Special Park Board meeting when he calls everyone to get a convenient time for all.

DISCOVERY PARK PLANS

Report from Fred Fleming

Mr. Fleming had copies of the grant package and distributed same. He thanked the following people for their assistance in the grant application process: Mary Ann Higgins, Dan Mayberry, Jonathan Fleming, Ed and Angela Fousek, Al Pleasant, Cindy Wallenhurst and Patti Schauwecker.

NEW BUSINESS

Park Reservations

Ron Goode from Northwest/Jackson Soccer brought his schedule with him. Mr. Goode showed the Community Park plan. It's still showing the Soccer Field 1 that hasn't been used. They took that out because of the conflict. Soccer Field 2 is a 40- by 80-yard field in the south end. Soccer Field 3 is between the fence and boathouse. They've had a presence in the park since the early 80's. He made their annual request saying, "We own all the soccer equipment; we own bleachers; we paint our own fields; we supply the nets; we have five guys in the Northwest operations that take care of the fields. Basically, the City cuts the grass and hauls the trash, and we take care of everything else (setup, tear down, fertilizer)." He went on to say they are dumping about \$1800 of the League's money into each of these four fields they maintain. He said they do not conflict with the baseball fields, and the run games at the same time. They own 1,200 feet of hose and they water from the bathroom out. When the Heritage Society needs water in their building, they usually lay the line down for them. They usually only use water when they've planted grass. Their season starts in August. In 2003, they had 74 teens in the Northwest/Jackson Soccer League (Northwest/Jackson School Districts). They had four adult teams. They had 1,200 players. They use four fields from the Northwest operations/12 fields in Jackson. The construction schedule for the building reflects a finish date of August 16, 2005, and the parking lot should be done too. Mr. Goode said parking should not be a problem for them. Mr. Goode said he saw in the paper information regarding a grant for a request for some construction at the boathouse. He asked the Board to reaffirm that there would be no more equipment on athletic fields (all past festivals moved off the athletic fields), in light of the possible construction at the boathouse. Mr. Goode said that what will happen if there isn't an insistence that the equipment stay off the soccer fields because it's the open spot; his concern being construction equipment will be parked on the fields. Mr. Fleming stated he understood construction was going to take place on the water retention gates. Mr. Goode said they'll have trucks, a crane, a cement truck, etc., and when it comes time to do this, he just wants somebody to tell them "nobody on the athletic fields." He said kids got hurt in ruts left by trucks that turned around in athletic fields in the past. He said he would be more than happy to put up caution tape on the field; they'd put up a snow fence; they just want to ensure a field that is in good shape stays that way. Mr. Fleming referred him to John Hatfield of the Historical Society, and he told Mr. Goode he would find out more. Mrs. Higgins made a motion to approve the Northwest/Jackson Soccer League request for field use; seconded by Mr. Wagner. **ROLL CALL: Yes – ALL**

Newsletter Items - Report from Rebecca Shimer

Mrs. Shimer said she'd write in the newsletter items: two newly appointed Student Reps, skateboard park is being considered for 2006, Grand Opening for the Canal Fulton Dog Park – requesting for advertising benches, Honuchan animal bus, (someone will talk to Ms. Schauwecker about the Summer Recreation Program), schedule completion date for the Visitors Center in Community Park is August 16, 2005, the park reservations for the Northwest/Jackson Soccer League 2005 Soccer Schedule have been completed, and thanking people for helping in the Discovery Park grant package.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting will be March 10, 2005 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall. Mr. Fleming adjourned the meeting.

Fred Fleming, Chair