

The City of Canal Fulton

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

March 13, 2003

Mr. Fred Etheridge called the Parks & Recreation Board meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

Park Board Members Present: Mary Ann Higgins, Chad Ruppert, Scot Svab, Fred Fleming,
Fred Etheridge

Others in Attendance: Ron Goode, Steve Ingram, Tim Shetzer, Shannon Waggoner, Brian Kryznowek

Approval of Minutes: Mary Ann Higgins said on page 3, the first sentence in the 3rd paragraph says: “Mrs. Wise said to have the opportunity to use this land for the entire community”. It was decided it was just a case of the grammar and add the phrase “fortunate to have the opportunity” to the sentence. Mr. Svab made a motion to approve the minutes as revised. Mrs. Higgins seconded the motion. Roll: Yes – ALL.

True Life Community Church

Mr. Etheridge said the Church is asking to have the use of Community Park June 9 through June 12, 2003, from 6:00 – 7:30 P.M., and June 13, 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.

It was not sure how much the Church was asking for; just the pavilion or more. Mrs. Higgins said she will call him to get more details.

Soccer

The representatives from the Northwest/Jackson Soccer League stated that a letter had been sent to the Park Board to request dates and times for the soccer program. He detailed the fields, dates, and times.

Mrs. Higgins said the schedule looks fine for this.

The matter of parking came up. It was stated when ladies’ softball is down there using two fields and soccer is using two fields, there are between 125-200 cars parked there. Mr. Svab stated he thinks the long range goal is for the basketball courts to go and there will be additional parking there. It was stated that the solution to the parking problem exists now, without taking anything out. It is simply to take down four sections of split rail fence. A discussion followed.

Mr. Etheridge said they will get the fence where it needs to be in order to get additional parking.

Mr. Etheridge stated that the ultimate goal would be to move all the sporting facilities out of the park and out of the flood plain and into parkland that was above water.

Mr. Svab made a motion to grant the request for the soccer fields. Mr. Fleming seconded the motion. Roll: Yes – ALL.

OLD BUSINESS:

Renovation of Softball Fields.

Mr. Etheridge said at a previous meeting he had asked Mr. Svab and Mr. Fleming to captain that project. He said with the illness and subsequent passing of Mr. Fleming's father, he has been unable to assist. Mr. Etheridge welcomed Mr. Fleming back and offered everyone's sympathies.

Mr. Etheridge said Mr. Fleming and Mr. Svab will continue to work on the improvements to the softball fields at Community Park.

Summer Recreation Program

Mr. Etheridge said Tim Shetzer is here representing the YMCA, Brian Kryznowek from the Varsity Athletic Club, and Tim McCauly is still out of town, he owns Sluggers and Putters.

Mr. Shetzer stated that this program has been discussed for quite some time. He said one of the thoughts had been to get United Way involved with the Township and the City for the program. He said United Way is in transition because their executive director left and what they are attempting to do across the County is to put all three Stark County United Way's under one umbrella. He said they are not planning anything on this program at the moment. He said he has also been working with Mike Stevens trying to move the Township forward.

He said he has nothing in writing from the Township. He said the only other thought he has on this is that the Y has about six other programs throughout the County during the summer. He said if anyone wants to participate in one of the other programs in the County, the Y can reduce the price \$10 and then the City or Township, depending on where the child lives could match that, and work in that direction.

Mr. Etheridge asked how many responses were received from the survey. Mr. Shetzer said they had about 30 families respond that they would like some type of summer program. He said it varied from one-half day program, but most wanted a full day program. He said the survey was geared to elementary and middle school.

Mr. Etheridge stated that they have asked Brian Kryznowek of the Varsity Athletic Club to present a proposal. Mr. Etheridge said he would like to see the Varsity Athletic Club, the Y and Sluggers and Putters assist in putting together a great summer program.

Mr. Svab said he has already spoken with Brian and Tim and the sheet he has passed out sums up the activities, availability, and cost. It is structured as a half-day program. He said he also talked to the Canoe Livery and there is a possibility that he could do a water safety program one day for a few hours and have a canoe trip. He said they may even be able to get Margaret Styles to come in on an inclimate day and teach an art class.

Mr. Etheridge said it is important that the Y has a presence here. He asked Mr. Shetzer if it was possible for him to work a program with these other two entities. Mr. Etheridge said he feels they need to have an option to have a full day program.

Mr. Etheridge also said he would like to see the schools fit into this, so the buildings do not sit idle and the busses sit idle.

Mr. Etheridge asked if the Board agreed that they need to have a full day for those who want the full day. It was suggested that they go directly to the children at school to pitch the program. A discussion followed.

Mrs. Higgins said it is reasonable to welcome the Township children, maybe paying \$5.00 more to make up for Canal Fulton contributing and Lawrence Township not contributing.

Mr. Etheridge asked them to work together, based on what was agreed to tonight, and come up with a program.

It was stated that fliers will need to be distributed to the schools by early April and promote it.

James D. Schalmo Nature Center

Mr. Etheridge said he presented this project to the Planning Commission at their last meeting and they passed a motion to support the project.

Mr. Etheridge stated that at the next Council meeting on March 18, 2003, the meeting will begin at 7:00 P.M. and the Park Board will have Karen Wise address Council regarding this project. He said he has a proposal to relocate the house at a cost of \$21,500.00, which would be a Schalmo expense. He said he is working with an appraiser to get an appraisal of the property.

Mrs. Higgins suggested having a town meeting and especially invite the neighborhood people around there.

Open Space Fees

Mr. Etheridge said the current Open Space fees are too low. He said they are currently based on charging 4 cents a square foot when you get your zoning permit. The living space, basement and garage are considered in the square footage. He said the way this is calculated in no way has any nexus between the load that is put on the park system.

He said what he is proposing is a flat fee of \$200. He said the current fee is levied against the builder or the buyer when they build the house. He said his proposal would be to levy the cost against the developer and to do this as a condition to record the plat. He said the City currently makes an assessment for Open Space fees on commercial and industrial land, which he believes is unconstitutional. He said he has had a discussion with the Law Director and he is inclined to agree on that. He stated that the other part of his recommendation is that the City no longer charges Open Space fees on commercial and industrial development.

Mr. Etheridge stated that there will be a levy on the May ballot to try to raise money for the park system. He feels that this Board should implement this new Open Space fee to show the community good faith and that we do recognize that the Open Space fees are too low. He said this will show the electorate that the Park Board is trying to raise money for the parks.

He said if the ordinance regarding this has to go three readings, they would probably have to have a special meeting to get the third reading prior to the election. He said he would want this passed in time to publicize this before the election. He said it needs to go from this Board to the Planning Commission. He said he will be making a presentation to the Planning Commission. He then reviewed the list of cities he researched for their open space fee amounts.

Mr. Svab said he agrees with everything, especially about collecting the amount when the lot is platted. He said the only objection he has is about getting the message out to the public. He feels all they are going to hear is that the Open Space fees are being raised, so why should they voted yes on the tax.

Mr. Etheridge said there is a specific reason he would like to do this. He asked Mr. Svab if he read the Finance Committee meeting minutes. Mr. Svab said no. Mr. Etheridge said he should read those minutes, where Mr.

Mouse indicated that all Fred Etheridge does is talk. He said the Board will be embarrassed before the electorate because we have not done anything about it.

Mr. Svab said they should promote the ballot issue as much as they can. He said he has the old PAC information from the Mayor. He said he is trying to develop some kind of campaign flier. He said he talked to Sherry at the Northwest Senior Center. They set a date to have a spaghetti dinner. But he said he found out that she thought the proceeds were going to the Senior Center. He said they could still get the information out at the dinner.

Mr. Etheridge said the Park Board should be the one that makes the recommendation to Council as to whether we want money or land.

Mrs. Higgins said is the proposal a \$200 flat fee or land. Mr. Etheridge said it would be the \$200 fee.

Mrs. Higgins made a motion to approve the increase of Open Space fees to \$200. Mr. Fleming seconded the motion. Roll: Yes – 3. Mr. Etheridge abstained.

User Fees

Mr. Fleming stated user fees fall into two categories, resident and non-resident. He said all he did for non-resident was double the fee. He said if someone wants to reserve the park, a resident would pay \$100 and a non-resident would pay \$200.

He said he broke it down for the ball fields, the large soccer field, and two small soccer field. He also included tennis courts, basketball courts, and the pavilion. Also at Muhlhauser, the large gazebo and the small gazebo. He said when we talk about the ball fields and have these leagues coming in, he has a problem with it. He said the leagues are already charging them to play ball and they would have to up the fee in order to pay the ball field fees. He said that most of these guys take care of the fields, so they are giving something in return.

Mr. Svab said he would not be in support of raising the Muhlhauser Park large gazebo fee because there are so many weddings there. He said for our residents, it should be a bonus. He said he would like to keep the current fee. Mr. Etheridge asked Mr. Svab if he agrees on the doubling of the fee for non-residents. Mr. Svab said yes.

Mrs. Higgins asked if the gazebos be the same as the pavilion. Mr. Fleming said take the larger gazebo to \$50 and the smaller one to \$25. The pavilion will go from \$35 to \$40.

Mr. Svab said he would raise the non-resident total park fee to \$300, because if they are going to take over the park, that is one less day our residents can enjoy it. Mrs. Higgins said she wants to keep it at \$200.

Mr. Etheridge said we lowered the gazebo for residents only, but he asked if the Board recommended that the new prices remain as they are for non-residents.

Mr. Etheridge said that the only question is the \$200 for non-residents and the \$150 for non-resident for the large and small gazebo. Mr. Svab suggested \$150 for the large gazebo for non-residents and \$75 for the small gazebo for non-residents. Mr. Etheridge asked for a consensus. Everyone agreed.

Let the record show that these fees also reflect fees for nonprofit groups.

Mr. Svab made a motion to accept the new User Fee Schedule. Mr. Etheridge seconded the motion. Roll: Yes – ALL.

Discovery Park Additional Land Donation

Mr. Etheridge stated that Mr. Mouse wanted to see if Echoing Ridge would donate the northern part of the retention basin to the City. He said he approached Echoing Ridge on his behalf and it will be presented to their board of directors and will let us know. Mr. Etheridge said he agreed to furnish the survey and write the legal description if it is approved, at no cost to the City.

Recycle Grant

Mrs. Higgins said she submitted the Board's recommendations to Mrs. Loretto. She said they had recommended the climber and a number of sets of trash bins. She said it totaled about \$15,000 and the grant total is up to \$20,000. Mr. Etheridge said he received a call from Garnet Thomas who asked that the Board add the train to this. He said it may be too late.

Mr. Etheridge reminded everyone that on May 3 at Echoing Ridge there will be a community event to assemble handicapped picnic benches. He said he hopes they will get a good turn out.

Mr. Svab asked again about the Park PAC and campaign literature. He said he would like to see the Park Board come to a consensus as to what the money will be used for. He said the taxpayer is going to want to know where that income tax money will go. A discussion followed.

Everyone agreed that they need to campaign hard for this issue. Mrs. Higgins asked if the Board has the authority to decide where the money will go or does it need to go to Council. Mr. Etheridge said the Board makes recommendations to Council. Further discussion followed.

A discussion followed on what the Board would recommend using the money on.

Mr. Svab said maybe they could do a free tree giveaway. They could buy those bare root trees and bag them up and give them to Northwest School with a tag that read "Courtesy of Canal Fulton Park Board".

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Etheridge said they have close to \$250-300,00 set aside for land acquisition of parkland. He said he does not want to see that money used for any other purpose. He said he would like to have a motion that it is the Park Board's recommendation that any monies previously earmarked for land acquisition be used exclusively for the purpose of acquiring land for parks.

Mr. Fleming made a motion to recommend to Council that any money set aside for parkland acquisition be used for that purpose only. Mr. Svab seconded the motion. Roll: Yes – ALL.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Svab said he had a community service worker who made bat houses. He said he saw one. Mr. Svab said the worker said he would make 20 bat houses and put them around the area and in the parks.

The meeting was adjourned.

Fred Etheridge, Chair

