

Tri-Township Park Board Meeting
November Regular Meeting
Park Office
November 9 2005

Approved
12/14/05
Paul

7:00 PM Meeting called to order.

In Attendance: Phil Loethen, Terry Ball, Mary Kmetz, Norm Beck, Jim Derby, and Kevin Woodring
Absent: Randy Wiesemeyer

Also in attendance: George Bryant (Park Director), Tim Greenfield (Park Superintendent), Dave Roady (accountant), Pat Huck, Marilyn Sulc, Dick VanMeter, Meril Daub, Amanda Beard, Andy Koch (Times Tribune), Ruby Schultz, Mae Grapperhaus (Times Tribune), Tracy Plagemann, Ted Greenfield, Tom Milkert (employee), Roger Tegmeyer, Ann Niccum (Edwardsville Intelligencer), Pat Cox (Times Tribune)

Additions to the Agenda – None

Approval of Minutes –

Motion: Approve October 12, 2005 minutes. Jim/Kevin 5-0-1 Ayes Roll Call vote Mary abstained.

Motion: Approve October 12, 2005 executive session personnel minutes to remain sealed. Norm/Jim 5-0-1 Ayes Roll Call vote Mary abstained.

Citizens on the Agenda – None

Thank you notes/Get Well –

Sympathy card for Mary at the Senior Center.

Friends of the Park –

No one in attendance.

Correspondence –

George said that he has received several positive comments on the park from visitors.

Treasures Report –

\$609,052.11 in the bank.

Motion: Accept treasures report. Norm/Kevin 6-0 Ayes Roll call vote.

Pay Bills –

Bills totaling \$10,052.32 were reviewed.

Motion: Pay all bills for \$10,052.32. Kevin/Norm 6-0 Ayes Roll Call Vote

Park Director Report – George Bryant

Five-year plan – George said that he would be working on this at a later date and planned to present to the board at the beginning of next year. He said that this would probably be both a 5-year plan and a 10-year plan.

Phil asked if George could develop some public surveys.

George said that public opinion is of the utmost importance and he is planning to work on an idea on how to best conduct the surveys so as to get the best input.

Repair of the lake fountain – George said the bulk of the fountain has been replaced. He is re-measuring the area to determine where it should be placed. More wire is actually needed to get the fountain placed in the actual center. With freezing temperatures just around the corner, we will plan on kicking this off in the spring. George said that be spring he may be proposing adding up to two more fountains.

12/14/05
Blue H

7:15 Randy arrives.

Oil and chip has been completed. George is talking with the City of Troy on this topic. They oil and chip every year. We should try and utilize the same company and avoid the setup charge. Bud Klaustermeier has been open and receptive to this idea thus far.

2006 board meetings – George presented the schedule for the proposed board-meeting schedule for 2006.

Motion: Approve 2006 meeting schedule. Terry/Mary 7-0 Ayes Roll call vote

Park Lighting Status – George said that he is still trying to contact the representative from Ameren and is working with Bud Klaustermeier.

Skateboard Club – No activity.

Park Map – George said that he is looking at an alternative that could cost up to \$2,000. This alternative would provide a lot more than the original planned map and would be much more useful and usable in the ongoing planning process.

Athletic field renovation – George said that all of the grass infields have been rolled. All baseball and soccer fields have been aerated. This was accomplished utilizing Triad equipment. George said that we would be letting the school district use our diamond machine in return. He will be developing a written agreement whereby the two taxing districts can share equipment as need be and save the costs of buying redundant sets of equipment.

Norm said that we should send them a thank you card. A thank you card was signed to be sent to the school.

Bandstand wheel chair ramp - George said that he has discovered the bandstand ramp is not actually handicapped accessible. He has stopped with the installation of the rails at this time. He will work with the architects who designed this to correct the situation prior to installing the rails.

Paver installation – George said this is completed and we are in the process of having the edging go in.

Bandstand electric – George said that there has been scheduling conflicts with the electrician. Working on coordinating lights to the gazebo with power to the lake fountains.

George said that he had a very good meeting with the TBSL and also has a meeting scheduled with the TSC. He said that both organizations have an outstanding group of volunteers who are very dedicated and hard working. George said that his experience is that this is not generally seen in other communities.

TBSL – Terry Ball

Terry said that the TBSL season is now complete. Nothing to report.

TSC –

No one from TSC was in attendance.

Financial – Phil

Phil presented the tax levy for the coming year. He asked the board to look it over and let him know if it looked OK to them. He will ask for it to be voted on and approved at the December meeting.

Phil said that the background checks for the TSC were completed. The TSC checked all coaches against the registered sex offenders list on line.

W.C. Air conditioner and Furnace – Phil said that we have one air conditioner and one furnace remaining to be replaced in the Wiesemeyer Center. Once completed they will all be new. There is new fees going into place in 2006 and if we buy them now we can avoid these cost increases.

Motion: Approve up to \$3,500 for AK Heating and Cooling for a new air conditioner and furnace.
Norm/Randy 7-0 Ayes Roll call vote

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Aueh

Phil said that we have an outstanding balance of \$211,000 on our loan on the 32 acres. He said that he had originally planned to ask the board if they desired to pay off this loan. He has learned that we are making 3.95% interest on our money in the bank and are paying only 5% interest on the loan. This 1% interest differential results in total savings of \$12,000 over the life of the 12 year loan. Phil suggested that we pay off \$50,000 of the balance.

Motion: Pay \$50,000 towards the loan on the 32 acres with half coming out of rec. and half coming out of general. Norm/Terry 6-1 Ayes Roll call vote. Kevin was the no vote.

Phil said that we have received notice of an upcoming Madison County Equipment grant. This grant will be for \$3 per person in the district and will total approximately \$40,000. Phil said that we really do not need any more playgrounds and he suggested we buy a larger lawn mower. We had a large John Deere for a test use last summer that runs between \$35,000 and \$40,000.

Randy asked if we could use this grant to purchase more fountains for the lake.

George said that he grant is very loose and is simply for equipment. Both ideas would qualify.

Phil asked the board to give ideas to him and or George and George will begin working on the grant.

Phil said that the Meadow Drive park has been and phenomenal success and gets a lot of use. He asked the boards opinion on approaching the local builders and contractors to suggest that when subdivision is developed, a lot or two are donated to the park district to be developed into a satellite park. Based on Meadow Drive, we know that they get a lot of use and it will more than likely cause the property values around the park to go up.

Everyone felt this was a good idea.

Phil said that he and George would approach the contractors.

Athletics – Norm

Norm said that both he and George have been looking into walking trail options.

George said that he is investigating many options to connect a network of trails. He said that he would continue to talk to the City on this topic.

Norm said that the Titans had a meeting about building in the park. He said that he would be prepared to detail this and present questions at the December meeting.

Insurance – Kevin

Nothing to report.

Grounds – Jim

Jim said that the high bid for the repair of the pavement at the Collinsville Road entrance was \$20,000 and the low bid was \$11,980. He said that we should accept the low bid.

Motion: accept \$11,980 Mike Meadge Trucking bid. Randy/Norm 7-0 Ayes Roll call vote

George said that he would send out the notice to proceed.

Special Events – Mary

Mary said that she and George have been working on the Park Shelter and Wiesemeyer rental policy. George said that he had heard no concerns about the policy as presented last month. He said that we need to explore higher non-district fees. This is very customary at most park districts.

Phil said that we need to consider requiring a cleaning deposit on all free rentals.

Mary said that she felt free rentals given to the commissioners should not be allowed to be given out to friends.

Norm said that Mary should add whatever she feels is appropriate to the policy and present it to the board to be voted on.

Kevin said that we should just require the commissioner using the free rental to put up the damage deposit regardless of who was actually using the facility.

Motion: Approve #1 Pavilion Nov 19 Cub Scout Troop #38, #12 pavilion Nov 19 & 21 Camp out Troop #38, and #1 pavilion Sept 23, 2006 NAMI Madison County. Terry/Norm 7-0 Ayes Roll call vote

Personnel & Safety – Terry

Terry said that at the October meeting Phil had asked him to bring recommendations relative to winter staffing to this meeting. Terry said that as winter approaches and park activities diminish greatly, it's the time of year when we need to review our current staffing levels and ongoing staffing needs relative to budgeted expenses.

For the past several years we have gone through the winter months successfully with Phil acting as Park Director and two full time employees working in the park. Based on the last several years actual staffing, 2005 actual needs, the employment of a new Park Director, and having had conversation with George relative to his staffing needs, I will make the following motion:

Motion: Immediately abolish the position of Park Superintendent along with a severance of three months pay and benefits, payable once a document detailing this can be drafted by our attorney and signed by the employee; immediately cease utilizing the grass cutter positions; and reduce outside staffing to two or three part time people working the equivalent of up to 80 total hours Monday through Friday and as needed on the weekends, strongly recommending Bryan and Cindy for these positions. Terry/Randy

Discussion –

Terry said that any additional part time needs can be identified and met at the discretion of the Park Director. Terry said the names of the part timers in the motion are merely his recommendations. The Park Director will make that determination.

Mary asked how we could do this without our lawyer here to advise us.

Phil said that our lawyer was advised of this action and was unable to attend this evening due to family commitments and had sent a letter.

Terry read the letter from Steve Giacoletto dated November 9, 2005.

Dear Board Members,

Although for personal reasons I am unable to attend tonight's meeting, I have consulted with District officials regarding the consequences of terminating the position of Park Superintendent, the reduction of other seasonal positions, and the consequences related thereto.

The termination of the Park Superintendent position and the reduction of other seasonal positions are based on sound legal authority and I am in full legal support of whatever vote may result from a motion before the Board related to these matters.

Very Truly Yours,
Steve Giacoletto

Mary said that we should not take this action as Tim has a pending Workmen's Comp claim against the park.

Terry said that there was no connection between these two events. The elimination of the position was a financial consideration based on staffing needs and has nothing to do with the workman's comp claim. We fully support this claim and anticipate that Tim will continue to collect Workmen's Comp for as long as it is applicable.

12/14/05
Phil

12/14/05
Phil L

Mary said that we couldn't fire someone for having a Workmen's Comp claim.

Terry said that we are reducing staffing based on the needs of the park. We have hired a Park Director and the position of Park Superintendent therefore becomes redundant.

Terry said that we are reducing staffing as a result of need. We support the Workmen's Comp claim and believe that Tim is entitled to whatever compensation the system affords him.

Mary said that it would be unfair if the Workman's Comp claim causes Tim to not be able to collect his vacation pay or severance pay.

Terry said that his motion is striving to provide Tim three months of pay and benefits. The plan is that this will be on top of anything Tim collects from Workmen's Comp. There is no intention of trying to not pay him. We do not have to provide severance. We want him to have this.

Mary said that she was surprised by this motion and does not like that. She felt that she should have known it was coming.

Terry said that at the October meeting, Phil asked that Terry bring staffing recommendations to this meeting. Terry said that even though Mary did not attend that meeting, the request was noted in the minutes.

Mary said that the motion surprised her and only two commissioners knew it was going to be made. Terry said that the park president requested that he supply a recommendation. Terry said that he did that and that he did have conversation with Phil prior to the meeting on this topic because he feels that he should keep the president apprised.

The vote was take. 5-2 Ayes Kevin and Mary were the no votes.

Beautification – Randy

Randy asked how much money we had in the budget for Christmas lights.

Norm said that he believed the number was \$4,600.

Randy asked George if he could come up with an approximate cost estimate for next months meeting for lighting the park.

George said that he would get this.

7:55 Motion: Adjourn the meeting. Kevin/Mary 7-0 Ayes

Submitted by
Terry Ball, Secretary