

Tri-Township Park Board Meeting
Public Input Meeting
Wiesemeyer Center
~~February~~ 23, 2006

APRIL

7:00 PM Phil welcomed the guests.

In Attendance from the Park: Phil Loethen, Terry Ball, and Kevin Woodring.

In Attendance from the public: Tim Greenfield, Claire (Last Name?), Andy Koch, Pat Huck, Mae Grapperhaus, Nathan and Victoria Murray, Wayne Brendel, Todd Plesko, Kevin (Last Name?)

Phil said that the commissioners all had ideas on what to do with the park. Tonight, all the commissioners would be quiet so as to not negatively or positively influence other idea and allow us to get input from the public.

Clair (Last Name?) -

Clair said that she is interested in a dog park. Somewhere where animals could interact with other animals. A fenced in area with water available for the dogs.

Mae Grapperhaus -

Mae wants the skateboard park fenced. The skateboard park area needs to be better controlled. She thinks that it needs to be monitored and closed and locked when no one is there to monitor it. Anyone who uses it should have to sign a waiver. All of these things would help to reduce the park liability.

George commented that a fence and signing a waiver would not change or affect the Park's liability.

Nathan Murray -

Nathan thinks we need more baseball fields, more soccer fields, and a dedicated field for the Troy Titans and a swimming pool. He also said that the existing soccer fields are weedy and not kept up.

Phil told Nathan that with the new baseball and soccer fields we now have excess capacity.

Pat Huck -

Pat said that 38 years ago when the park was formed, a picture was hung in a local bank, that is now closed, detailing what the plans for the future were for the park. Pat said that she is still waiting for these things to be completed.

Pat said that the Troy mentality is, "We don't deserve what other towns have". She said that we need an indoor pool and an exercise room for older people. She said there is absolutely nothing to do in the park if you are not a youth and wanting to play organized youth sports.

Pat said that the public was willing to pay for these things. She said that if a tax referendum fails, you simply do it again. The people want it. She said that the Troy Library referendum failed three times before people finally decided that they really wanted it. She said that you have to keep asking.

Pat Cox -

Pat said that Highland and Edwardsville have pools. She said that she does not want to drive there. She said that we could get a pool if we did a cooperative venture with the school. She said that we need to put it to the voters. Look at the whole community for donations.

She said she wanted to have the walking trail paved. This way you could ride a bike on it or roller blade. She said that we need to extend the walking trails. She said we could also add the paved walking trails along side the existing walking trails. This is how St. Louis does it.

She said that we need something indoor for all ages in the winter. There is nothing to do in the park in the winter. We need something for the older folks to do.

She said that we need an ice skating rink. The rink would also be one that we could use to roller blade on in the summer time. She said that this would be a great draw and something that no one else has.

She said that we need to have a big screen in the park to show movies for the public.

She said that the park needs to provide more leadership to local select soccer teams. She said that the grass on the soccer fields is bad and that player's trip and could be injured on the ditches in the fields.

She said that there is no water and no shade on the 32 acres and that bad teams are made to play there. She said that it is not a comfortable are for parents who come to watch their kids play games there.

Pat said that the park needed to hire a security guard. She said this is necessary because the skateboarders are always cussing. She said that mom's with children would feel more comfortable if someone with a uniform was there and patrolling the park. She said that cars are often parked in dark parking lots and someone needed to be hired to watch this and make people feel safe.

Phil commented that there are water fountains on the 32 acres and located near the ball fields and trees have been planted. He commented that pools are very expensive to operate and the voters defeated a pool in 1991. Regarding the paved walking path, an informal survey of people that used the path found a vast majority of people preferred the current trail to a paved surface.

Tim Greenfield –

Tim said that we need to install bathrooms at Meadow Drive. The water, electric, and sewer are already present there. He said that families use Meadow drive with young children and that they have to go home or to CITGO service station to use restrooms.

Tim said that we should light the skateboard park, the playgrounds, and the #14 pavilion. He said that it is a know fact that lights are not liked by the bad elements. He said that studies show that lighted areas have less crime and vandalism.

Tim said that swimming pools are losers to communities. He said that we should construct a spray park across from the Wiesemeyer Center. He said that spray parks provide hours of fun for all children. He said that all utilities are already in place there and there is parking. He said that spray parks could feature all types of water units that have sensors to activate the spray. He said that these could be trees animals, creatures, or just fountains. He said that you would need no lifeguards for this and only minimum staffing. He said that a spray park facility should include restrooms, lighting, and security fencing. He said that he felt a 50 X 100 facility could be accomplished for around \$300,000. HE said that we would only need to charge \$1 to \$2 per person to use the spray park.

Tim said that we need to develop the 40 acres, plus the seven acres along Old Collinsville road into a Par 3 9 hole golf course. The district already has more than enough athletic fields, walking trails, and playgrounds. He aid that this could be paid for through grants. He said that this would be a good way to generate revenue. He said that we should light it and it would get used at night. He said that the High School has a golf team and we could partner with them. He said that a clubhouse and parking could be added along the west side of the park near the entrance.

Phil said that Meadow Drive is a neighborhood park, there is no park capacity and should go home to use the restrooms.

Wayne Brendel –

Wayne said that he works for Madison County and is involved in recycling. He said that we have a sign in the park that states that every day is recycling day in the park. He said that he doesn't think the park recycles and that we should take the sign down if we aren't going to do it. He said that we need to put recycling bins in at the TSC concession stand, the TBSL concession stand, and at the #14 pavilion. He said that people would probably put trash into the recycling bins but that we should do it anyway. He said that he often drives to other parks to sit and have lunch and that other parks have recycling bins.

Wayne said that he often drives though the park late at night and that he has seen cars doing donuts in the parking lot at the #14 pavilion. He aid that he calls the Troy police when he sees this.

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Todd Plesko –

Todd said that we should make the walking trails longer. He likes to run on them and we should keep expanding them. He said that we should not pave the walking trails. He said that the walking trails are very heavily used in the warmer weather.

Todd said that we need winter recreational programs.

Todd said that local YMCA's seek out donations of public land in order to lower their costs in building.

Todd said that we need to plan for 15 years down the road. This type of planning and growth is what makes communities valuable.

8:00 PM The meeting ended. Phil thanked everyone for coming and said that there would be another meeting in about a month.

Submitted by
Terry Ball, Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry Ball", is located on the right side of the page. The signature is written in a cursive style.