

Tri-Township Park Board Meeting
February Regular Meeting
Park Office
March 15, 2006

Phil
4/12/06

7:00 PM Meeting called to order.

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

Additions to the Agenda –

Motion: Move YMCA day camp discussion up to first item. Norm/Randy 6-0 Ayes

Mike from the YMCA addressed the board. The YMCA wants to run a day camp in the park. Mike noted that we have done this with the YMCA before. The YMCA represents Collinsville, Maryville, and Troy. The day camp in the park would be for the Troy residents.

Phil suggested that the YMCA consider using the basement of the Wiesemeyer Center. It has air conditioning, refrigerators, is handicap accessible, has bathrooms, and provides weather protection. Phil said the YMCA has offered to pay \$50 per week for the usage.

Mike said that the main camp is run in Maryville and this would allow the Troy parents to avoid the travel there and keep their kids in Troy. The program would run for 10 weeks and he is expecting approximately 65 kids.

Approval of Minutes –

Motion: Approve Feb 8, 2006 minutes. Randy/Jim 5-0-1 Ayes Mary abstained. Roll call vote.

Thank you notes/Get Well –

Flowers were sent to Pam Bohnenstiehl during her recent stay at the hospital. Pam owns and operates Troy Grain and donates significantly to the park. Pam is now home and back at work.

Friends of the Park – No one in attendance.

Correspondence –

We received a complaint letter concerning the bathrooms being locked. Phil said that someone had been used a tool to turn off the heat in one of the CXT bathrooms, and then propped the doors open allowing the toilet to freeze. George Bryant had instructed the staff to lock the doors when the temperature was below 32 degrees. Since the weather is now warmer the bathrooms are remaining open. Phil said that he had written and replied to the citizen and explained the situation.

Phil said we have received two FOIA requests from the Troy Times-Tribune relative to personnel matters. Steve Giacometto reviewed these requests and determined that these requests should be denied. Steve wrote a letter and Phil signed it in response to the FOI request.

Treasures Report –

\$491,107 in the bank.

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

7:10 Kevin arrives.

Pay Bills –

Bills totaling \$19,625.50 were reviewed.

Motion: Pay all bills for \$19,625.50. Terry/Norm 7-0 Ayes Roll Call Vote

Park Director Report – George Bryant

Park Lighting Status – George said that he has received the Ameren lighting bill for the street lights (approximately \$270 per month).

Phil said that on an annual basis it is less than the City charged the Park last year. Phil asked if we have a written agreement with Ameren, or if the City has a written agreement. The Park doesn't have a written agreement and it is unknown if the City has one.

Grants –

PEP Grant – Will be awarded in April.

City Grant – Applied for \$1,100 in tourism grants. This is \$500 for colored rack cards advertising events in the park and \$600 for a new park logo. The City will discuss next Saturday.

Recycling Grant – This is available throughout the year. Plan on applying for this in July.

Dog Mitt Status – These are installed.

Lake Fountain Repairs – This work is done. The fountains are repaired. Installation should take place during the next month.

Park Mapping – Started working on this today. Concentrating on starting on the soccer fields.

WC key status – This is in place.

Gazebo Status –

The walkway ramp is complete.

Electric – At the request of Jim and Randy, we received a proposal for the electric work. ATTACHED.

Alert Electric bid is \$9,220. This is reduced by \$3,780 if we don't power two fountains.

George asked the board for a consensus on what was needed.

Randy suggested that George call Joe Eader, former commissioner and electrical engineer, to get his advice

George said that there is a June dedication at the Gazebo. If we wait till April to decide what to do we will need to really hurry to have it done by June.

Phil said that the power that he have has worked fine for the past year. He said that he recommends we stay with what we have in the short term and determine what our electrical needs will be. He also noted that the electrical panels in the Wiesemeyer Center are a rats nest. Phil suggested that we just bury an electrical line and get the bandstand complete. The extension cord that was used last year provided enough power for the concert series. He also suggested that if we decided to have another fountain the power could come out of the Lee Leonard building.

George said that he couldn't do the edging until the electrical is done.

Jim asked if the electrician had looked at the electric in the Wiesemeyer Center.

George said that he had and that he did not want to take the electric to the bandstand from the Wiesemeyer Center.

Norm said that now that we have the Gazebo it would be nice to have it built for the future.

George said that he would work with Randy and Jim to determine what was needed and to plan and execute the proper course of action.

Picnic in the Park – Planning in coordination with the summer concert series.

Lake Drive Project Status – George said that this project has been completed. He said that Mike Maedge and his crew did a super job.

Trash can, cigarette tray, volleyball nets – All are completed.

YMCA Day Camp –

Mary said that she was concerned that the Wiesemeyer Center is a bad weather shelter for the community and having the day camp there would not leave room for people seeking shelter from tornadoes.

Phil said that we have used the Wiesemeyer Center for both the park operated day camp and the YMCA day camp in the past and this has never been noted as a problem.

Terry asked what the capacity of the Wiesemeyer Center basement was.

Phil said approximately 60 to 75. He said that when Triad ran their day camp in the park they had over 100 kids. They do not all go into the basement of the Center. It is an emergency storm center.

Kevin said that the police now have a key to the Center and can open it in case of emergency. Phil asked George to write a letter to the Troy Chief of Police asking that in case of tornado, the police department will open the Wiesemeyer Center to the public. Mary said that Phil has often stated that we do not want to operate any activity in the park that will cut into local businesses. She said that we have day camp that operates right next to the park. Terry noted that there are over 800 kids playing in the TBSL. This is not even close to half of those in the district. The YMCA is expecting 65 total kids. He said that he has to believe that this will not cut into the Great Skate day camp.

Motion: Allow CMT YMCA to operate a summer Day Camp from the lower level of the WC (Monday – Friday) for 10 weeks at the rate of \$50 per week. Terry/Randy 4-3 Ayes Norm, Mary, and Kevin were the No votes Roll Call vote.

Status of ball fields –

George said that the staff has moved the drainage on diamond #4 so that the infields drain to the 3rd base line. The warning track is 85% complete. He said that ball diamond staff recently hired would start next week.

All bases and pitching rubbers will be set in the 3rd and 4th weeks of March.

Drinking Fountains and bathrooms –

The following drinking fountains and bathrooms need to be ready for summer use; Main playground, diamonds (2, 3, and 4), TBSL, CXT (2), #14 pavilion, and buildings - #1 pavilion, bunker toilet, TBSL, and TSC.

George asked the board their opinion on getting the water fountains placed and water turned on. Baseball starts up April 1.

Randy said that it is risky to do anything prior to April 15th.

George said that he would look at the weather and will have these installed and operating by April 1 if weather permits.

George noted that we routinely receive utility bills after the regular meeting that are due prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting. This can result in late payment fees. George suggested that he be authorized to go ahead and pay these prior to the meetings to avoid the late fees. The board will still approve the expenditure at the next meeting.

Motion: Allow the Park Director to authorize payment of selected utility bills (electric, telephone, and internet) prior to the monthly board meeting to avoid late charges. Randy/Norm 7-0 Ayes Roll Call vote

Director comments – George said that he felt that the park had made many accomplishments since he started in August. There has been significant sharing of information. He is working and meeting with the TBSL, the TSC, and the Titans. He said that he would purchase paint for all three programs and bill out to all three according to usage. He said that the three entities had agreed to fund the purchase of a new striping machine. He has found a new one.

He said that he has talked with individual commissioners, the Lions Club, the VFW, the Legion, and the City Council and it's various committees. He said that we are working on building important bridges. We are working with the Chamber of Commerce to begin the summer movie program and that we are working with the FOP on City Grants for tourism opportunities.

George said that he wants to start a turf management program. He has met with FS and looked at all the fields. He said that he could improve the grass using the funds that are in the budget. He said that he advocates fertilizing and seeding in the fall. A pre-emergent should be used in the spring to stop crab grass and dandelions. He said that we would continue to aerate. The program he is planning will cost under \$5,000 per year.

Norm asked that George put a proposal together and get it to the board. He said that we want to keep the grass nice and continue to make it better.

Phil said that there are 20 or so bags of 12-12-12 left over from last year and this should be used. He suggested that it should be used on the west side of the 32 acres.

George said that shelter #14 is back up and operating. The water fountain that was vandalized and damaged was not commercial grade. He suggested that we invest in a commercial grade fountain. The old fountains we have been using are about \$1,200. A new commercial grade fountain would cost as much as \$2,000 but would not be damaged and have to be replaced. George said that the fountains and the bathrooms at #14

had been vandalized and that he is working with Kevin Woodring to investigate the cost of getting cameras set up. George said that he would get quotes and present to the board. He asked the board to consider what they will want to put in the budget for this for next year.

Terry said that George needs the ability to make a lot of these purchases so as to not wait an entire month before acting.

Motion: Authorize Park Directors limits of expenditures of funds of \$5,000 per purchase within budget. Norm/Randy 7-0 Ayes Roll Call vote.



TBSL – Terry Ball

Terry said that the TBSL has 770 kids signed up so far. The team drafts will be held this coming Saturday and practices start April 1st.

TSC –

No one from TSC was in attendance.

Financial – Phil

Strategic Plan –

George said that everyone has a copy. ATTACHED. He asked that the commissioners go over this and talk to him relative to their priorities.

Phil said that his #1 priority is the Veterans Memorial. He has asked Bryan to look into this. The VFW has created a committee. Bryan is the chairman of that committee.

Phil said that satellite parks should also be a high priority. He said that he has received an offer from a local developer just today but that he is not ready to discuss details.

Ethics Discussion –

Phil said that in January, the Times-Tribune reported that Mary was very upset about being accused of leaking executive session minutes to the newspaper. Mary stated that Terry Ball and Phil Loethen had made accusations. Phil said that Terry had written an email and it had contained a comment that Mary had given the newspaper information from an executive session. Terry had no proof regarding that comment and it was inappropriate.

Terry said to Mary that in January, the paper had repeatedly asked him about staffing decisions made in November. The Times-Tribune was hung up on the statement that commissioners “did not know of the specific verbiage” of the motion to be made to eliminate the Park Superintendent position. The paper kept reporting that the commissioners were aware and that this action had been discussed in May in Executive Session. Terry said that he was angry at the Times-Tribune for trying to tie two unrelated things together. The Times-Tribune kept quoting from these unreleased minutes trying to insinuate that the board was saying they had never discussed this action and was unaware it was happening. That is inaccurate, however not something that can be answered without discussing the sealed minutes. The commissioners did not know the specifics of the verbiage of the motion. No one ever said that this had not been discussed. So, I was angry that the minutes had been illegally given to the newspaper and reported upon. I blamed Mary unjustly and for that I sincerely apologize.

Mary said that she accepted Terry’s apology.

Phil said that Mary had also accused him of blaming her and that he had never done so.

Mary said that she apologized to Phil for blaming him as he had not said or done anything.

Phil then said that in January meeting Mary had also brought up the EEOC complaint that she had filed against the park district. At that meeting Mary said she had not lied in her sworn complaint. Phil gave her a copy of the attorney opinion that she had lied. Phil said that the attorney in his written opinion had commented on two specific areas. First, Mary had sworn that she was paid at a lower hourly rate than men performing the same tasks. Phil said that even though this is sworn to be true it could be argued that maybe she didn’t know that she was the highest paid hourly worker in the Park. Phil produced notes from a meeting where Mary, Phil, and Tim Greenfield had discussed this very topic five months prior to her filing the complaint where Mary was told she was paid \$2.50 more per hour than anyone else in the Park.

Mary said that just because the case was dismissed she still believed that the complaints were valid. She said she had sent in her complaint before Craig Harris had left and it had been lost. She said that this was the part of the complaint that was later dropped.

Phil said that the second item discussed in the attorney opinion was Mary's sworn statement that on June 27, 2002, Phil had sent her an email that was degrading to women. Phil said that he had never sent Mary any emails. Mary presented three emails at the EEOC hearing. None were addressed to Mary, none were dated June 27th, and none of them were harassing. One of the emails that she presented was dated three months after she her sworn complaint. That email was addressed to the Park commissioners and all of the local news media. The email was sent prior to the second Gulf War in Iraq, when US relations with European countries were strained and contained a quote from Mark Twain that said, "France is governed by prostitutes".

In the EEOC findings Mary admitted that Phil had not given her that email but that one of the people that the letter was addressed to had given her a copy. Phil said that if she found that email offensive she should blame the person that gave her the email or Mr. Mark Twain that had made the comment.

Mary said that she thought these emails were unprofessional and she was not going to apologize. She said that this was all over and done with as far as she was concerned and she wanted it to be done.

Phil said that this discussion was responding to the comments Mary had made at the January meeting.

Norm said that as a coach with the Titans football program he has learned that you can have the greatest players and the greatest coaches and it wont mean a thing if they cant work together. He said that we don't need to like each other but that we need to learn to work together. Continuing to discuss this stuff will not allow us to work together and do great things for the park.

Chairmen Comments – Phil said April will be the month we elect officers on the board and everyone who wants to have a position should be thinking about it.

Athletics – Norm

Norm said that we need a roller. We have been trying to get the use of one donated for over a year and have had no luck. Either we cannot get it donated or it is not available to rent when we need it. A roller will allow us to take care of the baseball fields and the soccer fields and make them nicer.

Kevin said that rentals run about \$400 a day.

Phil said that he had contacted a number of venders and that a roller could be rented for \$388 per day. This is a motorized roller. Phil had a purchase price on four different rollers from two different venders. These are rollers that attach to a three-point hitch.

Terry said that \$400 a day for four days would just about pay for one. We would undoubtedly use it more than that. Terry asked George if he would use it if he had one.

George said that he would both in the spring and in the fall. He said there are multiple uses for these and they are not just for athletic fields. They are also very useful for construction purposes.

Terry said that he agreed that we needed to go ahead and buy one.

Phil gave Norm all of the pricing information for his consideration.

Insurance – Kevin

Kevin said he had nothing to report.

Grounds – Jim

Jim said that we would look at placing No Parking signs on the east side of Riggin Road. He said he would work with George on this project.

Special Events – Mary

Mary said that she has been looking into other park districts resident and non-resident fees. She handed out a listing of five other districts. ATTACHED.

Phil said that he felt we should impose a 50% up charge on all rental fees to non-residents. He also said that we should require commissioners using a free rental to pay the \$100 deposit. He said that he felt Friday nights should be available to the free use groups.



Motion: Approve the following requests:

- Cub Scout Pack #38 – April 21, 2006 at shelter #8
- Boy Scout Troop #91 – April 22, 2006 at WC – upper level
- Metro-East Leadership Council – June 26, 2006 at Shelter #1
- Triad Middle School – May 5, 2006 at WC – upper level
- Use of west field in park for City of Troy to display annual fireworks July 4, 2006
- Approve APWA to hold public works truck contest event at park on Sep 26, 2006

Mary/Kevin 7-0 Ayes Roll Call Vote.

Discussion – rental of WC and adjacent areas for commercial sales purpose (Cummings Tools: semi-tractors, etc.)

George said that he had some concerns about this and would investigate and make a judgment call.

Personnel & Safety – Terry

Terry presented the monthly information from the Consumer Price Index for the last 12 months. Inflation has averaged 3.5% over the past year. It has averaged 3.9% August to January that is the time the new Park Director has been employed.

Terry said that the Illinois minimum wage had increased to from the Federal wage of \$5.15 an hour to \$6.30 an hour effective January 1st. Every April 1st, we look at position pay scales and adjust as need be. Because of this minimum wage hike, he will make a motion on the pay scale change proposals he had emailed out to everyone. ATTACHED.

- 1) Full-Time Maintenance and grounds. Increase from \$8.75 an hour to \$10 an hour. (14.3% increase)
- 2) Part-Time Maintenance and grounds. Increase from \$7.75 an hour to \$8.50 an hour. (9.7% increase)
- 3) Part-Time Grounds (Grass Cutter). Increase from \$6.50 an hour to \$7.50 an hour. (15.4% increase)
- 4) Park Director. Increase from \$50,000 a year to \$51,500 a year. (3.0 increase – cost of living)
- 5) Park Foreman and Park Part-Time secretary position remain at \$13 per hour and \$8 per hour.

Motion: Approve compensation changes effective April 1, 2006. Terry/Norm 6-1 Ayes Mary was the No vote. Roll Call vote.

Beautification – Randy

Nothing to report.

9:15 Motion: Adjourn to executive session personnel for the annual evaluation of George Bryant. (As per 5 ILCS 120/2 C 1) Norm/Randy 7-0 Ayes Roll Call vote

10:35 Motion: Adjourn the meeting. Randy/Norm 6-0 Ayes

Submitted by
Terry Ball, Secretary