

Tri-Township Park Board Meeting
May Budget Meeting
Park Office
May 10, 2006

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

Discuss Budget –

Phil said the budget is the same as we discussed at the April meeting.
There was no in put or questions from the public.

7:02 Motion: Adjourn budget meeting. Phil/Jim 6-0 Ayes Roll call vote

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Additions to the Agenda –

Motion: Add discussion of the ethics ordinance under finance. Phil/Randy 6-0 Ayes Roll call vote

Approval of Minutes –

Motion: Approve April 12, 2006 minutes. Phil/Randy 5-0-1 Ayes Jim abstained. Roll call vote.

Thank you notes/Get Well –

Norm said that he wanted to send a get-well card from the board to Commissioner Kevin Woodring who had recently had knee surgery.

Norm said that he wanted to send a thank you note to TBSL board member Ed Wilhite for his compliments on the ball fields. Norm said that he also wanted to thank the staff as the fields looked great.

Norm said that he wanted to send a thank you to former TBSL President Greg Hunt. His thousands of hours of volunteer time to the TBSL over the past several years will be dearly missed.

Friends of the Park – No one in attendance.

Correspondence – Nothing to mention.

Treasures Report –

\$427,931 in the bank.

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

Pay Bills –

Bills totaling \$19,224.71 were reviewed.

Motion: Pay all bills for \$19,224.71. Phil/Terry 6-0 Ayes Roll Call Vote

June Board Meeting –

Norm said that he would be unable to make the June board meeting, as he will be on vacation. Phil said he would be on vacation that week, and would miss that meeting.

Motion: Reschedule regular June meeting to June 21, 2006. Randy/Terry 6-0 Ayes Roll call vote

Park Director Report – George Bryant

Grants –

PEP Grant – Received billing for mower.

Recycling Grant – Plan on applying for this in July.

Lake Fountain Repairs – This work is done. It is up and running and all wiring is in conduit.

Park Mapping – This is ongoing. There will be a meeting on Friday.

Gazebo Status –

Electric - The electric is completed.

Railing – Working to get by May 19th to complete the project.

Edging – Target completion date is May 26.

Picnic in the Park – Working with the Chamber of Commerce to coordinate. All dates are set.

YMCA Day Camp – Starts June 6. Nothing to report.

Movie Night in the Park – Scheduled for June 23rd.

Hot Button for Skateboard Park – George said that he is still investigating and getting input from other park districts. While in theory this is a nice thing to have, it is also open for abuse.

Playground Mulch – This is on order. We will hold off for now.

Ball Field Status – Infields – George said that the TBSL has requested that we have all dirt infields. The Park staff is working to make the grass infields more playable.

Terry said that the TBSL likes the idea of grass infields. However, the current issue is one of playability. The grass needs to be kept cut very short to be playable. There is no watering system. If the grass is cut short enough for play, it will die out anyway once the spring rains stop. During a TBSL discussion on this topic, TBSL board member Ben Keefe said that the High School maintains a single grass infield and invests over 800 man-hours to prepare the single field for play. This does not take into consideration the cost of the water or the watering system. The TBSL feels that it is unrealistic to expect watering systems to be installed and that it is unrealistic to expect the man-hours of labor it will take to make the fields playable. The existing dirt infields are fine. This is a rec program and these are rec fields. A flat dirt infield is perfectly fine. A grass infield is nice, but is not a good thing if it is not maintained. The TBSL voted unanimously to request the grass be shaved off the infields in the fall and dirt infields are maintained on all diamonds.

Randy said that we should wait and take a look at the cost of an irrigation system and see what the fields are like at the end of the season.

George said that he investigated the cost of an irrigation system for just field #4 and was \$28,000.

Norm said that the diamonds needed reseeding. We talked about this last year and we never did it.

Randy said that we should talk about this in July or August after the TBSL season is over and reevaluate.

Fountains –

George said that the fountain on #14 was repaired. A day later it was vandalized again. He said that he was looking into getting a heavier fountain.

The fountain for #3 is on order and it is expected to take 6 to 8 weeks for delivery.

Director's comments –

George said he is talking with the TBSL and it appears the #14 concession stand is doing very well financially. He will work on getting the reinforced windows on a hinge system so that they will be easier to use. The TBSL has requested a trash dumpster for #14.

Phil said that we need to be careful. The road into the 32 acres is an oil and chip and cannot support the trash trucks.

Randy asked if we could get a dumpster and move it with the park tractor using forks.

Norm said that we need to look at extending the walking path into the 32 acres. It is a long walk back to the west fields.

George said that it is unlikely we would get this done this season unless we chose to contract it out.

George said that every once in a while someone misbehaves in the Park. Vandalism, speeding, swearing, etc... George said that in order to effectively deal with these situations he would like to work with Terry to develop a policy on how to handle people who are problematic.

George said that he is continuing to work with the COC to market park concepts, ideas, movie nights, plays, etc...

George said that there would be a skateboard contest this Saturday.

George presented a rough draft of a project management report to the board. He asked for all of the commissioners to review and provide him feedback.

Phil asked what the status of the lighting contract with Ameren IP was.

George said that Ameren has indicated that we will not get a written contract.

Phil asked George if the City has a written contract with Ameren.

George said that he has asked the City this question and has not received a response. George said that we are paying what the City and other government groups are paying for lighting.

Randy said that the light poles on the 32 acres are leaning and asked George to notify Ameren and see if anything can be done to correct it.

George said that he would call Ameren.

Dave Roady said that he would look into whether the City has a contract with Ameren and would let the Park know.

Norm said that it has been brought to his attention that it was reported in a local paper that the park had said the Veterans Memorial was cheaply done. Norm said that to his knowledge our board never stated this. He said that the park board has merely noted that the Veterans Memorial is in disrepair and needs worked on. At this point, all we as a board have done is identified the need and asked the local veterans group to get involved and let us know what they would like us to do with the memorial. Norm said that he is unaware of any engineering firm being utilized in the original design and construction of the existing memorial. He said that this would be either the second or third time the memorial has had to be rebuilt. The memorial was originally constructed in 1991. Repairs and rebuilding were necessary in 1997/1998 and a few more times since then. He said that no decisions have been made by this board on how to proceed. Norm said that Brian Clifton is a park employee who is also a veteran. As a veteran, Brian is volunteering his time outside of work to work with the VFW. Brian is not representing the park board in his commendable effort.

Phil asked George if the roller had broken.

George said that a couple of bolts had fallen out and he had called the supplier. It was a simple fix and is up and running.

Phil said that we need to be looking at the parking capacity on the 32 acres. He said that it would appear there is not enough parking for all of the ball diamonds and or the soccer fields.

Norm asked if we could put up barricades to stop people from parking on the fields.

George said that people typically drive around barricades and ignore no-parking signs. He said that he preferred to use stakes and construction tape.

TBSL – Terry Ball

Terry said that the TBSL season has begun and we have over 1,000 kids playing.

TSC –

No one in attendance

Financial – Phil

Ethics Discussion –

Phil said that all of the commissioners have a copy of the proposed ethics ordinance. He said that Steve Giacometto had written this and we are looking for input.

Steve said that it was modeled after other existing government ordinances. He said that it is a rough draft. The ordinance lays out definitions of censure, condemnation, and admonition.

Mary said that the document lays out reasons for removal from the board and this is not legal or in keeping with park laws.

Phil said that we do have an ordinance where a commissioner can be removed from office for attendance reasons.

Steve said that it is a rough draft that he is seeking input on and this item may not stay in the final draft.

Phil said that there are some items that may need to be removed, like speaking without being recognized.

Terry said that he very much liked the idea of this ordinance. The idea is not to scare commissioners or to give the board a tool to remove commissioners. Obviously it will always take a minimum of a majority or even a super majority to sanction a commissioner. Terry said that what he likes about this ordinance is that it effectively communicates to the entire board that the expectation is that all commissioners will be ethical in their actions and have the best interest of the park district and the park board and if they are not, the board has a tool to address it. What if a commissioner wanted to create problems for the board and without consulting the board, went to the States Attorney or the Illinois Attorney General and alleged wrongdoing? What if a commissioner, without consulting the board, went to IPARKS and lodged complaints and alleged wrongdoing in the carrying out of grants? If the commissioner has not asked any questions of the board or even notified the board of concerns, this type of activity seemed to be working against the district and the board should have a tool to be able to deal with it.

Mary said that she was not on the board when all of this was happening.

Terry said there should be repercussions for actions like this carried out by a sitting commissioner.

Phil said that he would volunteer to collect input for additions or removals from the ordinance and get the revised version back to Steve.

Satellite Parks –

Phil said that Norris Brase is sending letters to homeowners to get consensus on the proposed land donation to the park.

Mary said that she didn't think the property owners would go along with the idea of this being a public park as they are paying a fee for their right o the property now.

Phil said that maybe if Norris Brase donated this land to the park they would no longer have to pay for it. The ball is now in their court and we will wait for the response on the letter.

Phil said that he has talked to a few City Councilmen on the proposed donation of some or the entire east end park. Phil said that he is of the opinion that some of the land will be donated.

Norm said that obviously we would be thankful for anything given. We were thankful for the Meadow Drive property and believe we did a good job on this and it has been mutually beneficial to both he City and the Park. We are hoping to have the same opportunity this time.

Phil agreed and said that he was proud of what we have accomplished at Meadow Drive and was certain that we could do the same thing here.

Randy said that he simply wanted to thank the City Council for considering it and having the thought.

Norm said that hats are off to the City for continuing to work with us and doing these things that will benefit everyone in the City of Troy and the Park District.

Phil said that we are developing quite a winning team record with the City. Meadow Drive is an unqualified success. The City donated \$50,000 to the Skateboard Park and it has been an unqualified success. The City donated \$20,000 to the Gazebo and it is looking very sharp and will be heavily used by the community this summer.

Budget Discussion –

Phil said that George has informed him that the April meeting where we discussed the budget was 28 days ago. By law, we have to wait 30 days until vote to approve it. We can wait until the June meeting to do so, but this is now moved back to the 21st, and by law, the budget has to be approved and turned into the County by the end of June. If we have an attendance problem in June and cannot have a quorum, we could be in danger of being late.

Norm suggested that we schedule a special meeting for next Monday night at 6 PM to approve the budget.

Phil said that in the last two meetings, we have voted to buy defibrillators and tables for the Wiesemeyer Center and that both were recorded in the minutes incorrectly.

Motion: Approve \$6,000 for purchase of four defibrillators. Phil/Mary 6-0 Ayes Roll call vote

Motion: Approve \$2,100 for round tables and a stacker cart. Phil/Terry 6-0 Ayes Roll Call vote

Norm asked if we needed four defibrillators.

Phil said that he felt there should be one each in the Wiesemeyer Center, the Lee Leonard building, the TBSL concession, and the TSC concession.

George said that he wanted to get training on their use. He said that he would set up training for his staff in their use and for CPR. He said he would try and include members of the TSC and the TBSL. He doesn't think they should be handed out until training is completed.

Phil asked where are the defibrillators now?

George said they are in the Lee Leonard building.

Phil said if someone has a heart attack they aren't going to be doing anyone any good in boxes in the Lee Leonard building. They need to be distributed now. Just this week a 48 year old man had a heart atack riding his bike. We need to get them out where they will do some good.

Terry said that he supported asking the TBSL and the TSC to take part in the training but also believed they should be out and available.

Norm said that we would go ahead and make them available and said that he agreed training was a good idea.

Phil asked George what the status was on the round tables.

George said that they were due to be delivered on Thursday.

Phil said that the auditor requested changing our audit from a accrual to a cash audit. Phil said that he didn't think it really matter which method was used.

Norm asked Dave what he thought.

Dave said since we operate on a cash basis, a cash audit was probably the best method. George said the auditor wanted the board to recognize the change in the minutes.

Athletics – Norm

Phil said that we are in need of a new updated list of TBSL and TSC members. He also said that he wanted to compliment park employee Larry Menendez on the work he has done on the ball fields.

Insurance – Kevin

George said that he has had discussion with IPARKS on our insurance coverage. Apparently some of Phil's recommendations for coverage's last year were not taken. George said that he is looking for something in writing on what the valuation of our buildings and property really are.

Phil said that Roger Tegmeyer, a certified appraiser, at one time had helped appraise our buildings. We have to be careful and watch these appraisal values. He said that six years ago we were paying over \$35,000 a year in insurance bills. After adjustments it was lowered to about \$19,000. This we we are expecting \$30,000. It's on the way back up.

Grounds – Jim

Jim said that he thinks we need a speed bump installed where the trail crosses the road.

Randy asked if George could attach a speed bump to the road there.

George said that he could.

Phil said that he thought we had decided not to do this.

Randy said that we decided not to have a speed bump right at the new entrance. He said that he felt we needed this one and also one by the TSC concession stand.

Norm told George to go ahead and order what he needed to get both installed.

Jim said that he didn't think we should plant trees along Riggin Road to keep people from parking there. He said that the tree roots would be a problem long term with the concrete drainage ditch.

George said that he would work with Randy and Norm to develop landscaping for that area that would keep people from parking there. He said that he would develop a plan for this.

Special Events – Mary

No requests for free rentals.

Personnel & Safety – Terry

Nothing to report.

Beautification – Randy

The employees are planting flowers around the park and the grass is looking good.

Randy said that he is glad the lake fountain is running again and that he was glad the electric cord was in conduit.

Phil said that he believed an electrical cord that is buried should always be in conduit.

8:30 Motion: Adjourn the meeting. Phil/Mary 6-0 Ayes

Submitted by
Terry Ball, Secretary