

Tri-Township Park Board Meeting
September Regular Meeting
Park Office
September 13, 2006

Norm Beck
Randy Wiesemeyer

7:00 PM Meeting called to order.

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

Additions to the Agenda -

Phil said that he would like to discuss safety issues under Personnel and Safety.

Motion: Under Personnel and Safety, add safety discussion. Phil/Randy 6-0 Ayes

Phil said that there was no executive session scheduled on the agenda. He said that we couldn't go into executive session unless it is on the agenda. He said that it should be on the agenda at every meeting and that we can make a decision each time as to whether we want to use it.

Norm said that he did not have executive session on the agenda as we did not have a reason to utilize it but that he understood what Phil was saying and would take this suggestion into consideration for future meetings.

Approval of Minutes -

Motion: Approve August 9, 2006 Executive Session - Discussion of Closed Meeting Minutes.
Randy/Jim 4-0-2 Ayes Kevin and Phil abstained

Motion: Approve August 9, 2006 Regular Meeting minutes. Randy/Terry 4-0-2 Ayes Kevin and Phil abstained.

Thank you notes/Get Well -

Phil asked if we had sent thank you notes to everyone who volunteered for storm clean up.

George said that we did not have names and addresses for everyone.

Phil said that he had phone numbers for everyone who was there and could call and get addresses if need be.

Norm said that the plan was to place an ad in the paper to thank everyone and to invite him or her all to the volunteer appreciation dinner in December.

Treasures Report -

George said that the tables were not coded wrong. We had not received the bill and they had not yet been paid for.

Phil asked if the roller was coded correctly.

Dave said that we either paid for it in last year's budget or it possibly was coded incorrectly

George said that he would look up the vendor and research this to verify where the cost went.

Motion: Accept treasures report. Kevin/Randy 6-0 Ayes

Pay Bills -

Bills totaling \$30,246.68 were reviewed.

Phil asked if the computers on the bill list were not budgeted for. He said that we should have board approval to purchase items that were not budgeted.

Norm said that computers are almost out of date as soon as you purchase them. He asked if Phil wanted computers added to the budget for next year.

Phil said that we should decide as a board to do this if it is not budgeted. He said permission should be requested.

Norm said that the office computer was very old and completely crashed and locked up and we were unable to operate. He said that the purchase was well within the approved spending limits that do not need board authorization and that he directed George to make the purchases. Norm said that perhaps we should consider leasing next time.

George said that the old computer is gone and that we didn't buy new. We have a new CPU, which is actually updated used equipment. These are new computers for the park office. He said that new equipment runs about \$1,200 and we were able to get these for around \$500 each.

Motion: Pay all bills for \$30,246.68. Randy/terry 6-0 Ayes Roll Call Vote

Presentation by Troy Grain – Petting Zoo –

George said that we have two new additions to the petting zoo. A male and a female baby goat. George said that Pam Bohnenstiehl from Troy Grain had offered to sponsor a naming contest. We had very good participation. Two winners were picked.

Rory Elizabeth Tiel was chosen as the winner of naming the female. The winning name is Maggie. Rory was unable to attend the meeting to get her award.

Alexa Bucks was chosen as the winner of naming the male. The winning name is Barney. Alexa received a certificate and a \$50 savings bond from Troy Grain. Pam and Everett Bohnenstiehl presented these to Alexa.

Proposal for Auto Scrubber –

George said that as a follow up to his presentation last month on improving the cleaning of the Wiesemeyer Center, he has received a proposal for an Auto Scrubber from Hillyard.

This cleaner costs \$1,795 and will strip wax and clean floors in the Wiesemeyer Center.

Norm asked if it could be used on the CXT bathrooms.

George said no but that it could possibly be used on Pavilion's #1 and #14.

Phil asked if the cleaning staff had used the buffer on the floors. He said that you could tell which employees do a good job cleaning and which do not.

Norm said that every year we hire people to clean and that we train them and then lay them off in the winter months only to start over again the next year. It makes it difficult to get consistency. Norm said a mop would not clean the tiles in the Wiesemeyer Center.

Kevin said that we could ret a cleaner a couple of times a year as needed and not spend the \$1,800.

Norm said that conventional cleaning would not work on the Wiesemeyer Center tiles. There is wax on the tiles that is over 15 years old and has been stripped multiple times. The floor is not very clean.

George said that he cleaner would get used every day.

Phil said that we just need the right person doing the job.

Norm said that maybe we need to consider hiring a janitor who does nothing but this cleaning.

Terry said that hiring a full or part time janitor would be really expensive in comparison to the cleaner. He asked George for a best guess estimate on how long it currently takes to clean the Wiesemeyer Center floor and how many days a year do we do it.

George said that cleaning the floor takes approximately two hours now and we do it approximately 250 times a year.

Terry asked George how much time he thought it would take to clean the floors using the new cleaner.

George said about one hour.

Terry said that it is fairly simple math. One hour saved times 250 cleanings times \$8.50 per hour equals approximately \$2,200. This is a 9-month payback.

Norm said that it would also allow for the floor to be cleaner on an ongoing basis.

Motion: Spend up to \$1,800 for the floor cleaner from Hillyard. Terry/Randy 4-2 Ayes Roll Call Vote. Kevin and Phil were the no votes.

Proposal for Tree Stump Removal -

George said that he has counted at least 38 tree stumps that need removed from the park. He said he has a proposal from Bob Converse to have these removed for \$1,060 dollars and asked the board what they would like to do.

Phil said that this is general park maintenance and that we should just do it and not be discussing it.

Norm said that this item was specifically placed on the agenda to discuss because Mr. Loethen is constantly stating that the board should be making all the spending decisions and that he doesn't want to find out about these things when we are paying the bills.

Motion: Spend \$1,060 to remove the tree stumps. Phil/Randy 6-0 Ayes Roll Call vote.

Proposal for Recycling Containers –

George said that he had expected to have some price quotes for the meeting and had not received them in time for the meeting. He asked that we table this item and discuss at the next meeting.

Action Concerning Sealed Closed Session Minutes –

George presented a proposed ordinance to recognize the executive session minutes that are to remain sealed.

Motion: Approve Ordinance 2006-04. Terry/Kevin 6-0 Ayes

Park Director Report – George Bryant

Adventure night – October 28. George said that he is getting fantastic feedback from other organizations around the area about helping out with this event. He said that he is working with the Troy Women's Club. The event is scheduled for October 28. This is not a Halloween party. It will be geared for families. It will be after dark and there will be a walk along the trails through stations that feature fictional characters. He said that Troy Grain has expressed an interest in sponsoring this event.

Art Under the Stars – Movie Night September 22 – The movie Madagascar will be shown. George said that First National Bank would be providing free refreshments for this event.

Park Mapping Status – George showed the board the current mapping. Phil said that there are no water and electrical shutoffs shown on these maps and the employees need to know where these are. George said that we will have a map showing these locations and it will be placed in the Lee Leonard building.

Park Entrance Sign and Landscaping – George said that this project is completed and looks very nice.

Storm Damage Update – George said that during all the work and cleanup, significant friendships have come out of this. He said that Jarvis Township did a heck of a job on the cleanup. He said that we received a lot of help from the City. He said that we were very thankful for Alan Dunstan and the work he did coordinating the County resources and for providing a SWAP team. George said that this is an example of great down home support and it is worth repeating what a great job was done and how thankful we are for it.

George presented the board with several packets of information regarding the Park insurance coverage and expenses incurred during the recent storm.

In 2002, Phil Loethen reviewed the insurance coverage's and asked the board to make some significant reductions on items that were over insured, were insured multiple times, items that were insured that did not exist, and for reductions in deductibles. This effort led to an insurance premium reduction that our carrier says was approximately \$4,745 to date.

Phil said that the reduction in the bill in 2002 exceeded \$16,000 per year. He said that we had a water slide insured that we didn't even have and had vehicles insured multiple times.

George said that he agreed, but that for this analysis we would work with the \$4,745 in savings to date provided by the carrier as a worst case scenario.

George showed a list of the total damages incurred. This was \$11,240.

Insurance paid for \$9,694. This equates to out of pocket expense of \$1,545.

So the net result is that the cuts and reductions in coverage in the insurance in 2002 still netted a minimum net gain of \$3,200 to date.

TBSL – Terry Ball

Terry said that the fall season of the AAA baseball is underway and going well.

Terry said that the TBSI had met on the previous Sunday and unanimously requested that the grass infields be skinned so that the infields would be dirt. The request was that this occur in the fall so the fields would be ready for play in the spring. Terry said that there is no issue with the grass, but that the grass resulted in bumpy infields that were very unplayable and received a lot of complaints from players, coaches, and parents.

George said that grass infields need irrigation, fertilizing, seeding, and higher levels of maintenance than we were able to provide.

Norm said that he wanted to give the grass another year.

Terry said that this is at least the second time the TBSL board had made this request. When the fields were first planned, the TBSL asked for dirt infields. Last fall the TBSL requested that the infields be dirt. The TBSL represents the 1,000 kids who play on these fields and wants dirt and needs to understand why the park board is insisting on grass.

Jim said that as a coach and a TBSL member he had heard both complaints and compliments on the grass. He said that if we stay with grass the fields need to be watered regularly.

Terry said that this was the second unanimous request from the TBSL board on this topic and he is worried about how a negative response to this request will be received. This is a major program ran entirely by volunteers. If they feel that they are not able to work with the park they may not want to continue volunteering.

Motion: Skin the grass off the infields of diamonds #7, 8, 9, and 10 this fall. Phil/Terry 4-2 Ayes
Randy and Norm were the no votes.

TSC -

No one from the TSC was in attendance.

Financial - Phil

Phil said that we could have the Norris Brase property for a satellite park if we will pay for the legal fees to transfer the property.

Norm asked if we had a required timetable for developing the property.

Phil said that there was no timetable and that all we would have to do in the near term is mow the grass.

Motion: Expend a maximum of \$1,500 for the preparation of documents dealing with the acquisition of Satellite Park property. Phil/Terry 6-0 Ayes Roll Call vote

Phil said that Steve Giacometto had stated at a prior meeting that we couldn't let someone vote who is attending the meeting via the phone. We have an ordinance that allows this and if it is not right we should correct it.

Norm said that Steve was wrong. He said he talked to Steve about this and Steve had made this statement based on pending legislation he was aware of that did not happen.

Phil said that he would like a written opinion from Steve on this topic so that we can have clarification.

Phil said that the defibrillators need to get mounted on the walls of the buildings that they are kept in. This is the only way that the general public will have access to them.

George said that when these were purchased we did not get cases to put them in. He said that he would look into getting cases with the \$500 remaining in the budget for this item.

Phil said that Charmin Semanish contacted him to complain about memorial trees that had died.

Norm said that this is to be expected with the two of the driest years on record. He asked George to get replacement trees for the ones that had died and to look into watering these trees more.

Phil said that he noticed the lake fountain was not working.

George said that an employee had installed some of the wiring without conduit and that a muskrat had chewed through some of the wiring. This employee is no longer with the park. Parts are on order and the fountain should be back on in a couple of days.

Athletics - Norm

Nothing to report.

Insurance - Kevin

Nothing to report.

Grounds - Jim

Jim said that he has been looking at the creek across the road from the office. We have lost three trees there. The hill above this creek is very steep and he said that he is looking at the possibility of straightening out this creek. It winds quite a bit and the water stands in the summer and is a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

George said that he would like to see this done so that we can mow the hill. He said the valley area with the creek would be an ideal place for wild flowers.

Jim said that he noticed people driving to soccer games that were played on the wedge on the south end of the park.

Phil said that his is very dangerous. There is water that runs under the road and is eroding this area. It could collapse at any time.

Jim said that he is interested in extending the walking path to pavilion #14 and then around to the various diamonds.

Randy said that we need to extend the walking path all the way through the 32 acres.

Norm said that we need to fix the drainage problem on the 32 acres first before we put the path in. He said that we should be working on this in the fall.

George said that he would work with Jim and see if they could come up with some ideas.

Special Events – Mary

Mary was absent.

Motion: Approve request to waive rental fees for Troy VFW Post 976 Veterans Day parade in park and ceremony at Veterans Memorial November 11, 2006. Terry/Phil 6-0 Ayes

George said that we have a request from the Troy Church of Christ to use the basement of the Wiesemeyer Center on Sunday mornings for a reduced or waived fee. They said that would not use it if it were rented. The fee is currently \$100. We have an arrangement with the Karate class where they pay \$400 a month to use the basement three times a week.

Terry said that perhaps we should prorate the church based on that arrangement. They would use it one third of the time of the Karate club, which would drop the fee to about \$130 a month. They also agree to vacate if it is rented. So based on that, charge one half of the \$130.

Phil said that he was concerned we could get into a problem cutting a deal with a church. He said we should ask the park lawyer for an opinion.

Randy said that he didn't feel we needed a lawyer's opinion to make a decision like this.

Norm said that he would like to table this discussion until the next meeting so that George could look into it.

Personnel & Safety – Terry

Phil said that we had agreed to do a performance review on George several months ago and we have not done it.

Terry said that we did the annual review for George in April and that upon request from Phil to do another one Terry had requested on July 13th for the commissioners to fill out the review form. He said that to date we have received two completed reviews from the commissioners. Terry said that he would not request an executive session unless at minimum four commissioners completed the form.

Phil said that we had an employee injured. The employee had broken his leg in three places cutting limbs out of trees. Phil said that we need to make sure the employees are safe. He said that we need to protect the employees. He said the key is to make sure no one gets hurt. He said that he didn't think anyone should be allowed to climb a tree with a chain saw. He said that we should always use a high lift.

George said that any employee using a chainsaw should be trained because knowledge is important. The employee who was injured was highly trained in this area with over five years' experience that qualified him to do the job he was doing. George said that he is certified arborist and is typically the only employee who will be climbing trees. He said that the employee who was injured was qualified to do the job he was doing and that training will always be the key to allowing people in trees with chain saws.

Phil said that he disagreed. An employee should never climb a tree with a chainsaw. Phil said that when this accident occurred we had an employee who was on medical restriction operating a chain saw. He should not have been doing this because of the restriction.

Terry said that the employee Phil was referring to had a DR's release.

Phil said that the release called for a restriction to heavy lifting.

Terry said that the typical definition for weight restriction is 60 lbs., which is way heavier than a chain saw, and the employees doctor would need to make the decision on this.

Beautification – Randy

Nothing to report.

9:00 Motion: Adjourn the meeting. Kevin/Phil 6-0 Ayes

Submitted by
Terry Ball, Secretary