

CANTON PARK COMMISSION

BOARD MINUTES

MONTHLY MEETING

MARCH 13, 2013

The Canton Board of Park Commissioners met in a regular meeting on March 13, 2013.

Present were; Mr. Andy Black - President, Mr. Wuyanbu Zutali - Vice President, Mr. Drew Pelger – Member, and Mr. Derek Gordon, Interim Assistant Park Director/Secretary. There were also several attendees at the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00pm by President Black.

Meeting minutes from the February 13, 2013 regular meeting were reviewed by the Commissioners.

Commissioner Black motioned to approve all the minutes. Commissioner Zutali seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Adopt-A-Park Proposal – Assistant Director Gordon met with Commissioner Zutali, Union representatives, administration representatives, and the law department to discuss the guidelines of the program to assure that the volunteer work performed through this program does not conflict with the union contract. The Union has reviewed the proposed agreement and program guidelines and will support the program on a case-by-case basis pending legal revisions to the agreement by the Law department. The item will be brought before the commission for final approval at the April Commission meeting pending the changes by the Law Department.
2. Riverside Park Property – Service Director Warren Price has submitted a request to the Park Commission to take responsibility for the operations and maintenance of the property. Assistant Director Gordon notified the Commission that he has been working with Councilwoman Chris Smith and Project Rebuild Inc. to secure a grant and explore the development of a youth football field plan on the site. Commissioner Zutali motioned to approve the request. Commissioner Black seconded. Roll call vote: Commissioner Pelger –Yes, Commissioner Zutali – Yes, Commissioner Black – Yes. Motion carries unanimously.
3. Park Levy Update – Assistant Director Gordon gave a short summary of the current status of the park levy. The levy committee has developed subcommittees to address all of the levy needs and standing meetings are being scheduled for each group. Assistant Director Gordon also commented that the quarterly City publication, the Canton Connection, ran a cover story about the levy including a letter from Commissioner Black and a park user survey.
4. Faith Family Church (Allen Avenue Southeast Playground) – Assistant Director Gordon notified the board that a final decision has not yet been made by the Faith Family Church Selection Committee as to which project they will be administering this year. We hope to have an answer soon and that they will select Allen Avenue.
5. Canton Lincoln Highway Station (Maintenance Request) – Director of Public Service Warren Price has requested that Canton Parks assume full maintenance responsibilities for the Canton Lincoln Highway Station. Assistant Director Gordon elaborated that Director Price had clarified his position on this request and stated that the Parks Commission would also assume full control of operations of the facility. However, the Park Commission is still not in receipt of a letter stating the operational responsibilities. Commissioner Black stated that he would like to support this request, but needs the operational control portion of this request in writing before he would support a motion to accept the

request. Assistant Director Gordon stated he would seek an updated formal request and the item will be tabled until the next meeting

6. Staffing and Personnel Issues – Commissioner Black requested to hold this issue until all the agenda items had been completed. It was stated that the Park Director position had been posted and would be open for application until the close of business on March 29th.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Resignation of Commissioner Terry Prater - Due to Commissioner Prater's employment at the Stark County Board of Elections and the pending Park levy, Commissioner Prater submitted his resignation to the Mayor earlier this month to avoid a conflict of interest.
2. Introduction of Commissioner Drew Pelger - Mayor Healy has appointed Mr. Drew Pelger to the Park Commission.
3. Director's Report & Ohio Parks and Recreation Association Annual Conference Review – Assistant Director Gordon was asked by the Commissioners to attend the 2013 Ohio Parks and Recreation Conference in Columbus from February 24-27. Assistant Director Gordon and Canton Joint Recreation District Board Member, Eric Resnick and both attended the conference and discussed their experience with the board. Both commented about how informative and helpful the conference was to their development. However, they also expressed concerns about the state of park and recreation offerings in the City of Canton based upon the innovative and successful programs being instituted elsewhere across the State of Ohio. Mr. Resnick believes that continuing to work towards a merger between the Park and Recreation entities in Canton along with pursuing CAPRA accreditation will help bring these services up to an exemplary level. Information on CAPRA accreditation will be forwarded to the Commissioners.
4. Park Scheduling and Website Upgrade Presentation - City of Canton Information Technology Director, Patrick Barton and IT staff member George Lazarides presented to the Commission a new online park shelter reservation system that will improve customer access and scheduling efficiencies within the Park Offices. This system will not cost the Commission any money, but the online credit card payment option still requires additional input from the City Auditor and City Treasurer before it is fully implemented. Assistant Director Gordon will continue to evaluate and utilize the system internally until the system is ready for public use once the credit card option is activated.
5. 2013 Hall of Fame City Challenge - Race Director, Mr. Steve Mears has requested use of Arboretum Park on Saturday, June 15th from 5:00am until 9:30am for use as a transfer point on the race course. Assistant Director Gordon recommended approval of this request contingent upon necessary approvals of road closures, safety force assignments and other logistical arrangements from the City of Canton. Commissioner Black motioned to approve the request. Commissioner Zutali seconded. Roll call vote: Commissioner Pelger –Yes, Commissioner Zutali – Yes, Commissioner Black – Yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Zutali leaves the meeting at 5:50pm

Commissioner Black motioned to enter into Executive Session at 5:51pm for the purposes of discussing personnel matters pertaining to the rehiring of retired employees. Commissioner Pelger seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Commissioner Pelger –Yes, Commissioner Black – Yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Black made a motion to exit Executive Session at 6:16pm. Member Pelger seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Commissioner Pelger –Yes, Commissioner Black – Yes. Motion carried

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Sileno Semedo Foundation Easter Egg Hunt - The foundation has requested use of Monument Park on March 30th at 2:00pm for the purposes of an Easter Egg Hunt. Assistant Director Gordon recommended approval of this request. Commissioner Black motioned to approve the request. Commissioner Pelger seconded. Roll call vote: Commissioner Pelger –Yes, Commissioner Black – Yes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:18pm

Next Park Commission Meeting to be held at 4:00pm on Wednesday, April 10, 2013 at the Canton Garden Center.

Andy Black, President

Derek Gordon, Assistant Director