

## **CANTON PARK COMMISSION**

### **BOARD MINUTES**

### **MONTHLY MEETING**

**AUGUST 7, 2013**

Canton Board of Park Commissioners met in a regular meeting on August 7, 2013.

Present were; Mr. Andy Black-- President, Mr. Drew Pelger --Member, and Mr. Derek Gordon, Park Director/Secretary. There were very few attendees at the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 Commissioner Zutali

President Black entered the meeting at 4:12.

Meeting minutes from the July 10, 2013 Regular Meeting were reviewed by the Commissioners.

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

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Park Levy Update – Director Gordon informed the Commissioners that the Levy website and Facebook page were live and accessible to the public. Public meetings to discuss the levy have tentatively been scheduled throughout the city as well. President Black informed Commissioners that about \$40,000 is estimated for projected expenses for the levy.
2. Garaux Park Easement—Director Gordon requested to remove this item from the agenda as the Mayfield Senior Center has not agreed to grant the Park Commission an easement to build the trail. The Director has been in contact with Councilman Jim Griffin throughout this process to make him aware of their decision.
3. Proposed Animal Feeding Ordinance—Derek Gordon informed Commissioners that the law department has been very busy working on the levy and has not had time to explore this issue. He will continue to explore this issue as well as parking enforcement and an outdoor wedding policy at the Garden Center. These issues will be brought forward for Commission approval in the near future.
4. Allen Avenue Park (Playground #25) - SENA Park Name—Director Gordon informed Commissioners that because the motion to rename the Allen Avenue Park after the South East Neighborhood Association was tabled at the last meeting, Councilwoman Chris Smith was in attendance to present an alternative name. Chris Smith presented the Commissioners with a copy of an interview with former Canton Policeman Roy Reed Jr. and requested the park be named in his honor. Mr. Reed resided on Willet Avenue SE which is within sight of Playground #25. President Black stated he would like to look over Mr. Reed's interview to see what contributions and/or community park involvement he had. Commissioner Pelger agreed. Councilwoman Smith questioned what the present policy was for renaming a park. President Black stated that there was no formal policy,

but that the Commission has historically named Parks after individuals who have made significant contributions to Canton Parks or based on features or landmarks pertinent to the area surrounding the park. President Black asked Director Gordon to create a policy for renaming parks for the Commission's consideration at the next meeting. Commissioner Zutali motioned to rename mini-park #25 the "Roy Reed Playground". Commissioner Pelger seconded. Discussion continued between the Commission and Councilwoman Smith regarding the historical practice of naming parks. Based upon this discussion, Commissioner Zutali retracted motion and the item was tabled until the September Commission meeting.

5. Grovemiller Park Notice—Director Gordon informed Commissioners that Perry Township administrators did not respond to his request to transfer ownership of the property to Perry Township. Based on this response, Director Gordon stated that Canton Parks will continue with the plan of turning this land into a conservation area.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Ohio Tree Climbing Championship—Letter of Support Request - Maria Maculatis. Director Gordon informed Commissioners that he had been in contact with Ms. Maculatis regarding a tree climbing event. Ms. Maculatis briefed Commissioners on the event and stated that the tree climbing events are held nationwide. She added that she believed holding this event in Stadium Park next year would be good for the city. Certified Arborists and trainers would be present and it would be a free public event. President Black agreed this seemed like a good idea for the city however he suggested we contact the Safety Department and to make sure that we had adequate insurance coverage provided by the event. Ms. Maculatis stated she would provide further details, at this time she was just looking for a letter of support. Commissioners Pelger and Zutali supported the letter of interest and stated that board approval would still be needed after more information was provided. Commissioner Zutali motioned to approve a letter of support. Commissioner Pelger seconded. President Black abstained stating that because he arrived in the middle of the discussion he did not have enough information to cast a vote.
2. Adventure Combat Ops—McKinley Park Request—August 15-18—Travis Krauss from Adventure Combat Ops requested to use McKinley Park for registration activity. He informed Commissioners that a canopy would be set up within the park therefore he wanted park permission. Mr. Krauss had been in contact with other Canton City personnel regarding his event. President Black motioned to approve the request pending all City Safety requirements satisfied. Commissioner Pelger seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Eva Marie Gallagher Memorial 5K—Stadium Park Request—September 21- Dr. Nicholas Shundry requested to use Monument and Stadium Park for a 5k race from 8:00am to 12:00 noon on September 21, 2013. He stated he will not need any shelters. Water stations and physicians will be on site. Insurance has been provided and is on file for the event. President Black motioned to approve the event. Commissioner Pelger seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Zutali exits the meeting at 5:30pm

4. 55<sup>th</sup> St NE Trailhead Acquisition – Director Gordon alerted the Commission to an item on the Council that has been requested by Director Gordon and City Engineer Dan Moeglin. This item is an acquisition of a small parcel of vacant land at the intersection of Johnnycake Road NE and 55<sup>th</sup> St NE. The Engineering is providing the acquisition funds and Gervasi Vineyards will be developing the property into a more formal parking lot to be utilized as a trailhead and will provide ongoing maintenance. Canton Parks will need to take ownership of the property and provide some materials and manpower to complete the development. This item will be brought before them formally once it has received approval from City Council.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

1. Directors Report—Assistant Park Director, Dan Kunz updated Commissioners of the mowing report.
2. Donation/Volunteer Recognition—
  - a. GE Capital—Director Gordon informed Commissioners that volunteers from GE Capital have agreed to pay for half of the dog park at Mother Gooseland. Additionally, Director Gordon stated a master plan for Mother Gooseland would be brought to the next meeting.
  - b. OUR Gang—Director Gordon stated that members of OUR Gang kindly donated benches for the Bernard Avenue Park.
  - c. International Procurement Agency—Director Gordon informed Commissioners that debris was removed from the train station by these volunteers and they also painted and stained the platform area.

President Black motions to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Pelger seconds the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 5:58pm.

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

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Andy Black, President

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Derek Gordon, Director