

CANTON PARK COMMISSION

BOARD MINUTES

MONTHLY MEETING

JULY 10, 2013

The Canton Board of Park Commissioners met in a regular meeting on July 10, 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 4:04pm by President Black.

Meeting minutes from the June 12, 2013 Regular Meeting were reviewed by the Commissioners.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Park Levy Update – Director Gordon gave an update on the resolution. Additionally, Director Gordon directed attention towards the levy fundraiser. The fundraiser will take place at the Gervasi Crush House August 28th from 5:00pm to 8:00pm. Commissioner Black suggested checking with the Law Department about legalities of asking Park Employees for donations.
2. Garaux Park Easement – Director Gordon informed the Commissioners of his recent meeting with the Mayfield Senior Center. The internal loop of the trail installation would require an easement with both the Mayfield Senior Center and the City of Canton. The Mayfield Senior Center board will motion to approve or deny the trail at their next board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Proposed Animal Feeding Ordinance - Director Gordon and summer park patrol police officer, David Clouse have spoken about implementing a penalty for feeding the geese and other park animals. Office Clouse is currently distributing warnings, but stated that a formal City ordinance would be required to issue citations. Director Gordon also suggested that a penalty for citizens driving on park grass should also be explored. Commissioner Black stated he supported these efforts but would like a formal recommendation with specific penalty amounts before presenting the matter as a proposed ordinance to City Council. Director Gordon stated that he would contact the law department, continue to discuss the matter with Officer Clouse and present a formal recommendation at the next Commission meeting.
2. Allen Avenue Park – Director Gordon stated the South East Neighborhood Association’s requested to change their neighborhood park name to S.E.N.A. A pending dedication of the park set for August 12th at 1:00pm would officially rename the park. Faith Family Church, who was responsible for funding the installation of the new playground on the site, is eager to proceed with a dedication and will pay for a new sign with the new name of the park. Commissioner Pelger expressed concern about naming the park after a neighborhood association as it may provoke other neighborhood associations to request name changes for parks across the city to reflect their respective neighborhood associations. Commissioner Black added that naming the park in remembrance of a person or geographic marker of significance in the area has been the past practice of the Commission and that

other neighborhood associations have historically been denied when requesting to name parks after themselves. Commissioner Black recommended that Director Gordon contact the president of the South East Neighborhood Association and/or Councilwoman Smith suggest finding someone in remembrance to name the park after. Director Gordon asked to table this issue until the next meeting and stated he would contact the appropriate representatives to recommend a new name.

3. Grovemiller Park Notice – The mowing of Grovemiller Park has been suspended by the Canton Parks to repurpose the area as a conservation area. The area, located in Perry Township has no active park use, is adjacent to swamp land, and takes away time the park crew could potentially be spending at other active use park properties. Director Gordon previously met with Perry Township representatives to discuss ownership of the property and potentially deeding the parcel to the Township and has not received further feedback from the Township’s about their intent to acquire the property. Director Gordon presented the Commissioners with a citation from Perry Township which stated that if Grovemiller Park was not mowed within 7 days, Canton Parks would receive a \$500.00 fine. Director Gordon informed the Commissioners that Assistant Director, Dan Kunz was able to get an extension to perform the mowing until the matter was discussed with the Commission. Director Gordon advised that he will continue to mow the park only if the Township is actively pursuing the acquisition. Otherwise, he intends to maintain the property as a “Conservation Area” or wetland which is most appropriate given the geography and composition of the parcel. Commissioner Pelger expressed his concern about continued mowing of this parcel since it has no active use for the citizens of Canton. Commissioner Black agreed and suggested that Director Gordon check the deed of the property and what it is zoned as. Additionally, Commissioner Black supported Director Gordon’s efforts to turn the property over to the Township and to proceed with his efforts as discussed. Director Gordon stated he would proceed with his recommendation and would keep the Commission informed of any additional developments.
4. Garden Center HVAC Repair – Director Gordon requested retroactive Commission approval for \$2,770.00 for HVAC repairs completed by South City Heating and Cooling.. This emergency repair has already been completed per the discretion of Director Gordon. However, the amount of the repair exceeded the \$2,500.00 threshold for special park fund purchases and required Commission approval. Commissioner Black motioned to approve the funds. Commissioner Pelger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Director’s Report –
 - a. Garaux Park—Moral Obligation Notice
 - i. Director Gordon notified the Commission that their approval was not required to approve the \$2,400 as the amount did not exceed the \$2,500 Commission approval threshold. However, City Council will have to approve the moral obligation as the work was completed before a purchase order was opened due to the emergency nature of the repair. The air-conditioning has since been fixed.
 - b. Purchasing Process
 - i. Director Gordon wanted to inform Commissioners the complex process that has to be completed in order to make purchases for equipment and supplies (see addendums). He elaborated that this process has resulted in calls from collections agencies and disgruntled vendors. Multiple projects have been delayed, constituents become frustrated with a lack of responsiveness, and vendors second guess conducting business with the City as they cannot guarantee the timeframe of payment for services. Commissioner Black stated he was aware of the lengthy process and was hopeful that improvements will be made in the future to streamline the process.

2. Damage Reports
 - a. Nimisilla Park
 - i. Director Gordon stated the recent weather significantly impacted Nimisilla Park. Many trees fell or were cracked and had to be cut down. A shelter also collapsed and the electric was damaged. Continued efforts are being made with the park crews to balance the clean up efforts with ongoing mowing responsibilities.
 - b. Stadium Park
 - i. Director Gordon informed the Commissioners that the copper conduit was stolen out of Shelter #4 in Stadium Park resulting in no power for the shelter until both AEP and Spring Electric can repair and or replace the components. Director Gordon also informed the Commissioners that the electric box at Crenshaw #3 had also been damaged. Both boxes will be repositioned to an interior area of the shelter which is secured by lock and key to avoid future theft/damage.
3. Donation/Volunteer Recognition—Director Gordon asked the Commission to recognize both volunteers and donations made to the Canton Parks. He stated it was important to recognize and thank them so that these volunteers or donors continue to help. Commissioner Black agreed, and stated that large donations should always be brought to the attention of the Commissioners. Additionally, he recommended that the Canton Parks Facebook page or website also include recognition. Member Pelger agreed. Director Gordon added Office Manager, Jackie Noall has developed a volunteer request form to allow interested groups or individuals to submit their availability, skills and resources so the Park Office can match them with potential volunteer projects within the parks.
4. Park Tour with Canton Joint Recreation Board—Director Gordon informed the Commissioners that a tentative date, August 10th had been set for the Recreation Board and Park Board to tour the parks together. Commissioner Black added that he plans to be available to attend. Commissioner Pelger also confirmed his availability. Director Gordon will notify the Commissioners once the date is confirmed

Commissioner Black motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Pelger seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 4:57pm

Next Park Commission Meeting to be held at 4:00pm on Wednesday, August 14, 2013 at the Canton Garden Center.

Andy Black, President

Derek Gordon, Director