

## CANTON PARK COMMISSION

### BOARD MINUTES

AUGUST, 2011

The Canton Board of Park Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, August 10, 2011, at the Garden Center building.

Present were: Mr. Andy Black, President; Mr. Frank Morris III, Vice President; Mr. Douglas V. Perry, Director/ Secretary; and Mr. Douglas Foltz, Assistant Director. There were also guests.

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 pm.

The first item of business was the reading of the minutes of the July 13, 2011 regular meeting. A motion was made by A. Black to approve them as written. A second was provided by F. Morris, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1.Old Riverside Park Issues- The Director reported that he had still had nothing new to report. As no one else had anything to report, the issue remained tabled.

2.Park Brochure Development- The Director reported he had been reviewing the last version of the map for corrections; however, X-turns have been doing the work in the Engineer's Office, and they have not had one this summer to work on the map. The Director was instructed to try and find out what the cost would be to have the map finished privately.

3.Possible Dominion easements Reifsnyder, Oak and Martindale Parks- The Director reported that he had heard nothing about easements being sent to the City. It was asked who would get them. The Director stated they would either go to Service Director or maybe to Engineering.

4.Recycle/ Ad Proposal- The Board gave the floor to Mr. Gordon of the Mayor's Office. Mr. Gordon informed the Board that the company involved with the project, Greener Corners, would be in town on August 22 to look over possible locations and talk details. Second reading of the ordinance would also be that evening. He said they would also be meeting with the Chamber on downtown locations. Mr. Black asked if the ordinance was to be site specific? Mr. Gordon said it would not. Mr. Black said that although the Board has kicked the idea around, it has not selected specific spots.

Mr. Gordon stated he would like to hear what the company says about locations based on their experience.

Mr. Morris asked about the ads. Mr. Gordon said the City will have the right to refuse certain ads.

5. Canton Joint Recreation District requesting dates for 2011-2012 at the Garaux Building- Mr. Morris stated he was satisfied with Recreation response, but he still had some questions. He stated he understood they contribute to the Park System, but was concerned about liabilities with Recreation allowing private individuals to teach these classes on City property.

The Director stated that in effect this is what the Board does with Not-For-Profits when they receive permission to use Park property then have private vendors operate at their events.

The Director was instructed to check with Recreation and/or the Law Department to make sure the City's interests were covered for this arrangement.

6. Garaux Park Improvements- The Board discussed several possible improvements to Garaux Park along with the funds available to get them done.

A motion was then made by F. Morris to approve the leveling of the ball field, construction of a one-half basketball court, seal the existing parking lot, and pave a portion of the parking area on the west side of the building. A second was provided by A. Black, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Possible transfer of Crenshaw Park property to SARTA- The floor was turned over to Mr. Conrad of SARTA. He explained that this request was a part of a program to add a natural gas fueling station to their facility in order to convert half their fleet to this type of fuel. The park area being requested would be for parking to replace what would be lost of their existing lot areas to the fueling station. Council member Smith stated that it always seems that the Southeast end is asked to give up park area. They lost Bauhof and Jackson Parks in the past. She feels they should not take park area, and she is against it.

Park Commission Member Zutali arrived at the meeting at this point.

Mr. Foltz stated that maybe a partnership with SARTA could be worked out to improve the rest of the park. Maybe money could be provided to make some changes at the big shelter. The Director stated the roadway and parking area could be paved. Councilmember Smith stated she was still against it as to many things have been promised, but never provided in the past.

Mr. Black asked what the time frame was for the project. Mr. Conrad stated they had to have it done by the end of the year.

Mr. Black stated he would want to see the land coming back if the project did not go forward and would like to see improvements to Crenshaw Park.

Mr. Zutali stated he would be hesitant to go forward with the request. He agreed with the point's Council member Smith had expressed so he was not in favor of the transfer.

Mr. Morris stated he thought SARTA had moved too soon with some things related to the project; however, he agreed with Mr. Black, if the park was going to lose property as long as there were improvements to the rest of the park, he would not oppose the transfer.

Mr. Conrad asked the Board to consider a motion to allow the request to move forward to negotiation on the things discussed.

Mr. Zutali said he would like to see more input from both Council and the residents.

Mr. Black made a motion to move the request forward to talk about a possible release of property with consideration given to other park improvements and issues. A second was provided by F. Morris, and the motion then passed with the following vote.

Mr. Black- For  
Mr. Morris- For  
Mr. Zutali- Against

Mr. Gordon stated he would look to setting up a meeting. Mr. Conrad stated SARTA would like to help with park development.

2. Informal City Council Resolution regarding Nimisilla Park - Councilmember West again presented a plan he had put together to develop Nimisilla Park. He stated he had not seen any movement from the Park Commission to move the current lay down area even though it had been several years since he first proposed the plan. Mr. West told the Board that the Service Director had told him there was room at the Service Center for the Park System lay down area.

Mr. Ken Ash, a resident near Nimisilla Park, stated it should have been cleared out years ago, but instead slats were put into the fence.

Mr. Black told Mr. West that he had no problem with his putting forward a development plan request, but move to where? And, where was the money to do this?

Mr. Foltz stated that there had been a good bit of money put into the park over the years working with both Councilman Coleman and Councilman West. Mr. Foltz stated the area has always been park headquarters. In the last thirteen years, he has stored more things there as the Park System employees try to do more projects on their own.

The Director added that there was a good bit of infrastructure in that area and it was not as simple as just moving out.

Mr. Black again said he would love to see improvements to the park but there is just no money available to do any of them.

Mr. Foltz stated that if the move happens the new place needs to be something that will work.

Mr. Black stated that he did not know if the area could be consolidated but that we could look to see if it could be done and what the Park system would need by way of a new location to move from the old.

Mr. Zutali stated he would like to see changes and that it should happen.

Mr. Stone stated he would make the suggested plan happen.

Mr. Black asked the Director to put together a list of what would be required of a new area for the Service Director to review and how much it would cost to open up some of the area.

Mr. Morris stated he did not feel it was Mr. West's problem to find a new location.

Mr. Gordon also brought up the HUD grant for the bathroom to finish the project. The Director stated he has not been told if the money is available to spend or not.

Mr. Gordon said he would check on it and maybe set up a meeting.

Mr. Gordon also brought up the Rock and Roll Reunion activity and the O'Jay's Concert. The Board discussed issues with parking and picnic tables. Mr. Gordon said

he would be taking a meeting regarding the Rock and Roll activity. The Board told the Director to close the gates to the Stadium Park for the O'Jay's Concert.

3. Possible Banner Sale Policy- The Director had given the Board a couple of sample banner policies from other organizations. After discussing what the others do, the Board instructed the Director to put together a program for their review to include a banner season of April 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>, 4x8 size, \$300 price. The Board would retain editorial control, and for Cook and Willig Fields only as trial locations.
4. Use Requests:
  - A. Canton Midget Football requesting to use Crenshaw Park on six Saturdays in September and October. They would also be selling concessions.
  - B. Restoration requesting to use Harmont Park to hold a back to school event. To include setting up a tent and a fire pit

The Board reviewed the above requests, and a motion was then made by A. Black to approve them with an insurance requirement on use B. A second was provided by F. Morris, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

5. Schneider Fountain Donation Expense – Mr. Foltz reviewed for the Board that concrete has been offered for sidewalks around the fountain and there might also be sitting benches donated in the future. Mr. Foltz estimated that the project would need about \$3,000 in additional funds to complete. The Board had no problem in using the Park fund for the project and instructed the Director to proceed.
6. Pay adjustments for Park Commission Management employees- The Board reviewed what the City had done per ordinance 80/2011 for management employees in the City.

A motion was then made by A. Black to approve a 3.239% wage increase to all current Commission management employees effective July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011 and for the Director to update the Park Commission personnel ordinance. A second was provided by W. Zutali and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

#### OTHER BUSINESS:

1. The Director informed the Board that he would be representing the Park Commission at a block party at Canton Calvary Mission on August 17<sup>th</sup>. He also told them of an organized clean up on September 1<sup>st</sup> in the parks as a part of the "Day of Caring." Timken Company employees were involved.

He also told them that there was to be a NEFCO creek clean up on September 17<sup>th</sup> in the Stadium on Monument area that involved the McKinley Museum.

Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.



Andy Black  
President



Douglas Perry  
Director/Secretary