

## CANTON PARK COMMISSION

### BOARD MINUTES

### MONTHLY MEETING

DECEMBER 12, 2012

The Canton Board of Park Commissioners met in a regular meeting on Wednesday, December 12, 2012.

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:05pm by Vice President Zutali.

Mr. Gordon introduced the Commissioners and the public to Ms. Chloe Zidian who has been hired as a Part Time / Seasonal employee to help work in the Park office during the month of December

Vice President Zutali opened the floor for public comment

Members from the Harter Height's Neighborhood Association presented their request for the Park Commission to commit labor to remove and install a new fence at Green Acres Park along Whipple Avenue NW. The neighborhood group will pay for the cost of the fence pending the approval of a grant in the amount of \$3,000.00

Member Terry Prater enters at 4:30pm

Member Zutali motions to approve the request by Harter Height's Neighborhood Association for the Park Commission to remove and install a new fence a Green Acres Park along Whipple Avenue pending the approval of the \$3,000.00 grant. Member Prater seconds the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

### OLD BUSINESS:

1. Old Riverside Park Issues – Member Zutali had been in contact with Mr. Burns from the Law Department who indicated that this matter is nearly complete. Assistant Director Gordon stated that he would continue to monitor the situation and work with the Fire Department and Law Department to bring this matter to a close.
2. Recycle/Ad Proposal – Assistant Director Gordon stated that all 40 of the bins had been distributed throughout the parks and downtown area. Some of the bin locations will need to be adjusted for safety reasons, but initial recycling usage of the containers has been strong. This item will be removed from the agenda for the next board meeting
3. Staffing and Personnel Issues – Member Zutali decided to hold this issue until all the agenda items had been completed.
4. Adopt-A-Park Proposal – There was nothing new regarding this issue so it remained tabled.
5. Mayor Healy's proposal to disband the Park Commission – Assistant Director Gordon gave a short summary of the current status of the park levy. The Stark County Auditor has provided the document certifying the exact amount that a four mill levy would generate (included with minutes). Council will likely be voting on whether to put the initiative on the ballot during the January 14 Council meeting. Several members of the audience raised questions and concerns about the levy details which were answered by Assistant Director Gordon, Member Zutali, and Member Prater. It was decided by the Commissioners that this agenda item will be changed to Park Levy on the agenda for the next meeting.
6. Possible relocation of the Park System lay down area – Assistant Director Gordon reported that he discussed this matter with Councilman West and he understands that the suggested area for relocation

is not an ideal location given its potential for future development. Member Zutali suggested that this agenda item be removed until a new area is proposed by Councilman West

7. Renaming of Green Acres Park – Harter Heights Neighborhood Association requested that the name of Green Acres Park be changed to Lawrence Park. Assistant Director Gordon notified the Commissioners that the Safety Director had submitted a letter to the Commission stating that the City safety forces had no objection to the name change. Member Zutali motioned to change the park name to Lawrence Park. Member Prater seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Faith Family Church expressing interest in donating a play area in a Canton park – Assistant Director Gordon discussed that he was working to gather more information on this subject and help identify an appropriate park for the donation. Once a park is identified, the matter will be brought back to the Commissioners for consideration.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

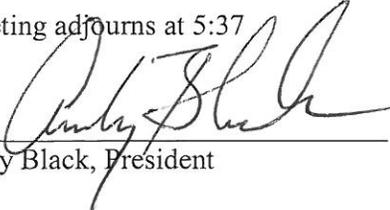
1. Cystic Fibrosis Foundation has submitted a formal request to host its annual charitable run in Stadium Park on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Assistant Director Gordon stated that this is an annual request that has been granted for several years. Member Zutali motioned to approve the request. Member Prater seconded. Motion passes.
2. Assistant Director Gordon noted to the Commissioners that he had submitted a Director's Report for their review, which included the actions and management functions taking place in the Park office over the past month.
3. Assistant Director Gordon requested permission to schedule a luncheon for the Park employees and Commissioners

Member Zutali motions to enter into Executive Session at 4:50pm for the purposes of discussing personnel matters pertaining to the rehiring of retired employees. Member Prater seconds the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

President Zutali makes a motion to exit Executive Session at 5:22pm. Member Prater seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously.

Several Park employees and AFSCME 2937 Union President Bill Dieffenbaugher expressed their concerns over the Commission's process to temporarily appointing a Park Foreman. Assistant Director Gordon and Member Prater stated that this position will be re-evaluated once all of the other management issues surrounding the issues discussed in Executive Session are resolved.

Meeting adjourns at 5:37

  
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Andy Black, President

  
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Derek Gordon, Assistant Director