

CANTON PARK COMMISSION

BOARD MINUTES

FEBRUARY, 2011

The Canton Board of Park Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, February 9, 2011, at the Garden Center Building.

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

The first item of business was the reading of the minutes of the January 12, 2011 regular meeting. A motion was then made by A. Black to approve the minutes as written. A second was provided by F. Morris, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

At this time President Black stated that he knew the Police Chief had to leave the meeting early, so he wanted to take up the number six item of old business.

OLD BUSINESS:

6. Park Police Issues - Mr. Black explained that Chief McKimm had contacted him with regard to staffing the Park Police position for 2011. They had talked about events taking place within the park System and staffing issues within the Police Department.

At this point Mr. Black opened the floor to Chief McKimm.

The Chief asked the Board to consider working without a full time officer assigned to the parks. He would like to work the parks from the shift. He had reviewed the list of events and thinks it can be done. He would assign an officer to certain events and have all zone patrols pay more attention to the parks. He would also assign a ranking officer to be a contact point with the Park office and see that the Vice Unit works the park two or three times per year. The Chief stated he knows it will not be the same as having an officer working in the parks.

Mr. Black asked how would it be known that these patrols took place? The Chief said there would not be a way at this time, but would check to see if patrols in the parks could be logged in some way. He also stated he understood any position the Board took, but he had to ask with staffing problems within the Police Department.

Mr. Black stated the Chief started out talking about 2011 and then he asked the Chief, "What about 2012?" The Chief stated he would provide an officer in 2012 if they could, and the Board wanted to do the program in 2012.

Mr. Black stated he was concerned for the future as the past has shown that trial periods have a way of becoming forever.

Assistant Director Foltz stated that there was always a concern for weekend coverage. It was very important as people are paying for shelters, and there are many people in the parks.

Mr. Black asked the Chief how many officers are usually working each day? The Chief responded that there were around 50 each day.

Mr. Foltz stated it was important to have a presence with so many people using the parks. Chief McKimm stated he felt that once the shifts know that there would be no Park Officer around, they would cover the parks more.

Mr. Black asked about the enforcement of Park rules & regulations? The Chief stated that is where the Board would lose. Mr. Black stated that he would prefer that the full Board vote on the issue, noting Mr. Brown not being in attendance, and asked the chief when he needed an answer? The Chief stated he needed an answer in a couple of days.

Mr. Black asked if Councilmembers Smith and Griffin had anything to add. Mr. Griffin stated it was nice to have a Park Policeman around when there were activities. Mr. Morris stated we should help out other departments, but the Board needed to keep its options open.

Mr. Black stated he would get back to the Chief within the next couple of days.

Mr. Black then asked if anyone else from the floor had any issues to raise with the Board.

Mr. Dan Moeglin, City Engineer, asked to address the Board.

Mr. Moeglin told the Board that the dedication for the Fairhope project would be April 30, with a rain date of May 1, 2011.

Mr. Black stated the Timken Company Earth Day event would be on April 16th at the Fairhope property.

Mr. Moeglin also told the Board that there would be an article in the Canton Connection regarding the dedication.

Mr. Moeglin stated that he had applied for two grants in the an attempt to find the funds necessary to build two shelters on the property. He also said these would an agenda for the dedication, and it would be posted on the City web site. He would be setting up another meeting for the committee putting the dedication together soon. Mr. Moeglin informed the Board that the City had just closed on an additional twelve acres of property to add to the Fairhope project and that he requested input from the Board on signage.

Mr. Black asked if the term nature preserve implied any long term restrictions. Mr. Moeglin stated he did not think it would be a problem and that due to the state grant requiring passive recreation, the term was a better fit.

Mr. Moeglin then showed the Board several samples of possible signage. There was general agreement on a color design and font, but there was discussion regarding the emblem on the top of the sign.

The samples had the old Timken estate gatehouse on them. It was pointed out that the gatehouse had never been a part of the Park System, was owned by Mercy Hospital, and was currently leased by the Stark County Park District. Other ideas such as the Pro Football HOF, buckeye leaves, and the System's tree emblem were discussed. Mr. Black stated he would give it some thought and get back to Mr. Moeglin with his thoughts.

At this point the Board returned to old business items.

1. Old Riverside Park Issues - The Director informed the Board that he had asked Mr. Burns of the Law Department for an update on this issue. Mr. Burns told the Director that the swap involving the fire station project at 25th & Cleveland and the old Riverside Park property was still pending. Mr. Burns stated that ODNR had asked for additional information which had not been sent out yet. He stated that once they received the information, it would take them 30 to 45 days to make a decision. Mr. Burns also stated that ODNR had told him that the City should not take the Riverside property out of CCIC's name until the swap was approved.

At this time Councilmember Smith asked if the Board could take up the Sarta issue as she was interested, but had to be at another meeting. President Black stated that would be no problem.

5. Sarta request for Crenshaw Park Property - Since Mr. Derek Gordon of the Mayor's office was at the meeting, he was asked if there was anything new regarding this issue. Mr. Gordon stated there was no plan as yet and that they were having problems and complications so he stated he would not expect anything new coming soon.
2. Park Brochure Development - The Director presented the Board with a possible new layout for a map and several sample sizes for a brochure. The Board decided on the larger map layout and selected a size for the brochure..
3. Possible Dominion Easements Reifsnnyder, Oak and Martindale Parks - The Director stated that Dominion had not as yet submitted easement requests, but that he had developed some language for the easements to protect the Park System's interests. The language was being reviewed by both Dominion and the City Law Department.

4. Ohio Plan Playground Evaluation - The Director reported that nothing new had been received from the Ohio Plan, and the weather has continued to prevent any further inspection by Recreation and Park personnel.

The issue remained tabled.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. The Director reported to the Board that Ms. Vincent, the Park System Administrative Assistant, had submitted a request for up to two weeks of leave of absence if she needed it to take care of her sick aunt.

Mr. Black asked that the Director find out how this request would be involved with FMLA, and if the City has a policy, it uses for this type of issue.

2. The Director informed the Board that the Mayor was requesting from all citizens recommendations for either reducing costs and/or increasing revenues for the City. He also passed out the forms provided to submit ideas.
3. Mr. Morris reported that the Greater Canton Recreational Services Coalition had held a meeting. He stated the group had agreed to open communication and to a single website with everyone's information on it. He told members that overall he felt the meeting was mostly positive.

Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.



Andy Black
President



Douglas Perry
Director/Secretary