

# CANTON PARK COMMISSION

## BOARD MINUTES

MARCH, 2011

The Canton Board of Park Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, March 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 February 9, 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 took note of several visitors and asked if any wished to address the Board before they took up the old business agenda items?

### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Councilmember James Griffin took up new business item no. 1. Mr. Griffin stated he had a list of improvements he would like to see done at Garaux Park. He noted that there was money in the Garaux Park fund for such things. His list was as follows:

1. Ball field graded to level it,
2. Parking lot on west side of the building paved
3. Picnic tables added to the park
4. Walking track constructed - possibly connected to the Mayfield Center property
5. Porta john for the summer
6. One-half basketball court added
7. Remove old tennis courts asphalt and make a volleyball court

The Board had no objection to looking into the requests.

2. At this time Mr. Derek Gordon of the Mayor's Office and Mr. Barney Carson of the City Sanitation Department addressed the Board.

They explained they would like to develop a trial program with a company called Greener Corners. They would like to do this both downtown and in the parks. The Company would provide the recycling containers and sell advertising space on the side of them. The City Sanitation Department would pickup the materials and get 10% of any advertising incomes.

President Black stated he would be glad to look into the program in high volume areas such as ball fields, but maybe not all over. He told them to work with the staff on the program.

At this time the Board returned to the agenda.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Old Riverside Park Issues - The Director informed the Board that he had talked to Mr. Burns of the Law Department last week, and Mr. Burns had told him that the requested information had not as yet been returned to the State for their review.
2. Park Brochure Development - The Director informed the Board that he had language put together for the brochure, pictures for possible use, and Doug Foltz and he had been working on the map layout with the Engineering Department. Once the layout could be fine tuned, he felt it would be time to go to a printer. Mr. Black asked that copies of the language be provided to the Board for review.
3. Possible Dominion Easements Reifsnnyder, Oak and Martindale Parks - The Director informed the Board that he had just received an email from the Dominion representative that title work was in process and surveying work would soon take place. Once all this was completed, they would have easements prepared and submitted to the City.
4. Ohio Plan Playground Evaluation - The Director reported that he had nothing new on this item. The weather has continued to prevent further playground inspections and there has been no additional contracts with the Ohio Plan representatives.
5. Sarta request for Crenshaw Park Property - The Director stated he had received no further information. Mr. Gordon stated he had not either.

The issue will be dropped from the agenda until an additional request has been made to the Board.

6. Ms. Vincent's request for Leave of Absence - the Board noted that Ms. Vincent had rescinded her request for a leave of absence and had instead requested up to ten days under the furlough program available to other City employees.

Mr. Black stated he had not heard of pre-approving time off in such a manner. The Director was then instructed to deal with a request for time off from Ms. Vincent when she needs it as he would for any such request and follow what is generally done for other City employees with regard to the use of furlough time.

7. Willig Field Paving Project - The Director informed the Board that the paving project should be going down to Council for approval to put it out for bid soon. He also informed the Board that the Recreation District had agreed to help pay for the project.

8. Tree Commission Draft Ordinance - The Director presented the Board with a draft copy of a tree ordinance from the Law Director and explained that a review and input was being requested.

Mr. Morris pointed out that the Park Commission would have to agree to follow any guidelines developed by a tree commission. The Director stated he had some concerns with the draft.

9. Park Police Issues - Mr. Black stated he had wanted a full Board to consider a vote on not having a CPD officer assigned to the Park System over the next year. He noted that the Board had been promised by the Chief that they would have a captain as a director contact for the Park staff, look for a way to document patrols in the parks, and arrange to take care of the events that Park Police have to work.

Mr. Foltz suggested a written agreement. Mr. Black stated he wanted a draft letter to be prepared by the Director for his signature outlining these items to the Chief of Police. Mr. Morris stated that it should only be a temporary agreement based on budget numbers. Mr. Black stated he had many doubts and the Board needed to look at the whole thing again in the future. The issue was tabled until the April meeting.

3. Juneites Club request to use Schreiber Park on August 21, 2011 - The Board reviewed the above request. A motion was then made by A. Black to approve the request with an insurance requirement. A second was provided by F. Morris, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

At this time Board Member Mike Brown arrived to the meeting.

4. Buckeye Council BSA requesting the use of several park locations to hold day camps - The Board reviewed the request, and a motion was then made by F. Morris to approve it with an insurance requirement. A second was provided by A. Black, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

1. Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce HOF Festival Division requesting to use Canton Park System properties to take off or land if necessary during the Balloon Classic Invitational and to use the island at Westbrook Park as a target for their drop competition.

A motion was made by A. Black to approve this request with an insurance requirement. A second was provided by F. Morris, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

2. The Director informed the Board that he had been to a meeting regarding the old City Hall Bell that belongs to the Park Commission. The Board had given permission for the bell to be used downtown, and it had been placed at City Hall for the City's Bicentennial. The renovations currently taking place at City Hall will require the bell to be moved. Three possibilities were discussed. The bell would be placed back at City Hall, placed on the plaza or returned to Waterworks Park.

The most likely of the three would have the bell placed on the plaza. The Board had no objections to any of the possibilities.

At this time President Black wanted to return to the Park Police issues item as Mr. Brown was now in attendance.

After a brief recap of the issues, a motion was made by F. Morris to allow for no officer assigned to the parks from the Canton Police Department for the next year with the provision that once money issues improve, the program could be restarted. A second was provided by M. Brown. President Black called for a roll call vote:

Mr. Black - No  
Mr. Morris - Yes  
Mr. Brown - Yes

The Director is to provide Mr. Black with draft letters to Council and the Police Chief covering this issue.

Ms. Sarver of the O.U.R. Neighborhood group asked if their park would be patrolled?

Mr. Black stated it would be by the zone patrol officer.

3. Mr. Morris stated he would like to start charging the Chamber for our costs in support of the HOF activities.

The Director will put together cost estimates for Park System expenses for the April meeting.

Mr. Gordon stated that the administration had looked at these costs, and they were substantial.

4. Mr. Morris also stated he felt that home run fence advertising signs should be looked at for certain ball fields. He stated he knew Timken was interested in Cook and Little League in Lee Park. The Board could control content, size, and length of time they could be on the fence.

Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.



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Andy Black  
President



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Douglas Perry  
Director/Secretary