

CANTON PARK COMMISSION

BOARD MINUTES

MAY, 2011

The Canton Board of Park Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, May 11, 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 a few guests.

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

The first item of business was the reading of the minutes of the April 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 heard nothing new at this point. Mr. Black also stated he had talked to Mr. Burns of the Law Department, and Mr. Burns told him nothing had been heard from the state. The issue remained tabled.
2. Park Brochure Development - The Director showed the Board a copy of the map of the Park System that was being developed. The Board reviewed the map, and Mr. Black asked for copies for the Board members. The Director stated he would see that they got a copy. The issue remained tabled.
3. Possible Dominion easements Reifsnnyder, Oak and Martindale Parks - The Director stated that Dominion had not as yet presented easement documents. He also reported that the old bathroom structure had been taken down, and the new trail bridge had been put in place in Martindale Park. The issue remained tabled.
4. Ohio Plan Playground Evaluation - The Director reported that the Ohio Plan Representative had paid another visit to ask how the inspections were going. The Director reported that the inspections had now begun again and that about 50% of the park locations had been looked at by both Park and Recreation staff. The issue remained tabled.
5. Hall of Fame Festival Expense Recovery- Mr. Black reported that Mr. Peterson of the Recreation Board and he have planned to go together to the Chamber the week of June 6th to talk to them about this issue. He hoped to have more information for the June meeting.

6. West Park Neighborhood Association Sign Request - The Director reported that he had talked to the Traffic Engineer to see if there were drawings for the road improvements currently planned for 12th Street. At this time there were not. The Director stated he had discussed the proposed sign with the Engineer, and it was agreed that if the group could wait, it would be best to incorporate such a sign with the road improvements.

Since there were no representatives of the group at the meeting, the issue was tabled

Mr. Black told the Director that if the group contacted him to be sure to tell them the City was willing to work with them on the project.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Black opened the floor to anyone who might need to leave the meeting.

Mr. John Kaminski of the Josette Beddell Memorial Foundation asked to be moved up from new business number 2.

2. Use Requests:

- A. Josette Beddell Memorial Foundation request to use the Stadium Park Track and Shelter 5 to hold their third annual 5K Run/Walk Fund Raiser on June 25, 2011 - Mr. Kaminski reviewed the event. A motion was then made by F. Morris to approve the event with an insurance requirement. A second was provided by A. Black, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Kaminski then asked about the possibility of placing signs for the event in the park prior to the event.

The Director stated signs for other events have been allowed in the past, but would have to be placed so that they do not obstruct the view of traffic.

The Board had no objections and told Mr. Kaminski to work with the Director on the placement.

The Board then returned to the Agenda.

1. Recycle/Ad Proposal - Mr. Byron Carson of the Canton Sanitation Department told the Board that the City had only received one proposal to place recycle containers with advertising on them in City and parks.

Mr. Carson stated he did not know how many containers there would be, but that they wanted to place them downtown first and then in the parks.

Mr. Black asked what this program would be worth to the City. Mr. Carson stated they had been told \$75,000 over five years, but did not know what basis the company had used to suggest the number.

Mr. Black noted that Mr. Carson said a committee would review any ads , and he liked that idea. He wanted ads to be watched to ensure they were family friendly.

The Board had no objections to the program. Mr. Foltz asked where the money would go? Mr. Carson stated back to Sanitation. The Director asked if the numbers would be verified prior to the program starting? Mr. Carson said they would be checked.

The Board then took up use request B and C under item number 2 of new business.

- B. Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce requesting the use of Park System Bleachers for the Grand Parade
- C. Stark Social Workers Network requesting the use of Nimisilla Park the weeks of August 15 and August 22, 2011, to hold their annual A.S.T.E.P. Summer Camps

The Board tabled request B. A motion was then made by A. Black to approve use C with an insurance requirement. A second was provided by F. Morris, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

- 3. Possible Geocaching and Metal Detector Policy - The Director told the Board that he sometimes gets asked if people can do these hobbies in the Park System. He stated he usually tells people who ask about using metal detectors that they can, but cannot do any digging in the parks other than lifting and replacing small sod spots.

The Director also explained that geocaching involves people using GPS units to hunt for hidden containers. It is a hobby done all over the country. The containers are usually small and do not cause much of a problem as long as they are not placed in a bad spot.

The Director asked the Board if they were interested in working on a formal policy or if they wanted him to just handle these requests as he has been doing.

The Board told the Director to continue as he has been doing.

- 4. Possible changes for Commission Management Employees - The Director informed the Board that changes for management personnel of the City were being proposed and were in Council for consideration at this time.

Mr. Black stated that the Commission has control of their employees' compensation package, but has in the past pretty much followed what had been done for other City management employees.

The Board decided to wait to see what Council ends up doing before taking any action on this issue.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Marvelous Light Ministries requesting to use Nimisilla Park on June 22, 23 and 24, 2011, to hold their outreach program.

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

2. Mr. Black asked about the recent email regarding a possible additional cooking grill at Nimisilla Park.

The Director stated that Mr. Foltz and he had conversation with the Nimisilla Committee about this issue in the past. There had been talk of placing an additional grill at the rectangular shelter close to the gazebo. He was concerned that since the reservation shelter was the gazebo and larger groups used the rectangular shelter for overflow, a grill there would encourage people who had not paid to use a shelter to crowd in on people who had paid.

It was suggested that a larger grill could be placed at the gazebo, and the grill there now moved closer to the rectangular shelter near The O'Jays Pkwy.

The Assistant Director and Director will talk with the Committee about this plan.

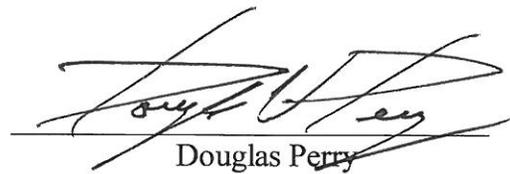
3. Councilperson Smith asked about the status of old Riverside Park. The Director recapped the situation for her. She also asked about the possibility of opening up the wall on shelter 3 at Crenshaw Park. The Director and Assistant Director stated that at her request they had looked at the issue before, and the problem was it is a load bearing wall and way too much work for our crews to tackle. The Director also warned that changes to the design, if not done properly, could leave the City with more liability issues.

Mr. Foltz and Mr. Black both suggested people to look at the building again to review what may be able to be done.

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



Andy Black
President



Douglas Perry
Director/Secretary