

CANTON PARK COMMISSION

BOARD MINUTES

NOVEMBER, 2012

The Canton Board of Park Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, November 14, 2012 at the Park Commission office.

Present were; Mr. Andy Black, President; Mr. Terry Prater, Member; and Mr. Douglas V. Perry, Director/Secretary. There were also several attendees at the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 P.M.

The first item of business was the reading of the minutes of the following meetings; October 10, 2012 regular meeting, October 22, 2012 special meeting, and the October 25, 2012 special meeting. A motion was made by A. Black to approve them as written. A second was provided by T. Prater and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

At this time Mr. Black opened the floor to anyone who wanted to address the Board and had to leave early. Mr. and Mrs. Tom Meister, representing the Harter Heights Neighborhood Association then addressed the Board. They went over the improvements that had been made to the park recently and then went on to request that the Board consider changing the name of the park to Lawrence Park. They explained that the Laurence's were the people who developed the neighborhood and the park had originally had that name in the plat book. They told the Board that there were still members of the family in the area. A motion was made by A. Black to approve the request as long as there were no issues regarding safety by changing the name. A second was provided by T. Prater and the motion then passed by unanimous vote. The Director was instructed to contact the Safety Director to see if there were any issues with the name change.

The Meister's went on and asked the Board if they had any problem with the Association trying to raise the money to replace the chain link fence along the west side of the park with a fancier fence. The Board told them they had no objections to their looking into that possibility.

The Board then went back to the agenda.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Old Riverside Park Issues – The Director reported that he had talked to Mr. Burns of the Law Department and had been told that the conversion involving the property and the National Park Service had been approved. Mr. Burns also told the Director that the CCIC had approved the return of the property to the city but that the deeds had not as yet been filed. Mr. Burns was going to check on the deeds. Once the deeds have been filed then the Service Director would need to ask the Park Commission to accept the property back as a park.
2. Recycle/Ad Proposal – Mr. Gordon of the Mayor's office told the Board that he had now been told the bins would begin to be installed on November 26. He also said he would like to hold a meeting on that date with different departments regarding the placement.

3. Staffing and Personnel Issues – Mr. Black 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 – Mr. Black gave a short run down of the Draft Ballot Initiative options supplied by the Mayor. Option 1 was an attempt to put on the ballot in May of 2013 a park levy to fund park operations and capital improvements with the pick up of the community centers, and Munson Stadium as Phase One. Phase Two of the plan, after the levy would pass, would be the effort of the Park Commission and the Recreation District to begin to try and develop operations into a “one stop shop”. Phase Three would be for placing a new levy on the ballot in May of 2016 combining both the park levy and the recreation district levy into a single levy with the creation of a new Park and Recreation organization. Option 2 was if the levy effort failed the Mayor would request that Council vote to disband the Board of Park Commissioners and merge the park operations with the Street Department. Mr. Black made a motion to approve and support the Phase One part of Option One to make an attempt to place a park levy on the May 2013 ballot. A second was provided by T. Prater and the motion then passed by unanimous vote. The Board also stated they continue to oppose any effort by the Mayor or City Council to disband the Park Commission.
6. Possible relocation of the Park System lay down area – The Director reported nothing new regarding this issue so it remained tabled.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The Board received and filed the annual Park System bridge inspection report provided by the City Engineer's office. Mr. Black noted most were at least in good condition. He asked about the one bridge reported to be in poor condition. The Director stated he was sure the staff would be looking into repairs soon.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. The Director reported that the City Engineer had asked that he talk to the Board about the need of a 4F approval from them for Phase Two of the Mahoning Road project at Cook Park. The Director told the Board that it would involve a very small area of the park, around .02 acres. A motion to approve the 4F request was made by A. Black. A second was provided by T. Prater and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.
2. The Director reminded the Board of the Special Meeting scheduled for December 3, 2012 to be held at the Park Office and start at 4:30PM. He also stated the December regular meeting would be December 12, 2012 and would be back at the Garden Center building starting at 4PM. He also said the the 2012 First Night Light Up would be November 15th and start at 6PM.

3. The Director noted that Mr. Prater's term on the Board was expiring as of December 31, 2012. He then asked Mr. Prater if he would be willing to serve another term if the Mayor was willing to appoint him to another. Mr. Prater stated he was indeed willing to do so. The Director said he would notify the Mayor of Mr. Prater's decision.

The Board then returned to number 3 under old business.

3. Mr. Black made a motion for the Board to go into executive session to discuss personnel issues. A second was provided by T. Prater and the motion then passed by the following vote; Mr. Black – Yes, Mr. Prater – Yes. Mr. Black asked Mr. Gordon and Councilperson Griffin to stay.

Later Mr. Black made a motion for the Board to return to open session. Mr. Prater provided a second and the motion then passed by the following vote; Mr. Black – Yes, Mr. Prater – Yes.

Mr. Black then made a motion to appoint Mr. Derek Gordon as a fiduciary employee in the position of Assistant Director of Parks as a temporary solution to the staffing issues. The appointment to begin on Monday November 19th, 2012, pending his acceptance. Mr. Gordon's salary to be the beginning salary for the position. Mr. Prater provided a second and the motion then passed by the following vote; Mr. Black – Yes, Mr. Prater – Yes.

Mr. Black then made a motion to adjourn. A second was provide by Mr. Prater and the motion was then passed by unanimous vote.

Being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 5:46 P.M.



Andy Black, President



Derek Gordon, Assistant Director of Parks