

CANTON PARK COMMISSION

BOARD MINUTES

NOVEMBER, 2011

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

Present were: Mr. Andy Black, President; Mr. Frank Morris III, Vice President; Mr. Wuyanbu Zutali, Member; 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 4:08 p.m.

The first item of business was the reading of the minutes of the October 12, 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 Member Zutali and he had done some checking on the transfer of the Riverside property, and it seems all that can be done at this point had been done. The City was waiting to hear back from the State and Federal authorities.

The issue remained tabled.

2. Park Brochure Development - The Director reported that he had taken a copy of what the Engineering Department had done so far on the map to a printer. They told him they could not make the necessary changes as they did not have the same programs with which to work. The Director stated that he had talked to the Engineering Department, and they were to try to get an x-tern from a local university to finish the map.
3. Possible Dominion Easements Reifsnnyder, Oak and Martindale Parks - The Director reported nothing new at this time with regard to this issue. The item remained tabled.
4. Recycle/Ad Proposal - There was nothing new to report with regard to this issue. It remained tabled.

5. Possible transfer of Crenshaw Park Property to SARTA - The Director stated that there had been a draft lease put together for review and that Councilmember Smith had stated at the last meeting that due to the promise of funds from SARTA, she no longer had any objection to the property transfer.

Mr. Morris stated his question was where will the money be going? To Parks or to Recreation?

Mr. Black said his preference would be for the money to go into the Park Commission special park fund and then to make sure the money is spent in the parks in that Ward. He did not want to see another special fund.

Mr. Morris stated that he agreed with Mr. Black. Mr. Black asked the Director to see if he could get the details of the agreement from Councilmember Smith.

The issue remained tabled.

6. Informal City Council Resolution regarding Nimisilla Park - The Director reported that he had not as yet received a response from the Service Director with regard to the letter the Board had sent regarding this issue.

The Director was asked to check with the Service Director about a response.

7. City Council Ordinance regarding a Special Park Fund for Nimisilla Park - The Director reported that he had received no new information regarding this issue.

Mr. Black reported that Mr. West had postponed the issue.

Mr. Morris stated he had a meeting later this day, and Mr. West would be there so he would ask him about the item.

The issue remained tabled.

8. Possible Clear Channel Sign location in West Park - Mr. Morris reported that once a final draft of an agreement was done, it would be sent to the Board for review.

Mr. Black asked about the impact of the sign on the view of the McKinley Memorial and the ball fields. He also wondered why Clear Channel did not just put the new sign where their other sign was on the west side of the freeway?

The Director stated that Mr. Morris had said they were putting together a site plan and that may answer some of those questions. The sign proposal still needs approval by several other departments.

9. Hall of Fame Expenses - Per the request of the Board, the Director provided the costs related to the moving of the bleachers to and from the parade route in 2011.

Mr. Black will consult with the Recreation Board and get back to the Chamber.

Mr. Morris had to leave the meeting at this point.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1 Warner Family Association requesting to use Stadium and Monument Parks on Memorial Day, May 28, 2012, to hold the Pvt. Heath Warner 5K Memorial Run - The Board reviewed this request. A motion was then made by A. Black to approve it with an insurance requirement. A second was provided by W. Zutali, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.
2. Director requesting to attend Ohio Parks and Recreation Association Convention in February, 2012 - The Director stated that once again he would get the registration fee from the fund provided by the Garden Center and pay all other expenses himself.

A motion to approve the request was made by A. Black. A second was provided by W. Zutali, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Black stated he would like to see the Assistant Director attend this conference. The Director stated he would also, but since the Park System lost their foreman several years ago, it is difficult to have both he and the Assistant gone at the same time.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. The Director provided the Board with the requested 2012 schedule for the Canton Garden Center's use of the Garden Center building.
After reviewing the schedule, a motion was made by A. Black to approve it. A second was provided by W. Zutali, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.
2. The Director also announced the details for the First Night Light Up of the Holiday in the Park displays for November 17, 2011.
3. Mr. Black stated that he had the Director check with AEP about the possibility of getting another donation for the displays. The Director had found out that there was a possibility for one this year and that the Director would check to see if the displays could be considered for such a donation each year.
4. Mr. Zutali asked of the status of the ordinance to create a Tree Commission. The Director stated it was stuck in Council Committee.

The Director stated Mr. Zutali had heard that some think the Park Commission is holding up the ordinance. The Director stated that the Park Commission has always supported the idea of a tree ordinance, but had just said they could not support the current version. The Director also stated that although the park trees present problems, they are not the real issue. In his opinion, the street trees were the real problem. The Director stated there have always been three major issues: 1. How to fund, 2. How and who will enforce, and 3. Trees on private property.

Mr. Gordon also said that some also question the permit fees.

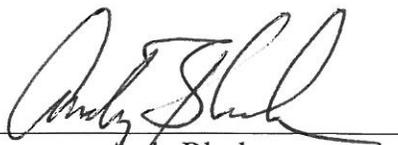
Everyone agreed that the City needed a tree ordinance.

5. Mr. Cote and Ms. Sarver of the O.U.R. Neighborhood Group informed the Board that they did not receive the grant they had hoped to get for improvements to the Bernard Ave. Playground. They still requested the basketball court to be paved and would like to get a new play set for the playground.

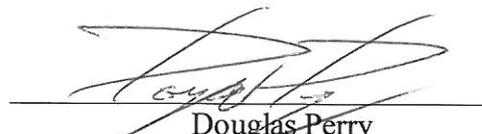
The Director stated that the playground was on his short list as one of the next places to get a new play set. He knew of their efforts to get a grant and did not want to interfere with that effort. He would talk to the Recreation Director to see if they were going to fund any more play sets in 2012 and if so try to get one for the playground. If not, he would ask for capital money to get one. The Assistant Director stated the basketball court can also be looked at as that would not take too much to get done.

Mr. Gordon of the Mayor's Office also stated the City had a program to check for other grants.

Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m.



Andy Black
President



Douglas Perry
Director/Secretary