

**CANTON PARK COMMISSION
BOARD MINUTES
MONTHLY MEETING**

MAY 13, 2015

The Canton Board of Park Commissioners met in a regular meeting on April 8, 2015.

Attendees:

Board Members: President - Andrew Black, Member - Drew Pelger

Staff Members Present: Park Director – Derek Gordon, Assistant Director – Dan Kunz, Office Manager - Theresa Gang,

Community Members: Councilmember Jim Griffin, Alice Sarver, Leon Cote, Ken Ash, Thomas Schmidt, Gwen Corbett, Janine Halsley, and Jack Brooks

The meeting was called to order at 4:02pm by President Black.

Meeting minutes from the April 8, 2015 regular Meeting were reviewed by the Commissioners.

President Black motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Pelger seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

1. 2017 Levy Discussion – Director provided an informal resolution by City Council on Monday, May 18th for which they will consider a five (5) year levy for five (5) Mills to manage all park and recreation operations under the authority of the Canton Park Commission to commence in 2017. Director Gordon strongly encouraged the Commissioners to attend as there will likely be questions regarding the ability of the 5 Mills to sufficiently cover all park and recreation operations. Director Gordon also stated that he has continued to meet with all of the stakeholders that will be impacted by this levy to gauge their comfort level and receive feedback regarding the structure and impact of the new levy proposal.
2. Master Plan Update – The Park and Recreation staff attended the April 23rd Master Plan presentation by EDG and provided their feedback on many of the preliminary recommendations. Director Gordon and the park and recreation staff continue to work with EDG and PROS Consulting to finalize the respective park and recreation master plans. A public meeting date of June 23rd has been selected to present the final recommendations to the public from EDG and PROS Consulting. Director Gordon has requested a meeting with the Mayor’s Administration and each City Councilperson to review how these recommendations may impact their ward parks prior to the public presentation. Per the Commission’s request Director Gordon will meet with each Commissioner individually to review the final draft prior to the June 23rd meeting.
3. Nimishillen Creek – ODOT RFP Update – Director Gordon updated the Commission on a meeting with the consultants responsible for developing and submitting the proposal for funding to restore the embankments of the West Branch of the Nimishillen Creek failed to properly submit the proposal. As a result, the City of Canton will not be considered for funding. Director Gordon stated that the consultants took ownership of this error and will reimburse the Parks for the portion of the grant application that was paid by park funds. They will also be pursuing a new funding source for this project at no cost to the City. Depending on the outcome of this application Director Gordon and the Engineering Department will determine if further damages will be pursued.

4. 2015 Goose Reduction Program – Assistant Director Dan Kunz updated the Commission on the department’s goose reduction efforts and the status of approval from the Ohio Division of Wildlife for a Round Up Permit to remove the geese later this year.
5. Garden Center Agreement – Director Gordon presented a final agreement between the Canton Park Commission and the Canton Garden Center regarding the use of the Garden Center building. Director Gordon stated that the current agreement is extremely outdated and does not address many new considerations and includes items that are no longer relevant. A meeting was held with the Garden Center representatives to gain their input on the agreement and a few adjustments were made to the agreement prior to the Law Department’s review. Commissioner Black requested to table this agreement until next month’s meeting to allow additional time for the Commissioners’ review.

EVENT REQUESTS

1. Therapeutic Foster Care Program – June 15 – August 6th - Garaux Shelter- President Black motioned to approve the extended rental pending the negotiation between Director Gordon and the program administrators on a bulk rental discount. Commissioner Pelger seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Kids of Purpose Summer Festival – August 26th – Martindale Park- President Black motioned to approve the event. Commissioner Pelger seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Josette Beddell Memorial 5k – June 27th – Stadium Park - President Black motioned to approve the event. Commissioner Pelger seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Dog Parade – September 26th – Mother Gooseland - President Black motioned to approve the event. Commissioner Pelger seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
5. Princess Run – August 16th – Stadium Park - President Black motioned to approve the event. Commissioner Pelger seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
6. Thymely Topics – Heritage Herb Society – Garden Center Fee Waiver Request – This event exceeds the two free Garden Center rentals that these groups are entitled to annually. The Commissioners discussed this request and determined that the policy should be followed that the Heritage Herb Society will need to pay the rental fee for this event.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mr. Thomas Schmidt – Skate Park Concerns – Mr. Schmidt addressed the Commission with numerous concerns about the impact of the proposed skate park at the Canton Lincoln Highway Station. Commissioner Black was sympathetic to Mr. Schmidt’s concerns and encouraged him to attend the public meeting on this matter scheduled for June 17th. Commissioner Black also expressed his opinion that the skate park has the potential to improve the issues expressed by Mr. Schmidt. He is concerned about the overall future of the Station if no new activities are introduced to the area given that train service is not scheduled to return.
2. Moral Obligation - Home Depot - \$473.71 – Due to an increase cost (Refrigerator) in the improvements made to the three shelter kitchenettes the purchases exceeded the amount available on the Home Depot purchase order. As the shelters were due to be opened for the Spring this purchase was necessary before a new purchase order could be opened.
3. Moral Obligation – Cutter Power Sales - \$116.67 – Due to a financial system error, the annual purchase order for Cutter Power Sales was not processed for 2015 until after a purchase had been made. The purchase order was re-opened but the purchase must be approved by the Commission before payment can be processed.
4. Reimbursement Request – ACA Certification Payment (Derek Gordon and Theresa Gang) - \$130.00 – To obtain this kayak certification and membership in the American Canoe Association as required by the kayak grant, Director Gordon and Office Manager Gang were required to pay for these items online. As the city does not authorize credits cards this purchase was made with their personal credit cards. Approval of this item would allow them to be reimbursed. President Black motioned to approve the reimbursement. Commissioner Pelger seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

5. AEP Easement Proposal – Stadium Park – Director Gordon described the proposed easement from AEP along the Eastern boundary of I-77 in Stadium Park. He will e-mail the aerial photos of this proposal for their consideration at the June 10th meeting.
6. Colonial Heights Signage Request – The Colonial Heights Neighborhood Association (CHNA) has requested permission to place garage sale signs for their neighborhood wide garage sale in multiple park locations within CHNA (Weis, Schreiber, and Colonial Boulevard).
7. Recreation Report – None
8. Financial Report - Commissioner Black motioned to approve the report. Commissioner Pelger seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
9. Director’s Report – Director Gordon presented his monthly report to the Commission. (See Attached)

Commissioner Black motioned to adjourn at 6:20pm. Commissioner Pelger seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned.

Next Park Commission Meeting to be held at 4:00pm on June 10th, 2015 at the J. Babe Stearn Center.

Andy Black, President

Derek Gordon, Director