

CANTON PARK COMMISSION

BOARD MINUTES

SEPTEMBER, 2012

The Canton Board of Park Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, September 19, 2012 at the Garden Center Building.

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 4:08 P.M.

The first item of business was the reading of the minutes of the August 8, 2012 regular 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.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Old Riverside Park Issues – The Director reported that he had sent an email to Mr. Burns of the Law Department asking for an update but had not yet received a response from him. As no one else had anything new the issue remained tabled.
2. Recycle/Ad Proposal – Councilperson West stated he had talked to Mr. Gordon and he had told him that the bins were due in October.
3. Possible transfer of Crenshaw Park Property to SARTA – The Director stated he believed this transfer had taken place and that this item should now be removed from the agenda. Councilperson Griffin said the transfer had been done so the issue will be removed.
4. Staffing and Personnel Issues – The Director reported that he had emailed the Law Department regarding the audit and had been told it had not been returned as yet. Mr. Black asked about the law suit involving some of the workers. The Director stated he had been told all parties had to have their information filed with the court by August 24 and that it was his understanding that it would take 30 to 60 days for the court to decide. However, he had no idea if that was all correct. The issue remained tabled.
Mr. Zutali arrived at the meeting at this point.
5. Adopt-A-Park Proposal – The Director reported that he had arranged a meeting between the Local 2937 President, our shop steward, Mr. Zutali, and himself to discuss the proposal. The meeting went well and the union was to discuss the proposal and come back to the Board with their thoughts on what work would be acceptable to the union. Mr. Dan Gravila, the Park System steward, then addressed the Board and told them that with the Mayor's current proposal to do away with the Board the union preferred to wait to see what was going to happen before going further with any agreement. The issue remained tabled. The issue of a union representative being at the meetings regarding a possible new park and recreation organization was brought up. The union was to address the issue.

6. Mayor Healy's proposal to disband the Park Commission – The Director gave a brief update as to the committee's work to this point with the idea of possibly creating a new park and recreation organization with the goal of having recreational programming for the citizens of Canton covering cradle to grave activities. Mr. Black stated a draft position statement had been done regarding the Board's position with regard the the proposals that had been made to this point. He asked the members to review the draft and get back to him with any input, problems, or suggestions they may have regarding it.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Westbrook Park United Methodist Church requesting to use Westbrook Park for the Westbrook Park Neighborhood Association's annual "Picnic in the Park" event on September 22, 2012 – After a short review of this request a motion was 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. Received and Filed copy of a petition to council from the Greater Canton Disc Golf Club in opposition to the elimination of the Canton Park Commission and the turning the operation and maintenance over to the Canton City Street Department – The Director presented the Board with a copy of the cover letter regarding this petition and explained that over 475 people had signed it.
3. Stark County Disc Golf Association requesting to use Arboretum and Spiker Parks to hold their annual "Hall of Chains" Classic disc golf tournament on October 6 and 7, 2012 – After a short review of this request a motion was made by A. Black to approve it with an insurance requirement. Also to waive any fee due to the organization's continuing efforts to help maintain both the course and the parks. A second was provided by W. Zutali and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.
4. Director Perry requesting permission to allow the trapping of muskrat and raccoon within the Park System for the 2012-2013 season – A motion to approve this request was made by A. Black. A second was provided by W. Zutali and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Mr Black brought up that he had met with Councilperson West regarding a new lay down area for the Park System. Mr. West had told the Board that the Service Director had offered an area near West Park that the Street Department was no longer using as a new area. Mr Black asked the Board if they had any objections to this location or the move. They had none. The Director was asked to look the area over for any needed improvements and to begin a move to the new location as time allowed.
2. Westbrook Neighborhood Association requesting to set up a pop-up tent next to the Garden Center parking lot on December 1st to sell tickets to their Tour of Homes event. They then would once again be donating some of the money raised to the Park System for the holiday lights. A motion to approve this request was made by A. Black. A second was provided by W. Zutali and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

3. Councilperson Griffin next addressed the Board. He stated the recent improvements to Garaux Park were very nice but he would like to see a few more. He would like to see some trees planted, a walking track added with connections to the Mayfield property, and a shelter of sorts with a chess table under it. The Director will look into getting some prices for these things. The Director stated the trees would be no problem.
4. Ms. Sarver, of the O.U.R. Neighborhood Association, stated she noticed that the old swing set had come down at the Bernard Ave Playground and was very happy to see that the new playset was going to be installed shortly.

Being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 5:02 P.M.



Andy Black, President



Douglas V. Perry, Director/Secretary