

AGENDA

CANTON BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2008

GARDEN CENTER BUILDING

4:00 P.M.

Reading of the minutes of the March 12, 2008 regular meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Pinnacle Press
2. Park System Rules & Regulations
3. 2008 Budget
4. Possible Sale of Barker Spring House Water
5. Letter from Law Department with regard to Park Board Insurance Coverage
6. Scrap Tire Grant Question regarding Bidding prior to Award
7. Park Police
8. Stark County Trail Progress
9. Possible Tree Commission
10. Gypsy Moth Suppression Program
11. Possible Fire Station Expansion at Playground D
12. Water Park
13. Little League
14. Timken Earth Day Project
15. Leadership Stark County Cleanup
16. Willig Field Project

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Judi McKinney request to use Stadium Park as part of a Fund Raiser
2. OPRA Fall Conference hosted by Stark County Park District
3. Letter from Mr. Thomas Tillett with regard to the Bell Tower in Stadium Park
4. Clean Ohio Fund Meeting - Akron/Kent Area, April 28, 2008
5. ODNR requesting a Ribbon Cutting for the Canton Downtown Connector Trail, April 14 or April 21
6. Donation from Junior Order United American Mechanics Council 12
7. Girl Scouts requesting to use Arboretum Park on August 23, 2008, for their "Field Day" Event

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

CANTON PARK COMMISSION

BOARD MINUTES

APRIL 9, 2008

The Canton Board of Park Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, April 9, 2008, at the Garden Center Building.

Present were: Mr. Andy Black, President; Mr. Lon Winberry, Vice President; Mr. Dan Moeglin, Member; and Mr. Douglas V. Perry, Director/Secretary; and Mr. Joe Carbenia, 9th Ward Councilmember.

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m.

At this time a motion was made by A. Black to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2008 regular meeting as written. A second was provided by D. Moeglin, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Pinnacle Press - The Director informed the Board that Mr. Burns of the Law Department had contacted him and advised him that he had not heard from Pinnacle's lawyer and was considering giving them a deadline.

Mr. Carbenia stated he knew the family and would be glad to contact them. The Board had no objections to Mr. Carbenia contacting them to try and move this issue on.

2. Park System Rules & Regulations - The Director informed the Board that he had talked to the Law Director and the rules and regulations were still being reviewed. The Director told the Board that there was hesitation in using them and a question about just using City Ordinances. Also being looked at is if the rules would be considered as minor misdemeanors.
3. 2008 Budget - The Director reviewed with the Board a letter he had sent to the Budget Director with concerns in the final budget.
4. Possible sale of Barker Spring House Water - The Board reviewed the information the Director had obtained from a local water company. No further action was taken.
5. Letter from the Law Department with regard to Park Board insurance coverage - The Board received and filed a letter from the Law Department explaining how the Board Members are covered.

6. Scrap Tire Grant question regarding bidding prior to award - The Board reviewed the e-mail response from ODNR stating that as long as no funds were expended, bidding would be no problem.
7. Park Police - The Director informed the Board that two people had passed the Sergeant's test. Mr. Black spoke of the meeting with the Safety Director in the attempt to get the Park Police fully commissioned again. The Director told the Board that he had a conversation with the Law Director about a possible contract situation with CPD to provide for patrols in the parks. The Director also told the Board that the Law Director had informed him that he would not advise the Board's use of off duty CPD officers. Mr. Carbenia stated he felt the Park Police were needed.
8. Stark County Trail Progress - The Director reported that the Stark Parks construction crews did not work over the winter so the project had been shut down since November. He reported that they had just started again working on the trail north of Fulton Road. Mr. Moeglin talked of what work was still to be done on the two new bridges on the trail.
9. Possible Tree Commission - The Director informed the Board that the Law Director had informed him that the proposed ordinance was still under review by the Service Director.
10. Gypsy Moth Suppression Program - The Director reported that the spraying of Nimisilla Park was still set to take place. He also reported that both the park crew and himself had destroyed approximately 60 egg sacks in Nimisilla Park. The Director reported finding no egg sacks in Cook Park and after inspecting a few dozen trees around the Garden Center, found one egg sack which was destroyed.
11. Possible Fire Station expansion at Playground D - President Black and the Director reported that during their meeting with the Safety Director, he told them he was reviewing the project.

The Director also informed the Board that based on the meeting minutes of the Shake-a-Leaf group from March 27, Councilmember Barton seemed to support the saving of the trees and soccer field area.

Councilmember Carbenia stated he still supported the location, but did not want to see the old shelter building lost.

12. Water Park - It had been suggested by Mr. Moeglin at the last meeting that since there was no current plan for a water park that maybe the bond money set aside for that project could be used on park projects. The Director reported that in conversation with Councilmember West, it was clear that the water park project was still pending.

Councilmember Carbenia also stated that the project was still pending at Council.

Mr. Moeglin brought up that the Joint Recreation District and Park System should be involved in discussions as the facility may end up in a park, and Recreation may end up running it.

13. Little League - The Board reviewed an e-mail request from Little League requesting to use the Lee Park concession building for their 2008 season, replace the door to the concession area, paint the concession building, dugouts, and scoreboard, and repair or replace all damaged fencing at no cost to the Park System.

They also requested a load of ball field mix for the infield and to edge the infield. In addition, they asked for keys to the bathrooms and use of the concession building at Weis Park.

A motion was made by A. Black to approve the use of the concession building with an insurance requirement and to accept the donations coordinated through the Director. Mr. Black noted that the field maintenance issues were handled by the Recreation District so those issues should be taken to them. The Director stated the restroom issue would be taken care of in the normal manner and the Weis Park concessions were already in use by the Mitey Mites. Mr. Black wanted it to be clear to all leagues assigned play areas on park properties that the area's remain public parks, and the leagues do not have exclusive use of the areas. A second was provided by D. Moeglin, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

14. Timken Earth Day Project - Mr. Black informed the Board that the Timken Company wanted to do an Earth Day project that would see 200 trees planted in the parks. He and the Director had worked with the group to develop a plan. The Director had suggested that the trees be planted along creek areas to help improve the water quality. The project will be done on April 20, 2008.
15. Leadership Stark County Cleanup - Mr. Black informed the Board that the cleanup had been set for Saturday, April 12, 2008, and currently had over 70 coming to help out. Stadium, Monument, Westbrook Veterans Memorial and West Parks were all on the schedule.
16. Willig Field Project - The Director informed the Board that the project was proceeding; however, March decided to be a winter month so they are not as far along this spring as expected.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Judi McKinney request to use Stadium Park as part of a Fund Raiser - The Board discussed the above request. It is a private individual requesting to use the park; however, they are doing all fund raising elsewhere by one on one contact. There is no public advertising to be done. The Board agreed that this did not raise to the

level of a public event and so should be treated as a shelter reservation. Park staff to remind them there is no fund raising in the park.

2. OPRA Fall Conference hosted by Stark County Park District - The Director informed the Board of the OPRA Fall Park Section Conference to be hosted by the Stark County Park District, August 14-16, 2008.

The Director stated he had talked a little with Mr. Fonte at Stark Parks and would help with the event as much as he could with the resources available.

Mr. Moeglin stated he thought it would be a good idea for staff members to attend.

3. Letter from Mr. Thomas Tillett with regard to the Bell Tower in Stadium Park - The Director informed the Board that the President of the Garden Center had informed him that the bell tower at the Garden Center was not working. He confirmed that with the Garden Center Manager and then sent a letter to the Stewart family to inquire as to their intention to continue to maintain it.

The Director told the Board that he had received a letter explaining that the family will no longer be responsible for the tower.

The Director will work with the Garden Center organization to get the tower working.

4. Clean Ohio Fund Meeting - Akron/Kent Area, April 28, 2008 - The Director informed the Board that there was to be a meeting with regard to the Clean Ohio funds. He stated he would attend. Mr. Moeglin stated he would also like to attend.
5. ODNR requesting a Ribbon Cutting for the Canton Downtown Connector Trail, April 14 or April 21 - The Director informed the Board that he had received a call from the ODNR Communications Department. They wanted to setup a ribbon cutting for the Canton Downtown Connector Trail.

He stated he had contacted the City Communication Director (Mr. Herman) and that he had asked to take the lead because the Mayor wanted to make more contacts between State and local officials.

Mr. Herman would let the Director know when the ribbon cutting and meetings take place.

6. Donation from Junior Order United American Mechanics Council 12 - the Director informed the Board that he had been contacted by Mr. Carl Wise of the Junior Order United American Mechanics Council 12. They wanted to donate something to the Park System. The Director worked out plans for a new gazebo for a landscape island in Stadium Park and a play area for Mallonn Park.

A motion was made by A. Black to accept the donation of a gazebo, play equipment, and surfacing from the organization with much thanks to them. A second was made by D. Moeglin, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

7. Girl Scouts requesting to use Arboretum Park on August 23, 2008, for their "Field Day" Event - After a brief discussion, a motion was made by A. Black to approve the request with an insurance requirement. A second was made by D. Moeglin, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. The Board reviewed a request from the Canton Joint Recreation District to have three (3) large trees removed from behind the backstop of the south field at 25th & Fulton.

The Director had two arborists look at the trees in question. He asked them to look at the trees, overall health, pruning necessary to solve the problem at the ball field, and if that pruning would be so bad that it may cause the short term death of the trees.

He reported that they told him the trees are in good condition, they could be pruned, and that it was not expected to cause the short term death of the trees.

The Director stated that the problem did need taken care of at the ball fields, but he recommended doing the pruning instead of taking the trees down at this time. The Board agreed with the Director.

2. OPRA Advocacy Day - The Director reported that there was an opportunity to attend this event in Columbus free of charge as Musco Lighting had sponsored the event. The Director stated he would attend. Mr. Moeglin stated he would be interested in attending also.
3. Ohio Department of Commerce Division of Liquor Control notice for new liquor permit - The location is Top China Buffet in Ward 3. The Director informed the Board that he had talked to Councilmember Griffin about the request, and the Councilmember had no objections to the permit. It is not a carry-out business.

A motion was then made by A. Black to return the notice with no objection. A second was provided by D. Moeglin, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

4. Heritage Christian School requesting to use Meyer's Park on May 16, 2008, to hold their first annual "Conqueror Carnival" - The Board reviewed the request, and a motion was then made by A. Black to approve the request with an insurance requirement. A second was provided by D. Moeglin, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

5. HUD Playground Grant - The Director informed the Board that some members of Council had concerns with the new play area being placed in Waterworks Park. Community Development was checking to see if the project could be moved. The Board wanted to setup a meeting with Councilmember Casar, Councilmember West, Mr. Torres, and the Service Director after the question about if it could be moved is answered.
6. Member Moeglin stated he had several things he would like to bring up.
 - A. He liked the list of updates at the beginning of the meeting.
 - B. He would still like to see the idea of sponsorships looked into for the Holiday Lights.
 - C. He asked why Mallonn Park had a gate? The Director explained it was for security. The park was first intended to be used by the neighborhood. Access is worked out for ball teams using the area and when the shelter is available to reserve. Keys are issued with the permits.
 - D. He again brought up some plans by a private group and by Councilmember Smith to redevelop old Riverside Park. He had asked if anyone was using the ball field or if Recreation had been working on the fields? The Director stated he would check to see if Recreation had anyone assigned to the area.
 - E. Mr. Moeglin brought up the possibility of obtaining 319 Grants through NEFCO to creekside improvements. President Black and the Director both explained that grants had been applied for in the past, but nothing had come of it. The Board would be interested in the possibility of grants in the future.
 - F. Mr. Moeglin submitted to the Board an update on six areas involving the Countywide Trail System:
 1. West Side Park Trail - Mr. Moeglin brought up the path of the trail already approved by the Board. He asked about the trail being located on the east side of the creek in Stadium Park.

The President and the Director explained that the route presented problems in that there was concern about bicycles using the track instead of the trail if they were too close, and the holiday displays would be impacted as the proposed location is where they are setup. The Director also stated that some track users were asked about the trail being on the east side of the creek, and those asked had like concerns with the trail and the track.
 2. Plain Center Trail - Mr. Moeglin stated that a short section was all that was left in this area to connect two existing sections of the Covered Bridge Trail.
 3. Downtown Canton Trail - Mr. Moeglin informed the Board that a past attempt to get a grant for the first section of this trail had failed, but he was confident that one from a different source could be obtained.

4. Pike Park Trails - Mr. Moeglin showed the Board a concept plan prepared by the Floyd Browne Group showing a possible development of the Pike Township property with various trails and the location of the proposed County-wide Trail System through the property.
 5. Fairhope Trail - Mr. Moeglin showed the Board a possible development of a section of property originally obtained for flood control purposes that could be developed into a park. He also stated that due to the source of the grant used to obtain the property, there were restrictions as to what could be done on the property.
 6. Martindale Park Bridge - Mr. Moeglin stated that a bridge over the creek at Martindale Park would allow for the development of a large section of trail through the northeast end of town. He also stated that he knew of a source of a used bridge, and that if supports could be built and the bridge refurbished, it could serve the purpose.
- G. At this time Mr. Moeglin announced that he was resigning from the Park Commission. His decision was due to a recommendation from the Law Director. The Law Director informed him that his position as City Engineer and his position as a member of the Park Commission were a conflict of interest and incompatible.

The Board thanked Mr. Moeglin for his service and looked forward to working with him in the future.

Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.



Andy Black
President



Douglas Perry
Director/Secretary