

## CANTON PARK COMMISSION

### BOARD MINUTES

DECEMBER, 2009

The Canton Board of Park Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, December 9, 2009, at the Garden Center Building.

Present were: Mr. Andy Black, President; Mr. Lon Winberry, Vice President; Mr. Jack Angelo, Member; Mr. Douglas Perry, Director/Secretary; and Mr. Douglas Foltz, Assistant Director. There were also a few guests.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

At this time a motion was made by A. Black to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2009 regular meeting as written. A second was provided by J. Angelo, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

President Black noted that several of the guests present were at the meeting regarding issue #4 of the agenda. President Black started the old business section with that item.

The floor was given to Safety Director Ream.

The Safety Director stated that due to the budget problems of the City, he asked the Board to consider as a way of saving money an alternative to Park Police. He asked the Board to once again consider turning the patrol duties over to the Canton Police Department on a trial basis for at least 2010. The Safety Director stated he knew it did not work out the last time it was done, but he felt that was mostly a personnel issue that could be fine-tuned to make it better. It would be a bid position that would run April to April with a possible change each year. He felt they could get 85 to 90% of what the Park Board would want from the officer.

Police Chief McKimm stated that he thought money could be saved if a proper bid process was done.

Member Angelo stated he felt the position should be an exempt position as the Park Police schedule had to be very flexible.

Director Ream stated he felt those issues could be handled with a proper bid process. Officer Adams, President of the CPPA, asked if the Board would like to be involved in the selection process. Member Angelo stated he would like the Board to be involved.

Director Ream stated he felt the position could be made to be responsive to supervision in the Park System, and he thanked the Board for considering the idea.

President Black stated he appreciated the issues involved, but was not sure any agreement would last as the people who make them sometimes change quickly.

Director Ream said if done as a bid, it would commit everyone for at least a year, but again the idea needed to be looked at due to finances.

Mr. Black stated he would like to look at a cost comparison as he is not sure using a CPD officer would really be cheaper than a Park Police Officer. Director Ream stated that since they would not be replacing the CPD Officer assigned to work for the Park Commission, money would be saved.

Mr. Black stated that one of the problems when this was done before was the reporting structure. The Park Director had no idea what was done by the officer in the parks or if he was even in the parks as no logs were turned over to him. In fact, the officer was called out to do fill in work for CPD all the time. Director Ream said all that would need to be put into the bid specifications. The position would run from April 1, 2010 to April 1, 2011.

President Black asked if a replacement would be made available if the assigned officer was off sick or on vacation? The Chief stated that would be tough, but they could try.

Director Perry suggested a meeting with the CPPA President to go over Park Police duties as a first step to look at bid specifications, and then if a larger meeting was necessary, one could be held.

At this point the Safety Director, Police Chief, and CPPA President left the meeting.

The meeting then returned to the agenda.

1. Old Riverside Park Issues - The Director and Member Angelo reported that they had no new information on this issue so it remained tabled.
2. Park Brochure Development - The Board reviewed a draft of a new brochure. Several aspects of the draft were discussed. The Director stated it would need some changes and asked the members to let him know their concerns. Mr. Black talked of a better picture of Willig Field. The Director reminded that to get a better shot would take extra time, but it would be better.
3. Prior Trail Agreements and Possible Horse Trail in Reifsnyder Park Area - The Director asked if there were any issues with the old agreements as the Board was not involved, and he did not believe the Board could be held to it as they did not approve the agreement. He stated the City Engineer has said the Board would be included in any new agreement as he had oversight of the new trail grant.

Mr. Black asked Mr. Angelo if he thought County Park Rangers on the trails in the City would be a problem. Mr. Angelo stated he did not believe so.

The idea of a horse trail to run along the new walking trail in Martindale Park and run on its own path in Oak and Reifsnyder Parks were discussed.

A motion was then made by J. Angelo to allow a horse trail in these three parks based on a review of a plan for the trail being approved by the Board prior to construction. A second was provided by A. Black, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

5. Shelter Rental Rate Review - The Board reviewed suggested changes in the reservation of shelters policy that they had requested. The fee for reserving a picnic shelter will be \$40 for 2010. In addition, non-profit and/or charitable organizations will now pay \$20 to use a picnic shelter. The reservation fee for both the Garaux and Garden Center buildings will also increase to \$150/use.

The Board also discussed the idea of charging a fee for the use of the parks by public events.

The Director asked if the Law Department should be questioned if such a fee would cause the City to lose recreational immunity protections. The Board saw no reason to ask the Law Department to review the issue.

A motion was then made by J. Angelo to approve the new policy with the additional provision that when a public event requires exclusive use of a park area or a park closing, there will be a \$20/day charge for such use. In addition, if the event requires the use of a shelter(s) to which regular shelter fees are charged, those fees and associated deposits will apply. A second was made by L. Winberry, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

6. American Red Cross requesting to use shelter #5 and the soccer area in Stadium Park on Sunday, June 27, 2010, to hold their annual "Duck Race" - The Board reviewed this request, and a motion was then made by A. Black to approve it with an insurance requirement. A second was made by J. Angelo, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Use requests:
  - A. Cystic Fibrosis Foundation requesting to use Stadium and Monument Parks on Saturday, May 1, 2010, to hold their annual "Great Strides Walk-A-Thon
  - B. Stark County Disc Golf Association requesting to use Arboretum and Spiker Parks on January 23 and May 15 & 16, 2010, to hold two open tournament events. They also request to install a new basket at hole number 4.

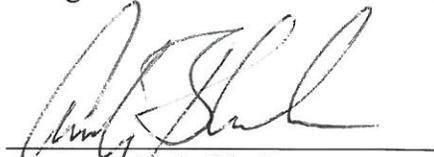
The Board reviewed the use requests. A motion was then made by A. Black to approve use request A with an insurance requirement. A second was made by J. Angelo, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

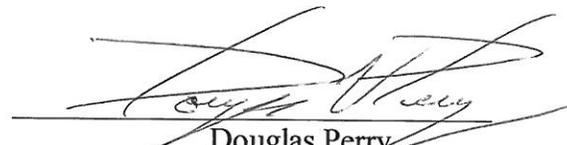
A motion was then made by J. Angelo to approve use request B with an insurance requirement, allow them to install a new basket at hole number four (4), sell them the old one for a dollar, and waive the public event fees due to the donation. A second was made by A. Black, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

2. Canton Garden Center 2010 Schedule - The Board reviewed the schedule as submitted, and a motion was then made by A. Black to approve the requested uses. A second was provided by L. Winberry, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.
3. Letter from Councilmember Dougherty regarding Bup Rearick Park Improvements - The Board reviewed the letter from Councilmember Dougherty and instructed the Director and Assistant Director to find out what the Councilmember's biggest priority in his plan is, how much he can get for the project from next year's capital fund, and to go for the grant.

Member Angelo asked what quotes had been received on the Garaux building. Assistant Director Foltz stated there had only been one received at this point. The Board instructed him to get two more quotes and bring them back to the January meeting.

Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Andy Black  
President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Douglas Perry  
Director/Secretary