

AGENDA

CANTON BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2010

GARDEN CENTER BUILDING

4:00 P.M.

Reading of the minutes of the November 10, 2010 regular meeting

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Old Riverside Park Issues
2. Park Brochure Development
3. Possible Dominion Easements Reifsnyder, Oak and Martindale Parks
4. Welch Playground Improvements
5. Ohio Plan Playground Evaluation
6. Clear Channel Outdoor Electronic Message Center Location
7. Capital Projects List

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Cystic Fibrosis Foundation requesting to use Stadium and Monument Parks on Saturday, May 14, 2010, to hold their annual "Great Strides Walk-a-thon" event

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

CANTON PARK COMMISSION

BOARD MINUTES

DECEMBER, 2010

The Canton Board of Park Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, December 8, 2010, at the Garden Center Building.

Present were: Mr. Andy Black, President; Mr. Jack Angelo, Vice President; Mr. Frank Morris III, Member; and Mr. Douglas Foltz, Assistant Director. Park Director Douglas Perry did not attend due to illness. There were also several guests.

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

Reading of the minutes of the November 10, 2010 regular meeting. A motion was made by J. Angelo to approve the minutes as written. A second was provided by A. Black, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Old Riverside Park Issues - The Assistant Director reported that no new information on the park was received and the Board members would check into the situation for the January meeting.
2. Park Brochure Development - Board members reviewed current map of parks. Mr. Angelo thought the trails and shelters should be indicated on the brochure map. Members discussed receiving updates of Park brochure and would like this developed and finished as soon as possible. Assistant Director indicated that Engineering personnel were spending more time on project, and the brochure should be finished shortly.
3. Possible Dominion Easements Reifsnnyder, Oak and Martindale Parks - The Assistant Director discussed easements still in process. Director Perry, Rick Bodenschatz of City Engineering, and himself have met and discussed with Dominion personnel the pipeline path. Future tree compensation for tree removal is necessary due to installation of gas line.
4. Welch Playground Improvements - Assistant Director provided an update for park improvements. Still awaiting delivery for the playground climber & drinking fountain. The basketball court was repaved, and Park employee Dan Gravila has started maintenance updating for the shelter bathroom.

5. Ohio Plan Playground Evaluation - Assistant Director reported that Park & Recreation personnel were still reviewing existing play equipment. Mr. Black indicated that replacement or repair costs should be part of capital request to Administration/Council.
6. Clear Channel Outdoor Electronic Message Center Location - Assistant Director informed the Board of Clear Channel's request to test bore site at West Park. Park Director Perry approved the request as long as damage to park property was repaired. Mr. Black had concerns about the billboard and that this was not an open bid process. Mr. Angelo stated that advertising opportunities could be beneficial, but need to be determined on a case by case basis. Location and revenue would also have to be considered.

Patricia Howard, a member of SWAN Neighborhood Group, asked to make comments. Mrs. Howard stated that there were many activities in the West Park area, and she did not feel the billboard should be located in the park. She also had spoken against the billboard at a previous Council meeting. Mrs. Howard also had a computer presentation for the Board to watch. Board members informed her to email information to the Park email so they could review. Mr. Angelo then ask Councilmember Chris Smith if there was any new information on Riverside, and Councilmember Smith replied there was nothing new to add at this time. Assistant Director Foltz thanked Mrs. Howard for SWAN letter of support for McKinley Park improvement plan. This communication will be attached to the grant application.

7. Capital Projects List - Mr. Angelo asked if employees' input was used for equipment purchases. Assistant Director stated that maintenance costs and other input from the Park mechanic was very informative. Park employees have driven tractors and mowers during demonstration of some previous equipment purchases. Assistant Director then reviewed capital request projects and equipment requests with the Park Board.
8. Green Acres Park - Tom & Sue Meister asked to present modified Green Acres improvements to the Board. Mr. Meister discussed eliminating the walking path from the original design. He talked about concerns of existing fencing confining use of park and would like to remove the south and east fence lines. Assistant Director reported that the Recreation Director had a discussion with Harter Heights members. She had no problem with the plan as long as it was approved by the Park Commission. Mr. Angelo thought the backstop should stay if the fence was removed. Mr. Morris stated that if fences are removed then the backstop would not keep all the balls within the park. If used as a field area, then the backstop should be removed.

A motion was made by Mr. Black to approve removing the south and east fence lines and backstop. A second was made by Mr. Morris, and the motion passed by unanimous vote. Assistant Director Foltz stated that the Park employees would remove the fence and backstop. Next year the Park System would work with the Neighborhood Group for tree and landscape areas since funds might be available through a Neighborhood grant.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Cystic Fibrosis Foundation requesting to use Stadium and Monument Parks on Saturday, May 14, 2010, to hold their annual "Great Strides Walk-a-thon" event - A motion to approve the request with an insurance requirement was made by Mr. Black. A second was made by Mr. Angelo, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.
2. Mr. Angelo stated that someone called him about the Weis Park shelter not being available to rent and asked Assistant Director Foltz as to the status of the shelter. Assistant Director Foltz said that the shelter was finished with a cement walkway, tables and a grill, but no electric improvements have been included in the shelter. This shelter was not listed in the reservation book for 2011.

Mr. Angelo made a motion to include Weis shelter for reservations in 2011. A second was made by Mr. Black, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

3. Mr. Angelo then asked about Martindale Park pit/outdoor toilet building. Assistant Director Foltz stated that rental porta johns were used this past year as in 2009.

Mr. Angelo made a motion to take down the pit toilets. A second was made by Mr. Morris, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

4. Mr. Black then referred to an additional request of Plain Local Baseball to use Oak, Covered Bridge and Arboretum baseball fields. Mr. Morris stated that these fields should be available to Canton Leagues first before other organizations are allowed to use the fields. Mr. Angelo stated that City residents are part of the Plain Local organizations that utilize the fields. Mr. Black made a motion to approve the request of Plain Local organization to use the fields as they have done in the past. A second was made by Mr. Angelo. Voting for the motion: Mr. Black and Mr. Angelo. Against: Mr. Morris. The motion passed 2 to 1.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Derek Gordon, Assistant from the Mayor's Office, thanked the Park employees for recent improvements to Munson Stadium. Mr. Gordon then informed the Board that he was asked by Service Director Warren Price to discuss the concept of Sarta natural gas facility and possible land use of Crenshaw Park. Mr. Gordon then introduced Mr. Curt Conrad, Director of Sarta. Mr. Conrad addressed the Park Board about using a land parcel south of the Crenshaw shelter. Mr. Conrad stated that Sarta was built out on their land and would like to use park property for additional parking. Sarta would need the land due to developing a compressed natural gas facility on existing Sarta parking areas. Mr. Conrad stated that Sarta vehicles, as well as other vehicles such as City schools, could use the facility in the future which would save money.

Mr. Angelo had many questions involving the Crenshaw Park property. He stated that many times park property has been given to others and not developed as was intended. Mr. Angelo had other questions involving leasing or selling the land, fair market value, who would receive money, what would happen to land if plans did not materialize.

Mr. Black asked if Sarta had funds available to develop this facility. Mr. Conrad indicated funds were available for the project. Councilmember Chris Smith had concerns about impact for the park and traffic congestion along Cherry Ave. After further discussion, the Board asked for more detailed plans and information concerning impacts and development of the area. Assistant Director Foltz said deed restrictions should also be reviewed.

2. Mr. Dan Gravila asked to speak to the Park Board. Mr. Gravila discussed that the Park employees were getting older, most in their 50's, and with the hot temperatures of summer, the employees would like to work a 6 am to 2 pm shift over the summer months. Mr. Gravila said the shift change would be one hour earlier than existing schedule and be temporary for certain weeks of the summer.

Mr. Angelo felt there would be no problem as long as the change did not involve more overtime to be used. Mr. Morris supported the change because of his past experiences working in trades in hot weather. Mr. Black indicated he had relatives that worked in very hot conditions and could understand the request. Assistant Director Foltz stated that schedule change could not restrict work output and crews would need to not wait on sunrise to begin work assignments. It was also discussed that the Board did not decide this shift change and that both Director Doug Perry and Assistant Director Doug Foltz would review and decide if this request would be approved.

Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:32 p.m.



Andy Black
President



Douglas Foltz
Assistant Director