

## CANTON PARK COMMISSION

### BOARD MINUTES

JULY 8, 2009

The Canton Board of Park Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, July 8, 2009, at the Garden Center Building.

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

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

At this time a motion was made by J. Angelo to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2009 regular meeting 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 Director reported that he had not heard of anything new.

Mr. Angelo asked Mr. Griffin if anything had been on Council agenda. Mr. Griffin stated he had not seen anything. Mr. Angelo was going to check with the Council Clerk.

The Director was instructed to contact Councilmember Smith to ask where the effort was going.

2. Park Brochure Development - The Director reported that he had been and would continue to take pictures for possible use in a brochure.
3. Proposal for Mallonn Park from the Canton Bulldogs Baseball Team - The Director reported that this there had once again been no response from the team. Mr. Griffin also stated he had not hear anything else from the team. Mr. Black instructed the Director to drop the item off the Agenda unless he has further contact from the team.

## NEW BUSINESS:

1. Possible Park Levy - The Director stated that this item had been placed on the Agenda for the Board's consideration because the Mayor felt, and supported, the idea as a way to help the City cope with the current financial problems that were stressing the City general fund.

Member Angelo suggested that this issue should be tabled until the new Council is in place in January of 2010. He stated he just does not believe there is support in Council for a levy at this time. He also felt that if the real need was for more money to avoid layoffs in Police or Fire, then a safety levy should be looked at instead.

Member Black stated he also has doubts about Council support and that it may be wise to poll Council for their opinion.

Member Angelo also stated the Board should put together a plan to do more than just keep things as they are now just to partially plug a potential hole in the City budget.

Ms. Sarver asked from the floor if the Federal stimulus could help with the park funding. The Director told her that although he had applied for almost three million in grants for the Park System that none of that money could be used to operate the Park System.

Ms. Sarver then stated that she felt that a levy would not be looked at with favor due to the attempt to build a nature preserve in the northeast end. Mr. Angelo stated almost all of the money necessary to build that project was from grants. Ms. Sarver stated she understood that, but did not feel the public would do so.

The Director was instructed to send a letter to the Park and Recreation Committee of City Council asking them to check with the Council membership and let the Board know if they felt there was enough support to get a park levy approved.

2. Canton Joint Recreation District requesting to use the Garaux Park Shelter for programming September, 2009 thru August, 2010 - The Director pointed out to the Board that the costs to operate the building for these classes were paid by his budget. Not that the two departments do not work back and forth to help each other, but it is just an example of things that the Park System does that comes from our budget for the benefit of the citizens.

Mr. Angelo stated he was disappointed in the Recreation Board's response when the Board asked for their support against the proposed H.B. 195. The Board agreed. A motion was then made by A. Black to approve their request to use the Garaux shelter as requested. A second was provided by J. Angelo, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote. The Director was instructed to provide the Board President a draft of the approval letter for his review that would not only let the Recreation Board of their approval, but of their disappointment over the proposed H.B. 195.

3. Chamber of Commerce requesting permission to allow 5 RV's to spend the night at Weis Park on August 7, 2009 - The Board reviewed this request, and a motion was then made by J. Angelo to approve it. A second was made by L. Winberry, and the motion was then passed by unanimous vote.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

1. Ohio Division of Liquor Control license transfer with 500 feet of Nimisilla and Cook Parks - Member Angelo stated since the Park commission does not allow liquor in the parks, he felt the Board should not be involved in responding to these types of issues. He also stated he did not have a problem with the requested transfer itself. Member Black asked the Director if the Board had always responded in the past. The Director stated that except for a couple of examples, he could think of where the Board did not respond, the Board had responded.

Member Angelo made a motion to table the forms from the Division. A second was made by A. Black, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

2. Use Requests:

- A. Westminster Community Church requesting to use Mallonn Park on August 22, 2009, to hold the Harter Heights Area Neighborhood Association picnic
- B. Canton Community KidSummit Against Drugs requesting to use King Park on July 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009 to hold a kickoff drug prevention series
- C. Crisis Intervention and Recovery Center requesting to use Monument and Stadium Parks on September 12, 2009, as a part of their "Out of the Darkness" Walk

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

3. Ms. Alice Sarver and Mr. Leon Cote of the O.U.R. Neighborhood Association stated that they had grant money to pay kids to do work at Playground F. The Board and Director told them to just contact the office, and the Director would work with them to get some things done.

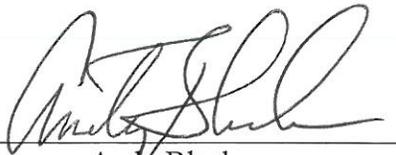
They also asked the Board to consider changing the name of the playground and name it after Ray Denczak because of his years of government service and because he lived in the area.

Member Angelo stated he really did not like park areas named like the way this playground was currently. Member Black stated he understood their desire, but was interested in what Mr. Denczak's involvement in Parks and Recreation had been over the years.

The Director was instructed to see what he could find out about Mr. Denczak's involvement in these areas.

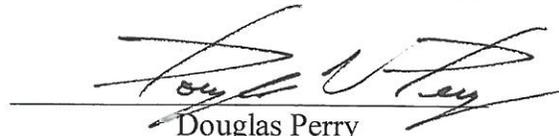
4. Councilmember West arrived at the meeting and asked the Board to reconsider their action on the Division of Liquor control forms. Mr. West was involved in the new business and was concerned that the Board's action would hold up the transfer. Mr. Black explained that the Board had no problem with the requested transfer and was not objecting to it. The Board had only decided not to complete and return the forms at this time.

Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.



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Andy Black  
President



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Douglas Perry  
Director/Secretary