

CANTON PARK COMMISSION

BOARD MINUTES

JUNE 17, 2009

The Canton Board of Park Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, June 17, 2009, at the Garden Center Building.

Present were: Mr. Andy Black, President; Mr. Lon Winberry, Vice President; and Mr. Douglas Perry, Director/Secretary. Also in attendance was Councilmember Jim Griffin.

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m.

At this time a motion was made by A. Black to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2009 regular meeting and the minutes of the June 3, 2009 special meeting as written. A second was provided by L. Winberry, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Old Riverside Park Issues - Being no further information with regard to this issue, it remained tabled.
2. Park Brochure Development - The Director stated that he would start getting some pictures taken for the brochure now that summer was beginning.

President Black decided to move to new business at this point.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Use Requests:
 - A. Plain Local Baseball & Softball Association requesting to use the ball fields at Covered Bridge and Oak Parks for the Fall 2009 Season
 - B. Pregnancy Support Center requesting to use Stadium Park and Shelter 5 to hold their annual "Walk For Life" Fundraiser
 - C. Canton Joint Recreation District requesting to use Stadium Park and its pond to hold their annual Fishing Derby on May 15, 2010

The Board reviewed the above requests. A motion was then made by A. Black to approve them with an insurance requirement for use B. A second was made by L. Winberry, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

2. Canton Quilters Guild asking if the Board would accept a donated, framed quilt to be hung in the Garden Center - The Board reviewed the donation offered by the Canton Quilters Guild, and a motion was then made by A. Black to accept the donation to be hung in the Garden Center. A second was made by L. Winberry, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

Member Angelo arrived at the meeting at this point, and the Board returned to old business.

OLD BUSINESS:

3. Proposal for Mallonn Park from the Canton Bulldogs Baseball Team - The Director reported that of the letters sent requesting input from Councilmembers Griffin and Carbenia, the Recreation Board, and Mr. Prorok, only two responses had been received. Councilmember Griffin and the Recreation Director responded. Mr. Carbenia has been having some medical problems and there had been no response from Mr. Prorok of the Canton Bulldogs Baseball Team.

Member Angelo stated he had some problems with their requests, especially the fencing.

Councilmember Griffin stated he had talked to them about the fact that the park was intended to be a shelter use park and not an athletic area. He also said he asked them about what would happen to all the things they want to do should the team not continue into the future. The Director stated that should all the fencing go up, there would be a lot of increased maintenance.

Mr. Angelo stated he did not see using concrete block for dugouts. He felt an open fence construction would be better.

The Board agreed that some of the requests would indeed be improvements, but noting that there had been no response from the team, decided to table the issue until the next meeting. They instructed the Director to send Mr. Prorok another letter asking for a response and explaining that the Recreation Department approval to use the field does not mean they have approval to make any changes to the field.

The Board now returned to new business.

NEW BUSINESS:

3. Dog concerns at Willig Field - The Director informed the Board that the Recreation Department had informed him that they were having a problem with a few dogs at Willig Field during games. Park rules do not prohibit dogs at Willig during games, but do require control by their owners.

The Director informed the Board that he had told the Recreation Department that if any dog became a problem while they were running the facility, they could order the dog removed. If the owner did not comply they should call the Police Department. The Director asked the Board if they had any objections to his instructions to the Recreation Department. They had no objections.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Canton Temple of Praise requesting to use Harmont Park on August 14 and 15, 2009 to hold their annual "Day in the Park" event.

After a review of the request, a motion was made by J. Angelo to approve it with an insurance requirement. A second was provided by A. Black, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

2. The Director informed the Board that the OPRA Fall Section Conference was scheduled for September 27 and 28, 2009. Stark Parks was hosting the event. He had no details as of yet.
3. The Director informed the Board that Sergeant Swihart, with the assistance of the park staff, made an arrest in the theft of the flush valves from the park restrooms. There had been about two dozen taken from various buildings.
4. The Director informed the Board that he had attended a meeting with the Mayor with regard to the water park issue. The Director told the Board that the current push would be for three or four water facilities with some or all possibly located in park locations.
5. The board discussed the recent information that numbers released by the Auditor's Offices showed that the Park system was running on a course that would have the finances in the red by \$65,000 at the end of the year.

The Director stated that monies were not being overspent. The park budget was underfunded and reminded the Board that he had sent an email in March addressing that the 2009 budget provided was, in his estimation, short funding of around \$84,000.

The Director stated that if monies had to be made up, an Operator II had recently bid on an Operator III job in another department. He proposed not refilling that position. He stated that if another employee left the department and did not return, then if both positions were not filled for next year that could make up for possible further cuts in the 2010 budget. If funds had to be cut that amounted to two employees thru layoffs, it would take five or six layoffs to save the same money.

The Board instructed the Director to have some figures put together to get some idea of the amount of electric the holiday light displays cost.

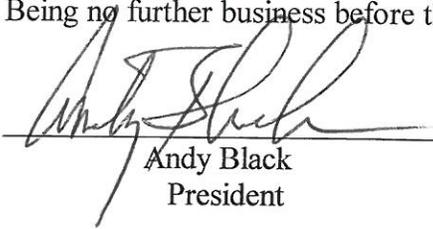
Mr. Black asked if any donations had been generated for the displays as a result of the article in the Canton Connection. The Director stated there had not been any received.

6. Mr. Black also asked of the status of the HUD playground equipment. The Director stated he had sent the information to the Purchasing Department about three weeks ago, but nothing as yet had been done.
7. Mr. Angelo brought up the restroom building at Martindale and questioned if it should be taken down now that porta jons had been placed there. The Director advised caution due to the budget issues the City could be facing next year. He stated there may not be money to fund the porta jons. The Director was instructed to have the building closed and wait to see what happens.

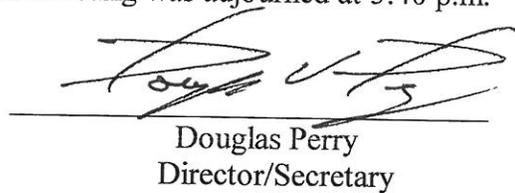
Mr. Angelo also asked about a section of property that might be park property that needed the grass knocked down around Ida Park. The Director told him he would check into it and have something done if it was park property.

8. Mr. Winberry asked that the Assistant Director attend all meetings in case the Board had questions to ask him. The other members agreed, and the Director was instructed to inform the Assistant Director that they required him to attend all meetings.

Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.



Andy Black
President



Douglas Perry
Director/Secretary