

AGENDA

CANTON BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2008

GARDEN CENTER BUILDING

4:00 P.M.

Reading of the minutes of the February 6, 2008 regular meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Pinnacle Press
2. Park System Rules & Regulations
3. Election of Officers and setting of Board Meeting Dates

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Use Requests:
 - A. Greater Canton Veterans Council requesting to use Stadium and Monument Parks to hold a "Gold Star 5k Run" on Memorial Day, May 26, 2008
 - B. Faith Bible Church requesting to use Waterworks Park, July 22 through July 25, 2008, to hold a Vacation Bible School
 - C. Pro Football Hall of Fame Festival requesting to use Park System bleachers for the Grand Parade

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

CANTON PARK COMMISSION

BOARD MINUTES

MARCH 12, 2008

The Canton Board of Park Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, March 12, 2008, at the Garden Center Building.

Present were: Mr. Andy Black, President; Mr. Lon Winberry, Member; recent Board Appointee Mr. Dan Moeglin and Mr. Douglas V. Perry, Director/Secretary; former Park Police Sgt. Frank Thristino and former Board Vice President Marilyn Thomas Jones.

The meeting was called to order at 4:07 p.m.

At this time Mr. Moeglin was welcomed to the Board.

Mr. Black then called on Ms. Marilyn Thomas Jones and presented her with a plaque to thank her for her service on the Board. Ms. Thomas Jones thanked the Board and left the meeting.

Mr. Black then called on Mr. Frank Thristino and presented him with a plaque to thank him for his many years of service with the Canton Park Police. Mr. Thristino thanked the Board and offered his services to help familiarize any new officer with his or her Park duties. He gave the Board a copy of a training program he developed for this purpose in 1998. Mr. Thristino then left the meeting.

At this time a motion was made by A. Black to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2008 regular meeting as written. A second was provided by D. Moeglin, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Black desired to discuss the following issue first:

3. Election of Officers and setting of Board Meeting Dates - The Board discussed Mr. Moeglin's recent appointment to the Board.

Mr. Moeglin explained that it was being reviewed by the Law Department because he is a paid member of the Mayor's staff. He stated he had been told that he could not speak on, or vote for or against, any issue that could be in conflict between his position as City Engineer and his position as a member of the Park Commission.

Mr. Black made a motion that Mr. L. Winberry be the new Vice President. Mr. Winberry said he would be willing to service as Vice President. A second was provided by D. Moeglin, and the motion then passed. Mr. Black - Yes, Mr. Moeglin - Yes.

1. Pinnacle Press - The Director reported that the agreement was still not completed with Pinnacle. He also reported that the Water Department may also be signing the agreement since the property was obtained at the beginning for the Water Department. He stated the Law Department was looking into the matter. The issue remained tabled.
2. Park System Rules & Regulations - The Director informed the Board that he had sent the proposed rules and regulations to the Law Department for review and comment. He stated he had received a call from the Law Director and a member of his staff. There was a general conversation about the rules, if the fine could be considered a minor misdemeanor, and could City ordinances not work in their place.

The general feeling was the Board wanted to continue with the effort to establish the rules and regulations.

The Park Police issue was also discussed regarding the effort to replace Sergeant Thristino. A meeting with the new Safety Director, President Black, and the Director was suggested. The Director asked Mr. Black to provide him some dates and times so that he could see about setting up the meeting.

Mr. Moeglin suggested that the Commission hire off duty CPD officers to patrol the park in the short term. The Director stated he was not sure how the officers could be paid. There was not money in the professional services account to do so. Mr. Moeglin suggested there would be some money in the salary account. The Director stated the Board could not transfer funds into or out of the salary account. The Director stated he would contact Gary Young in the Auditor's office, as if anyone would know how this could be done, it would be him. This issue would also be discussed during the meeting with the Safety Director.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Use Requests:
 - A. Greater Canton Veterans Council requesting to use Stadium and Monument Parks to hold a "Gold Star 5k Run" on Memorial Day, May 26, 2008
 - B. Faith Bible Church requesting to use Waterworks Park, July 22 through July 25, 2008, to hold a Vacation Bible School

- C. Pro Football Hall of Fame Festival requesting to use Park System bleachers for the Grand Parade

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

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Use Requests:

- A. Canton Jaycees requesting to use the soccer field area in Stadium Park on June 28, 2008, to hold their "2008 Kids Olympics" event
- B. St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church requesting to use the parking lot areas in Weis Park from June 1 thru June 8, 2008, as a part of their annual "Greek Summerfest" event
- C. Stark Social Workers Network requesting to use Nimisilla Park the weeks of June 16 - June 20 and June 23 - June 27, 2008, to hold their "Summer Camp" event

The Board reviewed these requests, and a motion was then made by A. Black to approve them with insurance requirements. A second was provided by D. Moeglin, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

- 2. The Director informed the Board that he had been told by the Service Director that Council had some concerns about the playground being in Waterworks Park with the potential flooding and would not approve it. The Director stated he was not sure why the objections were there as there have been facilities in the park for over a hundred years.

Mr. Black asked if the playground could be moved if necessary. The Director stated that during a Council committee meeting last year the question of "Did it have to be put in Waterworks Park?" was asked of the former Community Development Director, and she indicated that it would have to be put there. The Director said he would contact Community Development and ask them to find out if and how the project could be moved if necessary.

Mr. Moeglin stated that since we had asked for a second grant for this project that would not be awarded until May, we may want to be careful as there may be a provision that if the project is already bid out, the grant would not be awarded. The Director stated he did not remember any wording to that effect, but would double check.

3. The Director informed the Board that he had received information from the Recreation Department that the Little League had some money and wanted to do some improvements to the fields at Weis and Harmont Park.

The Director was instructed to invite the Little League representatives to the next meeting so the Board can hear from them as to what they would like to do.

4. The Director informed the Board of the latest request for budget information and gave them a copy of what he provided the budget director.
5. Mr. Black brought up an effort by the Timken Company to plant trees to help with environmental issues. They may be looking to plant up to 1,000 trees. He stated they had talked about evergreens. Mr. Winberry suggested blue and white spruce in a 20" size as good tree selections and the size would be best for survival rates.

The Director will look for places in the parks for planting, and Mr. Moeglin would try to identify other locations for some of the plantings.

6. Mr. Moeglin stated he had a few things he would like to bring up. He said he thought there should be updates on projects like the Stark County Trail and the Tree Commission Committee on the Agenda each month.

He asked what was the status of the fire station project at Playground D. The Director stated that he had heard that Council put the project on the back burner. Mr. Moeglin asked if the Board had insurance to protect the members. The Director and Mr. Black both stated that they have been told the Board is covered by the City. The Director will check with the Law Department to make sure.

He stated he felt the Board should do more long range planning and should look into getting rid of some of the small park areas that are not used or are under used. There was conversation regarding how these areas were obtained and that there may be requirements to follow per the original funding source for their disposal.

Mr. Moeglin stated that Mr. Bob Fonte, Director of the Stark County Park District, felt that the issue of trail security in Canton had not adequately been addressed. Mr. Black stated that when Mr. Fonte met with the Board he had talked about their use of their volunteers called the Trail Blazers. The Director stated the Board was not aware of any arrangements made with the former Service Director regarding the parts of the trail in Canton, but outside of the Park System.

Mr. Moeglin also stated the Park System should look more for grants and sponsorships for things like our holiday light displays.

The Director mentioned that Mayor Healy had said he was going to hire a grant writer and that he felt this would be a help. Mr. Moeglin stated he disagreed with that and felt the Mayor was wrong. He felt that the Department Heads should handle grant requests.

Mr. Moeglin stated he felt that the Board should look into having the Barker Spring House water bottled and sell it in an effort to make money. He said he knew Stark Parks sold water with their logo on it. Mr. Moeglin brought up the fact that there was \$1,000,000 in the City bond money that was earmarked for a water park that did not seem to be going anywhere. He said that if the Board had a plan that maybe the money could instead be used in the parks. Mr. Moeglin stated he was preparing a statement for the Service Director regarding the idea of creating a park out of WPCC property in Pike Township. The Director asked if WPCC was continuing to pursue a conditional use permit for the sand and gravel mining that had been planned for the property. Mr. Moeglin stated that he had put a stop to that for the time being pending decisions with regard to the possible park. He also stated Stark Parks involvement needed to be worked out.

In addition, Mr. Moeglin brought up the fact that a City employee (Mr. Simmons) who now worked for him was involved in a Midget Football League and was interested in developing Riverside Park as a facility for them to use. He stated he was developing a plan for them. The Director stated that the old Riverside Park area was not a park and that he believed it was under the control of the CIC. Mr. Moeglin asked if the Park System was maintaining the area. The Director said that we were keeping it mowed.

Mr. Black stated that it had been released by the Board many years ago when the City had a couple of businesses interested in the property. Mr. Moeglin also told the Board that the new Councilperson for that area had plans for the old park too. He did not know if her plans were the same as Mr. Simmons.

Mr. Black stated that the Board would be interested should the property be considered for a return to Park Board control and management.

Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.



Andy Black
President



Douglas Perry
Director/Secretary