

# CANTON PARK COMMISSION

## BOARD MINUTES

MARCH 11, 2009

The Canton Board of Park Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, March 11, 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 and Mr. Douglas Foltz, Assistant Director. There were also guests at the meeting.

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

At this time a motion was made by J. Angelo to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2009 regular meeting as written. A second was provided by L. Winberry, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. HUD Waterworks Playground - The Board reviewed different playground costing scenarios provided by the Director. The Estimates to add a family style accessible restroom addition to an existing restroom facility were discussed. It was felt that it was too costly to add a single use facility.

Member Angelo asked the Assistant Director what numbers he had developed to turn an existing restroom facility into an accessible one. Mr. Foltz replied that he could use park staff and make the change for \$10,000. The Director pointed out that this would reduce the facilities in the ladies side to one. Member Angelo felt that that would be enough. Large activities could arrange for porta jons.

Member Angelo also stated that he felt that the use of rubber surfacing was too expensive except at the transfer points.

The Director was to plan for a restroom to be converted and to use an engineered wood fiber as the safety zone material.

Mr. Black stated that he would call for a vote on the issue of where the playground should be built and offered the opinion that the Nimisilla area neighborhood groups have made it clear they want the playground so why not put it where people want it.

Mr. Winberry stated he felt that more people would be served at the original Waterworks location and it should go there.

Mr. Angelo stated that he could see both sides. He stated he knew that the Northeast Weed & Seed group was getting active and there were many efforts to improve the Mahoning road corridor.

Councilmember Hawk stated that he could bring in 50 people to support the Waterworks location, but felt that would be a waste of time. He also said that the City had been invited to apply for the HUD grant and the Waterworks location was where we told them it would be built. He also pointed out that a Council vote of 11-0 on the original ordinance authorizing the grant listed Waterworks as the location. He wanted to impress upon the Board that was an ordinance and not a 7-5 vote of an informal resolution.

Mr. Hawk stated that in a new ordinance that was required after a Council change left out the Waterworks location. Then the resolution was brought before council without all the Councilmembers knowing it was coming up. He felt strongly that the playground should go where we told HUD it was going to go so that we did not risk damage to our standing with HUD decision makers.

Mr. Ash, a neighbor of Nimisilla Park, stated that it was Council that held up the project.

Councilmember Carbenia stated he still felt it should be put in Stadium Park. It was pointed out that the neighborhood group and the Councilperson for that area did not want it placed there.

Councilmember Smith asked Councilmember Hawk if other parks were researched. Mr. Hawk stated he did not know, but again HUD approved the Waterworks location for which we listed in the grant request.

The Director stated that no other park locations were looked at for this grant because of the speed at which the request had to be made to HUD. He stated that after it was decided to close Mother Gooseland in 1990, he was part of a committee who tried to see a new Mother Gooseland built in Waterworks Park. When that effort failed, he had a plan put together to put what he had hoped would be the largest playground in the state in Waterworks Park to replace Mother Gooseland. Funding was never available so the plan set. When the chance for a HUD grant came up, the City had to respond within 24 hours. The Director was asked what plans he had, and he provided the Waterworks plan. That plan, along with others, were sent to HUD, and it was the one that was approved.

The Assistant Director stated it was a shame we were still talking about it all this time and that all the parks need upgrades.

At this point Mr. Black stated he would put up two motions.

The first to place the HUD playground at Waterworks Park. A second was provided by L. Winberry.

Mr. Black - No  
Mr. Winberry - Yes  
Mr. Angelo - No

The motion failed, 2-1.

Mr. Black then made a motion to place the HUD playground at Nimisilla Park. A second was provided by Mr. Angelo.

Mr. Black - Yes  
Mr. Winberry - No  
Mr. Angelo - Yes

The motion passed 2-1.

Councilmember Carbenia stated he hoped every effort would be made to obtain equipment made in the United States.

2. Old Riverside Park Issues - Member Angelo stated that he had learned that Old Riverside Park was currently in two sections. One section remained as City property and one section was under control of the CCIC.

A letter to the CCIC asking them to return control of the section they have back to the City would need to be sent. Once they have returned control to the City, the Board would have to ask Council to make the property available to control and management by the Park Commission so that the property could once again be a City park. The Director will draft such a letter.

There was also conversation with regard to renaming the property once it became a park again in honor of Canton Police Officer Guy Mack who was killed in the line of duty. Councilmember Smith and Member Angelo expressed support for the idea.

3. Park Brochure Development -There was no new information with regard to this issue so it remained tabled.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Use Requests:
  - A. Faith Bible Church requesting to use Waterworks Park, July 21 thru July 24, 2009 to hold their Vacation Bible School
  - B. Hall of Fame Festival requesting permission for balloonists to take off or land on park properties and to place a drop target on the island at Westbrook Park
  - C. O'Jays Gigs, Inc. requesting to use Nimisilla Park on Sunday, August 16, 2009, to hold the O'Jay's Family Reunion event

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

2. Natureworks Grant filed for playground at Nimisilla Park - The Director informed the Board that the City Engineer and he had worked together to apply for this grant in the amount of \$59,000.

The Director was asked what effect the HUD playground going to Nimisilla Park would have on the grant.

The Director stated he did not know, but would try and find out if the grant request would be successful if it could be placed in another location.

3. Director Perry submitting proposed Park Recover and Rehabilitation Plan - The Board reviewed the plan submitted by the Director and will bring back any changes they would like to make to the next Board meeting.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

1. Request from Mr. Prorok to utilize Mallonn Park as a home field for a baseball team in the Stark-Summit Baseball League. The use would be for practice and at least 12 games.

The Board noted that they have given the responsibility of assigning most fields to the Recreation Department. They also noted that Mallonn Park was intended to be available for shelter reservations on the weekends and the playing of games would not allow for shelter use. The Board also noted that they do not grant exclusive rights to any field to any organization.

The Director was instructed to reply to Mr. Prorok and advise him that for the above reasons his request would be denied. They suggest he forward his request to the Recreation Department directly to see if they could help with his search for a field.

2. Member Angelo requested that the Board review rental fees and policy regarding the use of the Garden Center building for the next meeting.
3. President Black brought up that he had heard that Councilmember Casar had been asking the Health Department about geese. The Director stated he had heard that and also that someone from the Health Department was supposed to contact him.
4. Councilmember Carbenia stated he had met with different unions with regard to building a restroom building at Mallonn Park. He also stated he had a copy of a plan that was done for the parks and permission to use them from the architect. He thinks it could be built for around \$40,000 with donated labor, and he had brick already donated. He also stated it was planned to use a holding tank instead of a grinder pump. He would keep the Board advised.

Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

  
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Andy Black  
President

  
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Douglas Perry  
Director