

AGENDA
SPECIAL MEETING
CANTON BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2005
GARDEN CENTER BUILDING
1:00 P.M.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Proposal of Mr. James Rosetta for the Board to consider selling six (6) acres of Stadium park property for the possible construction of a mini-golf entertainment center.

ADJOURNMENT

CANTON PARK COMMISSION

SPECIAL BOARD MINUTES

MAY 24, 2005

The Canton Board of Park Commissioners met in special session on Tuesday, May 24, 2005, at the Garden Center Building.

Present were: Mr. Andy Black, President; Mr. Steve Lamiell, Vice President; Mr. Jim Speakman, Member; and Mr. Douglas V. Perry, Director/Secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m.

At this time Mr. Black welcomed the crowd and thanked them for attending. Mr. Black then ran through a brief history of the proposal: an initial meeting where the proposal was discussed and the regular board meeting on May 4th when the proposal with a site change was presented to the Board. It was at that meeting when it was decided to hold a special meeting to get public input.

Mr. Black then stated he looked at the Park Board as a caretaker of the parks for the people who were the owners. Mr. Black then turned the floor to Mr. Rosetta.

Mr. Rosetta first asked for a show of hands of those against the project. The vast majority of those at the meeting indicated that they were indeed against the project. Mr. Rosetta said they would love the project when he was done speaking. He then explained that what they had read in the paper was not true. His project was not just a miniature golf course. A video tape was played for the crowd. Then Mr. Rosetta stated the project was a family entertainment center. It would involve no booze, but many other attractions such as an outdoor pavilion for 150 that would have local shows with local entertainers and a game room.

After Mr. Rosetta's presentation, Mr. Black told the crowd that he would accept specific questions for Mr. Rosetta about the project and then open the floor to yes or no comments.

Q - Why not somewhere else?

Mr. Rosetta - He needed a specific location to make his proposal work.

Q - What area is he talking about?

Mr. Rosetta - The wooded area between the stone garden area and the shelter area.

Q - Where would you provide for parking?

Mr. Rosetta - They would have their own road or maybe use the existing road with improvements. There would be parking for 125 cars or more in the future.

Q - What effect do you think this project would have on I-77 traffic?

Mr. Rosetta - Did not think it would have a negative effect on I-77 traffic.

Q - Will the waterfalls be above the trees?

Mr. Rosetta - Did not know for sure.

Q - What about the Mother Goose area?

Mr. Rosetta - That area is not as nice, less exposure, bike trail has a problem crossing Tuscarawas, a bad area.

Q - Who owns the property?

Mr. Black - The property is owned by the City, but is under the control and management of the Park Commission.

Q - Are there deed restrictions on the property?

Ms. Poorman, Community Development Director - Our research did not show any.

Q - Is it seasonal?

Mr. Rosetta - Yes, but would try to keep parts open all year.

Q - What plan do you have for increased traffic and parking problems? Getting people in and out?

Mr. Rosetta - There was an upgrade planned for Fulton Rd. at the park road that would add a light. Could build more parking in the future if needed.

Ms. Cirelli - A project should improve an area not destroy one. The Mother Gooseland area made more sense.

Q - What about the Monument Road residents? What are you going to do for us?

Mr. Rosetta - I was talking about them. The center would be out of sight in the woods.

Q - Would bikes be on the street? Bikes on the street would be a concern.

Mr. Rosetta - The bikes would be used on the planned trail in the park.

Q - What about security? Would this mean more Park Police?

Mr. Rosetta - With the increase of people in the area, there should be less crime. He would have security in the center including cameras.

Q - What's to keep kids who are supposed to be in school from his center?

Mr. Rosetta - It is a long walk from the school.

At this point Mr. Black asked for general yes or no type comments.

There were many and those below are representative:

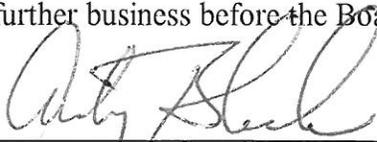
A few people spoke for the project; need things for kids to do, jobs for people.

Those against: just seasonal jobs, low wage jobs, Canton would have to upgrade lots of things to accommodate you. Idea is good, location is bad. Park land should not be released once gone not coming back.

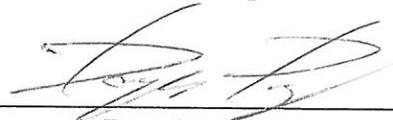
Councilmember Hart spoke stating he was against using Stadium Park as a site for this development. He challenged Mr. Rosetta to work with Council and the Administration to find another site.

Mr. Black then stated that the Board would review all the information, both from the meeting and the many other responses they had received. The issue would be dealt again at the next regular meeting on June 1st at 4:00 p.m.

Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.



Andy Black
President



Douglas Perry
Director/Secretary