

AGENDA

CANTON BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2008

GARDEN CENTER BUILDING

4:00 P.M.

Welcome recently appointed Board Member, Mr. Jack Angelo.

Reading of the minutes of the April 9, 2008 regular meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Pinnacle Press
2. Nimisilla Park Lay Area
3. Park System Rules & Regulations
4. Park Police
5. Possible Tree Commission
6. Water Park
7. Timken Earth Day/Leadership Stark County Cleanup
8. Willig Field Project
9. Clean Ohio Fund Meeting
10. HUD Waterworks Playground
11. Donations in support of Holiday Light Display

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Canton/Stark County Convention and Visitors Bureau - Possible move into Garden Center Building
2. Stark County Urban Minority Alcoholism & Drug Addiction Outreach Project requesting to use Cook Park on June 14-15, 2008, to hold a Juneteenth Event

3. Canton Temple of Praise Church of God requesting to use Harmont Park on August 23, 2008, to hold their "Day in the Park" event
4. The Celtic Club requesting to use Mallonn Park on June 7, 2008, to hold a Gaelic Athletic Association Hurling Game
5. Building Healthy Communities requesting to use Crenshaw Park on July 19 as a part of their "SE Block Party" Event
6. Canton Parks Finalist for Best of Stark County Awards, May 16, 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
7. Received copy of Presidential Proclamation for National Park Week, 2008

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

CANTON PARK COMMISSION

BOARD MINUTES

MAY 14, 2008

The Canton Board of Park Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, May 14, 2008, at the Garden Center Building.

Present were: Mr. Andy Black, President; Mr. Jack Angelo, Member; and Mr. Douglas V. Perry, Director/Secretary; and guests.

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m.

At this time Mr. Jack Angelo was welcomed as a newly appointed member of the Park Commission.

A motion was then made by A. Black to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2008 regular meeting as written. A second was provided by J. Angelo, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Pinnacle Press - The Director reported to the Board that Mr. Burns of the Law Department had informed him that he had been talking to the new attorney for Pinnacle, but that no agreement had been reached.

The issue remained tabled.

2. Nimisilla Park Lay Area - The Board noted that Councilmember West was not at the meeting.

Mr. Black asked that the Director look at some properties around the Service Center to see if they would, or could, work as a potential new lay area and put together some cost estimates to try and put a number to what such a new area would run to establish.

The Director also pointed out that he thought Councilman West's original plan had been for a midget football league field in the area and that another plan had been proposed to put two midget football fields at old Riverside Park.

3. Park System Rules & Regulations - The Director reported that he had heard from Ms. Aylward of the Law Department that they are still working on the issue, but a final response should be coming soon.

Mr. Angelo stated he could see where there may be questions, but was not sure either if and how the rules could be enforced.

Mr. Winberry arrived at the meeting and took his seat.

At this time President Black decided to move to the first item under new business.

1. Canton/Stark County Convention and Visitors Bureau - Possible move into Garden Center Building - The Director presented the Board with a letter from the Canton/Stark County Convention and Visitor's Bureau asking about the possibility of their renting or leasing space at the Garden Center for their operation.

Mr. John Kiste explained that they had to vacate their current location very soon. The building belonged to the Pro Football Hall of Fame, and they had plans that included the removal of the building. They had no time to build and were looking for a place that would be permanent.

Mr. Black asked how much space they have or need. Mr. Kiste said he thought they had 1000 to 1500 sq. ft. now and would need at least 800 to 1000 sq. ft.

Mr. Black and Mr. Kiste both stated they did not know if there would be enough room at the Garden Center.

Mr. Kiste asked about the Canton Garden Center's connection to the building. Ms. DeHoff stated that the money for the building was donated with the idea of a home for their organization.

Ms. Bonnie Popa, Canton Garden Center President, told Mr. Kiste they had nothing against the Visitor's Center. In fact, if they were at the Garden Center, it may help their gift shop, but they just do not know what they would do without the space as they hold many functions there.

Mr. Kiste asked Mr. Boutros, the Garden Center Manager, how many times the Center was used. Mr. Boutros stated over 100 times per year. Mr. Kiste stated he did not know that the building was used that much.

Mr. Black asked the Director if there were any deed restrictions on the property or building, and if a section could be leased.

The Director stated a lease may be possible, but that it would most likely have to be a bid process open to all. He did not know of any deed restrictions, but would ask Community Development if they knew of any.

No action was taken on the issue.

The Board returned to Old Business issues at number 5 on the agenda.

OLD BUSINESS:

5. Possible Tree Commission - The Director reported that the Law Director had presented the proposed tree ordinance City Council this past Monday. The Law Director stated they were one step closer with a couple more details to be worked out.

Mr. Moeglin stated that the questions remaining were what the staff would be, where the staff would be, and how would the program be funded.

6. Water Park - The Director reported that Assistant Director Foltz had been asked to be on a new water park committee. He also submitted a status report Mr. Foltz had prepared on May 12, 2008, for the Board's review.
7. Timken Earth Day/Leadership Stark County Cleanup - The Director reported that both of these events were successful. On the Timken Earth Day, twenty volunteers planted 217 trees in four parks. On the Leadership Stark County Cleanup Day, over 80 volunteers picked up an estimated one ton of trash and two tons of woody debris.

Mr. Black asked if the group was trying to make the cleanup an annual event. The Director stated they were trying to set it up to do so.

8. Willig Field Project - the Director informed the Board that there was a couple of recent change orders, but the project should finish up in June.
9. Clean Ohio Fund Meeting - The Director reported that he had attended a meeting on the effort to renew the Clean Ohio Fund. The meeting was given by the Nature Conservancy and the Ohio League of Conservation voters. They asked that organizations that benefit from the fund consider passing a resolution in support of the passage of the Clean Ohio Fund renewal in November.

After reviewing the proposed resolution, a motion to pass it was made by A. Black. A second was provided by L. Winberry, and the resolution passed by unanimous vote.

10. HUD Waterworks Playground - The Director reported that Ms. West of Community Development had informed him that the approval to change the location of the playground can only come from Congressman Regula. She stated that she had informed the Service Director. The Director stated he had emailed the Service Director to ask if he had talked to the Congressman as yet, but had not received a response. Mr. Black stated he would like to meet with Mr. Casar about the issue as he did not want to see the City lose the grant. Mr. Black would provide the Director some dates and times to try and setup a meeting. The Director also stated he had received information that the grant was a reimbursement. He also had heard that our application for a ODNR Scrap Tire Grant to add to the project was not approved.

11. Donations in support of Holiday Light Display - The Director informed the Board that he had asked the Canton Garden Center to act as the fiscal agent for funds received to pay for electric service, materials and supplies, electric facilities, and other related expenses. He reported that they had agreed to partner with the Park Commission and perform the function.

There was conversation about how to go about asking for donations and some potential donors. Mr. Moeglin had stated he had talked to someone from AEP and would provide that contact name to the Director.

There was also talk about how to recognize donors.

Ms. Popa also asked that the Canton Garden Center be informed of the list of who had been asked for donations.

At this time Mr. Moeglin, Canton City Engineer, asked for time to address the Board as he had to be somewhere else at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Black gave him the floor.

Mr. Moeglin presented the Board with a revised plan to upgrade the intersection of Fulton Road and Stadium Park Drive. The plan would provide for a sidewalk that would be a part of the Countywide Trail coming through Stadium Park and a light at the intersection for people trying to cross Fulton Road. Mr. Moeglin also stated that the plan included lighting that would also provide a connection that could be used as a part of the Commission's Holiday Light Displays. The project was to have a 2009 start.

Mr. Moeglin also talked about a possible new park in an area now known as the Fairhope Preserve. The project started as a drainage improvement plan, but thanks to a Clean Ohio Grant could turn into a passive park area and be turned over to the Park Commission. The grant did not provide all the funds necessary to do this, and he was working with Council to obtain the additional \$100,000 necessary. He stated that a management plan would need to be developed for the area.

Mr. Moeglin talked about the need of a bridge in Martindale Park across the Middlebranch of the Nimishillen Creek to connect a major portion of the Countywide Trail going through that area. He mentioned a project in the area to correct a sanitary sewer problem and the County sewer ran in the area also. He stated both the City and County sewer need access to the area and that possibly both sanitary funds could be used to help pay for the bridge.

Mr. Moeglin mentioned an upcoming meeting with regard to the Countywide Trail through Stadium Park and a meeting with regard to the possible redevelopment of the old Riverside Park. He also asked about the development of a Park brochure. Mr. Black asked that a Park brochure be added to old business for the next meeting.

The Board expressed no objections to the plans reviewed.

At this point Mr. Moeglin left the meeting.

Ms. Faye Heston then asked to address the Board. Mr. Black gave her the floor.

Ms. Heston thanked the Board for their support during the construction of the Children's Garden. She also thanked the Director and the staff who she said were always there and were great to work with on the project. She reported to the Board that the Children's Garden Committee had raised two separate funds. One was to provide money for education purposes and one to provide for maintenance needs at the Garden. The funds were being handled at the Stark Community Foundation.

The Board then returned to the Agenda items.

NEW BUSINESS:

2. Stark County Urban Minority Alcoholism & Drug Addiction Outreach Project requesting to use Cook Park on June 14-15, 2008, to hold a Juneteenth Event - The Board discussed the above request, and a motion was then made by A. Black to approve the request with an insurance requirement and a strong recommendation to move the event to Nimisilla Park. A second was provided by L. Winberry, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.
3. Canton Temple of Praise Church of God requesting to use Harmont Park on August 23, 2008, to hold their "Day in the Park" event - The Board reviewed this repeat event, and a motion was then made by A. Black to approve it with an insurance requirement. A second was provided by L. Winberry, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.
4. The Celtic Club requesting to use Mallonn Park on June 7, 2008, to hold a Gaelic Athletic Association Hurling Game - The Board discussed this request. Mr. Black asked that the Director forward him more information on how the game is played. A motion to approve the request with an insurance requirement was made by A. Black. A second was made by L. Winberry, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.
5. Building Healthy Communities requesting to use Crenshaw Park on July 19 as a part of their "SE Block Party" Event - After a brief discussion, a motion was made by A. Black to approve the request with an insurance requirement. A second was provided by J. Angelo, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.
6. Canton Parks Finalist for Best of Stark County Awards, May 16, 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. - The Director informed the Board that he would attend the luncheon to represent the Board.
7. Received copy of Presidential Proclamation for National Park Week, 2008 - the Director presented the Board with a note from former Mayor Creighton along with a copy of the proclamation that she had sent from the White House.

Mr. Black asked if a thank you had been sent. The Director stated one would be sent in the morning.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Westbrook Park United Methodist church requesting to use Westbrook Veterans Memorial Park on August 16, 2008 to hold the Neighborhood Association (WVMPN) annual "Picnic-In-the-Park" event.

A motion to approve this request with an insurance requirement was made by A. Black. A second was provided by L. Winberry, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

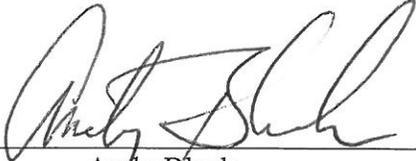
2. The Director informed the Board that the first spraying for Gypsy Moth control at Nimisilla Park took place on the 13th and the park would be sprayed once more in about a week.
3. The Director reminded the Board that the annual Recreation Fish Derby was to be this Saturday, May 17.

The Board returned to a remaining item under old business at this time.

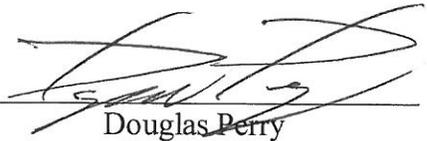
4. Park Police - The Director informed the Board that two people had passed the Park Police Sergeant test. He and the Assistant Director interviewed the two and both recommend Mr. Mike Swihart. Mr. Swihart is currently a CPD Officer. The Director recommended a starting salary of \$47,000 and at least the standard drug test. The Board will follow the Human Resources recommendation on any other test to be given.

A motion to offer the position to Mr. Swihart at a starting salary of \$47,000 was made by A. Black pending passage of all required tests. A second was provided by L. Winberry, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.



Andy Black
President



Douglas Perry
Director/Secretary

CANTON BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CLEAN OHIO FUND

It is determined and confirmed that the Canton Board of Park Commissioners supports a fully funded renewal of the Clean Ohio Fund bond package.

WHEREAS, the renewal of the Clean Ohio Fund bond package will be on the November 4, 2008 ballot.

WHEREAS, a 400 million renewal of the Clean Ohio Fund will meet the growing demand for green space conservation projects, brownfield revitalization, recreational trail development, and farmland preservation.

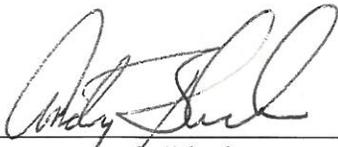
WHEREAS, conservation purposes means conservation and preservation of natural areas, open spaces, and farmlands and revitalization purposes means providing for and enabling environmentally safe and productive development and use or reuse of publically and privately owned lands through remediation or clean up.

WHEREAS, to date the Clean Ohio Fund has funded over 700 projects preserving over 26,000 acres of natural areas and 16,000 acres of farms, creating more than 216 miles of recreational trails, and cleaning up 141 polluted sites.

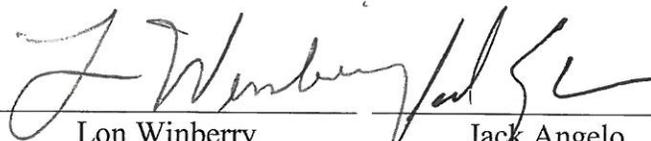
WHEREAS, the annual allocation for each program year will continue as follows: \$50 million for brownfield revitalization, \$37.5 million for green space preservation, \$6.25 million for farmland preservation, and \$6.25 million for recreational trails.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the said investment will improve the quality of life for Ohioans and help promote the mission of the Canton Board of Park Commissioners, and we support and endorse the renewal of the Clean Ohio Fund.

Signed May 14, 2008



Andy Black
President



Lon Winberry
Vice President



Jack Angelo
Member

Douglas V. Perry
Director/Secretary

Marilyn Thomas Jones
Vice President

Andy Black
President

CANTON PARK COMMISSION

Lon Winberry
Member

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May 22, 2008

Ms. Linda Patterson
Human Resources
City of Canton

Dear Ms. Patterson:

The Park Commissioners have offered Mr. Mike Swihart the position of Sergeant Park Police, and he has accepted. Please see attached letter.

As per the letter, his salary will be \$47,000 per year and is a non-exempt management position.

The starting date will be as soon as Mr. Swihart passes any required tests and is available.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Respectfully,



Douglas Perry
Director/Secretary

DP/bv

Attachment

cc: Auditor
Treasurer
Civil Service
Minutes
File

Douglas V. Perry
Director/Secretary

Marilyn Thomas Jones
Vice President

Andy Black
President

Lon Winberry
Member

CANTON PARK COMMISSION

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E-mail: cantonparks@ci.canton.oh.us

May 21, 2008

Mr. Mike Swihart
5707 Drenta Cr. SW
Navarre OH 44662

Dear Mr. Swihart:

The Canton Board of Park Commissioners is pleased to offer you the position of Sergeant, Park Police, at the starting rate of \$47,000 per year. There may be a salary review in three to six months after your start date.

This position is a non-exempt management, non-bargaining unit position and enjoys the same benefits as other like new City management positions.

You are reminded that currently new management hires pay their own PERS and do not receive longevity. Also, this offer is pending the passage of any tests determined to be necessary by the Park Commission and the Director of Human Resources.

Please advise my office if you accept the position. A starting date will be set by mutual agreement as soon as possible.

Respectfully,



Douglas Perry
Director/Secretary

DP/bv

I ACCEPT THE POSITION
Michael D. Swihart