

AGENDA

CANTON BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2010

GARDEN CENTER BUILDING

4:00 P.M.

Reading of the minutes of the October 20, 2010 regular meeting

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Old Riverside Park Issues
2. Park Brochure Development
3. Possible Dominion Easements Reifsnyder, Oak and Martindale Parks
4. Welch Playground Improvements
5. Ohio Plan Playground Evaluation

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Tom Meister, Harter Heights Neighborhood Association, - Proposals for Green Acres Park
2. Clear Channel Outdoor Electronic Message Center Location
3. Proposed Inter-Agency Agreement regarding the New Middlebranch Trail

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

CANTON PARK COMMISSION

BOARD MINUTES

NOVEMBER, 2010

The Canton Board of Park Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, November 10, 2010, at the Garden Center Building.

Present were: Mr. Andy Black, President; Mr. Jack Angelo, Vice President; Mr. Frank Morris III, Member; Mr. Douglas Perry, Director/Secretary; and Mr. Douglas Foltz, Assistant Director. There were also several guests.

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m.

Reading of the minutes of the October 20, 2010 regular meeting. A motion was made by J. Angelo to approve the minutes as written. A second was provided by F. Morris, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Old Riverside Park Issues - The Director reported that he had received no new information on this issue. Mr. Black reported that he had talked to Mr. Burns of the Law Department about the property and had been informed that it was still in CCIC hands, and there were still some issues involving the conversion and Welch Playground.
2. Park Brochure Development - The Director reported that he had not received any new information regarding the map, but had been told Engineering was working on it.
3. Possible Dominion Easements Reifsnyder, Oak and Martindale Parks - The Director told the Board that Dominion had submitted a proposed license agreement that would then be come an easement. He told them he had some discussion with Rick Bodenschatz of the City Engineer's Office, and they had proposed a couple of changes.

Mr. Black asked if it was known where the money from the easement would go? Would it be coming back to the Board for use in the parks?

The Board questioned if the suggested easement fee was a fair number and wondered how the fee was determined. The Director stated he would try and find out.

The Board took no action on the easement.

4. Welch Playground Improvements - The Director reported that the plans to improve the playground were coming together. The Recreation District was going to provide for a new backstop at the ball field, and new posts, goals, and backboards for the basketball court. The Service Director has provided the funds to repave the basketball court and possibly for a drinking fountain. The City is looking for the necessary funds to order the equipment for a new playground climber, and the Park System would then provide the funds and labor to repair and reopen the old bathroom building, install the drinking fountain, and construct sidewalks.

City Engineer Moeglin stated he had been asked to extend the streetscaping from the new fire station along the park. He stated it could be done for \$50 to \$60,000. The Director asked where the funds for that would come from next year. Mr. Moeglin stated the funds would come from the capital fund and did not see that as a problem for next year.

5. Ohio Plan Playground Evaluation - The Director reported to the Board that the man from the insurance company had a meeting with the Recreation District and himself and went over issues he had with the play areas. The Director reported that he had not received anything in writing yet, but it looked like most of the older play equipment may have to be removed, replaced, and/or have safety surfacing installed. He also stated the Recreation Director, her foreman, Doug Foltz and himself had begun an inventory and listing of the play equipment in each park.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Tom Meister, Harter Heights Neighborhood Association - proposals for Green Acres Park - Tom and Sue Meister were given the opportunity to address the Board. They presented the Board with a landscaping plan that included the removal of the ball field and fencing around the park. In addition, removal of the older play equipment. The plan would add trees, gardens, and a walking path in the park. They felt the plan could be done in stages and of course, the Park System would still be picking up trash and mowing the areas. Mr. Black thanked them for bringing their plans to the Board and was glad to have their interest and efforts.

The Director reported to the Board that he had asked the Recreation Director about their use of the field and had been told the field was used and to please not give it up.

The Meisters stated they did not see the field used this year.

Mr. Morris stated the Little League used it last year, and it was a good spot for the little kids and would like to keep the field.

Mr. Angelo asked if the plan had been presented at a neighborhood meeting as he had received a call from a person from the neighborhood expressing concern about the loss of the fencing and kids running into the street. The Meisters stated it had been discussed at a meeting, and there had been support for the plan.

Ms. Meister stated they already had some commitments in support of the plan at this time.

Mr. Angelo asked if the group had a time line?

Mr. Meister stated the plan was not an absolute, but they just needed to know that it was alright to proceed to make plans.

Mr. Black suggested that it may be best to meet with the Recreation District to see what the uses were on the field.

Mr. Morris stated he agreed it was best to find out if the ball programs could do without the field.

Mr. Black suggested the Director also attend that meeting to check on the lot use

Mr. Moeglin stated that there were also plans for a trail at the new Mallonn Park and maybe that area was best for a trail.

Ms. Meister stated she understands about the trail at Mallonn Park, but would still like to see Green Acres developed into a "pocket" park.

The Director asked if a former plan by the group to see the park turned into a dog park was finished.

The Meisters stated that the dog park idea was indeed gone.

Mr. Black stated that the group should continue to develop their plans and check with the Recreation District to see if they could afford to lose the ball field.

2. Clear Channel Outdoor Electronic Message Center Location - The Director pointed out to the Board that the Service Director was at the meeting to discuss this issue. Mr. Black gave the floor to Director Price.

Director Price first thanked the Director and Assistant Director and the Board for their cooperation on the current efforts to improve Welch Playground. He stated all projects should work that way.

Director Price then recounted his history with regard to a location for this message center. He stated this effort went back to when he first started and before he became Service Director. He was told by a former Councilmember that there was an interest in moving two billboards from the downtown locations. One was next to the new Timken High School Campus, and another one was nearby. The effort was being taken by the Downtown Improvement District and the schools.

The original location looked at as a replacement site was on Water Department property in the 38th St. NW area, but the neighbors objected, and that location was dropped.

He said that lots of people have been involved and Clear channel has been good to work with, but that once it got to City government, things like zoning and who controlled the property got lost. He informed the Board that there was an ordinance in Council to resolve the zoning issues. He also stated that because of ODOT requirements, there can only be so many bill boards within a certain area and that is when the West Park area became a location of interest. He stated that back in May he had asked the Park Director to provide him information on the West Park location which he had done.

He asked the Board to table the item so that the issues could be worked out before any formal action was taken by the Board.

Mr. Black stated that there was no formal request before the Board at this time. Mr. Michael Gill of the Downtown Improvement District stated that the project did indeed pre-date Director Price, and the effort was to remove the bill boards from the current location because they just do not look good.

Mr. Black stated he just wanted to make sure the new sign does not end up a problem in the future with someone asking what was Board was thinking when they allowed the sign. He wanted to make sure they did not open the door to other companies to ask to place ads in the parks. He was more than willing to talk about the project, but felt the Park Commission had an obligation to provide for parks and not advertising space.

Mr. Angelo stated he would like to see a concept plan.

Mr. Black said there may be other areas more acceptable to everyone.

Mr. David Yale stated he had talked to the Park Director and would like to work on the issues raised. He said ODOT controls where a permit can be obtained. Mr. Morris stated that Mr. Angelo and he had discussed the issue before the meeting and he knew it had been in the works for several years. He too would like to see a plan. He also stated he thought the parks should get money from the sign. Director Price said he also thought the parks should get the money if the sign ended up on park property. He also said he would like the Director to be in on any meetings if park property was going to be used.

Mr. Morris stated he had not seen the letter between the Directors. Director Perry stated he would see that Mr. Morris and Mr. Angelo got copies.

Mr. Black stated he had been aware and thought he had mentioned it at an earlier board meeting.

3. Proposed Inter-Agency Agreement regarding the New Middlebranch Trail - City Engineer, Dan Moeglin, reviewed the trail plan with the Board. Mr. Angelo asked if the Martindale bridge was set to go forward. Mr. Moeglin stated that it was; however, he was checking on a subcontractor.

Mr. Moeglin requested that the Board approve and authorize the Director to sign the proposed Inter-Agency Agreement between the City of Canton, the Canton Board of Park Commissioners, and Stark Parks. He was also requesting that the Board officially support the grant effort to obtain approximately 12 more acres to add to the Fairhope Project.

Mr. Angelo asked when the new area would be open to the public? Mr. Moeglin stated he thought it would be in April, 2011. He also stated that gates for the area had been purchased.

Mr. Morris asked where the money was going to come from to purchase the property? Mr. Moeglin stated that 74% of the property value would be paid through a Clean Ohio Grant and the property owner was going to donate the rest.

Mr. Moeglin also said he was also looking at a 3 acre property to provide for a better connection between the two properties that make up Mallonn Park.

Mr. Black asked if the County Park Rangers patrolling City properties would be a problem? Mr. Angelo stated he did not think so. Mr. Moeglin added that there should be a master agreement regarding the trails at a later date.

A motion was then made by A. Black to approve the agreement and authorize the Director to sign for the Board. A second was made by F. Morris, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

A motion was then made by J. Angelo to support the effort to obtain a grant to add approximately 12 acres to the Fairhope Project. A second was made by F. Morris, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. At this time Mr. Moeglin asked the Board for some additional time.

He told the Board that he had recently done a presentation on the "Complete Streets" concept. The concept was involved in accounting for all kinds of transportation methods in future planning. He felt that following the concept would make Canton a more liveable city. He stated he would be presenting the idea to Council in the near future. He also stated there would be an agreement later to define what trails the County Park System would be involved in.

2. Stark Social Workers Network requesting to use Nimisilla Park basketball courts to hold a "Ballin' Out of Control" tournament on July 8, 9, & 10, 2011, from noon to 6:00 p.m. each day.

A motion to approve the request with an insurance requirement was made by J. Angelo. A second was provided by F. Morris, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

3. The Board next reviewed the capital improvement list submitted by Director Perry and Assistant Director Foltz. The Board will review the list and discuss at the next meeting.

Mr. Moeglin stated that grant requests must be in place by February 1st of 2011. He also mentioned he sat on a County group that helps in the grant process. He stated that he had several projects to submit with the priorities being trails.

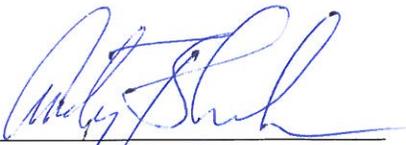
4. The Board reviewed the 2011 schedule submitted by the Canton Garden Center for use of the Garden Center building.

A motion was then made by J. Angelo to approve the requested schedule. A second was provided by F. Morris, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

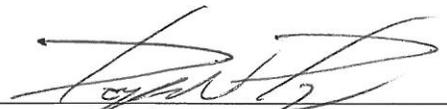
5. Crisis Intervention and Recovery Center requesting to use Westbrook Park and the shelter on September 11, 2011, to hold their annual "Out of the Darkness" walk from approximately 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

A motion to approve this request with an insurance requirement was made by J. Angelo. A second was provided by F. Morris, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.



Andy Black
President



Douglas Perry
Director/Secretary