

CANTON PARK COMMISSION

BOARD MINUTES

OCTOBER, 2009

The Canton Board of Park Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, October 14, 2009, at the Garden Center Building.

Present were: Mr. Andy Black, President; Mr. Lon Winberry, Vice President; Mr. Jack Angelo, Member; Mr. Douglas Perry, Director/Secretary; and Mr. Douglas Foltz, Assistant Director. There were also a couple of guests.

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

At this time a motion was made by A. Black to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2009 regular meeting as written. A second was provided by J. Angelo, 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 with regard to this issue. The members had also had nothing new to report. The issue remained tabled.
2. Park Brochure Development - The Director reported that he had obtained a volunteer to try and do the layout for the brochure; however, he had not had the time to work with them as yet. The issue was tabled until the next meeting.
3. Possible Name Change for Playground F – Ms. Sarver from the O.U.R. Neighborhood Association reported that they liked the sign suggested by the Director with one requested addition. They asked that the letters of their organization be spelled out on the sign: Opportunity, Unity, and Respect.

A motion was then made by J. Angelo to approve the group's effort to have a sign made and installed at the park as long as the Director approved the placement, and the sign met zoning requirements. In addition that the name of the playground would now be called the Bernard Avenue Playground. A second was made by A. Black, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

4. Name and signage for trail along West Branch of Nimishillen Creek – The proposed sign layout provided by the Stark County Park District was discussed. The Director stated he had concerns about the Stark Parks logo being on the sign as that would lead to confusion with the public as to who the trails belong to. He also suggested the name of the trail be “West Branch Trail” as it was mostly along the West Branch of the Nimishillen Creek. He also suggested that Middle Branch Trail should be the

name of the new section of trail to be built starting in Schreiber Park as it will follow the Middle Branch of the Nimishillen.

The Board agreed that the Stark Parks logo could be confusing and stated that the Canton Park System name and tree logo should be on the sign.

Mr. Black expressed some concern as to if Stark Parks had already spent money on the trail name as shown in the proposal, but otherwise the Board had no problem with the Director's suggested name.

The Director is to contact Stark Parks with the ideas and concerns and suggest a meeting with Stark Parks staff.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Easement request from Dominion East Ohio Gas at Ink Park- The requested easement was discussed. Mr. Black stated he would not support the request without a more specific description as to what Dominion would be able to do on the property. Mr. Angelo asked about compensation.

The issue was tabled, and the Director was instructed to communicate their concerns to the Engineering Department.

2. Director requesting permission to allow the trapping of muskrat and raccoon within the Park System for the 2009-2010 season - There was a short discussion about controlling the number of these animals in the Park System, and then a motion was made by A.Black to approve the request. A second was provided by J. Angelo, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.
3. City Engineer informing the Board that the City has received a grant for the construction of a trail from Schreiber Park through Martindale Parks - There was discussion regarding the construction of this trail by City crews given the current economic conditions. The Director was instructed to contact the City Engineer and inform him of the Board's interest in this possibility.
4. Proposed sign for Willig Field from the Recreation District - The Board reviewed the proposed sign. They expressed no concerns with the green color layout.

A motion was then made by J. Angelo to approve their request to have the sign placed at Willig Field as long as it met zoning regulations. A second was made by L. Winberry, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

5. 2009 Voluntary Employee Furlough Program - The Board reviewed the voluntary employee furlough program for management and non-bargaining unit employees developed by the administration to help make up for projected budget shortfalls in the City budget. It would allow for three furlough days to be taken prior to December 19, 2009.

Mr. Black stated that the Board, for the most part, approved such proposals for its employees.

Mr. Black then made a motion to approve the City program for Park Commission Management/Non-bargaining unit employees. A second was made by J. Angelo. The vote was as follows:

Mr. Black - yes
Mr. Winberry - no
Mr. Angelo - yes.

The motion was then passed.

6. Stark County Disc Golf Association requesting to trade a new basket for an old basket, consideration for expanding the course to 37 holes, and possible sponsorship signs - The Director informed the Board that the Association representative could not attend so the sponsorship signs would not be discussed. The Board then reviewed a proposed layout for additional "holes" for the disc golf course. The Director also explained that they wanted to exchange a new basket for an old basket at the Veteran's hole. Mr. Angelo suggested that the old basket should be sold for a dollar.

A motion was then made by A. Black to sell the old basket to the Stark County Disc Golf Association for the new replacement basket plus one dollar. A second was provided by J. Angelo, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

The Board expressed no objections to making the course larger, but final layout would still need to be approved by them.

7. PAC Neighborhood Association requesting to use Nimisilla Park on August 20, 2010 to hold their "Back to School Celebration" - The Board reviewed this request. Mr. Foltz told them of some parking issues with the activity, but stated we were working with them to resolve them.

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

8. Director requesting for both the Assistant Director and himself to attend the Stark Parks Environmental Conference in November and the OPRA Conference in January - The Director stated that as the Environmental Conference was in Stark County, the OPRA Conference was going to be in Akron and registration costs could be paid using the Garden Center fund. There would be no costs to the City for registration, meals or hotels.

A motion was made by J. Angelo to approve the request. A second was provided by L. Winberry, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

At this time Member Angelo made a motion to go into an executive session to discuss discipline issues regarding a Commission employee. A second was provided by A. Black. The vote as follows:

Mr. Black - yes
Mr. Winberry - yes
Mr. Angelo - yes

The guests were excused, and the Board went into executive session.

Member Angelo made a motion to return to open session. Mr. Black provided a second, and the vote was as follows:

Mr. Black - yes
Mr. Winberry - yes
Mr. Angelo - yes

The Board then returned to the meeting agenda with the next item.

9. Director informing the Board that Sergeant Swihart of the Park Police had resigned effective October 2, 2009 - The Board discussed how this would save money as they expected it would be late winter before anyone would be hired.

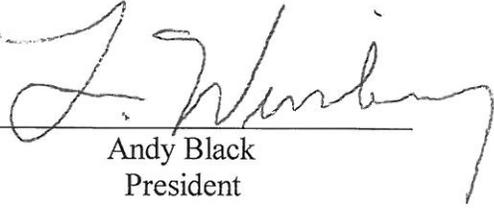
The Director was instructed to contact Civil Service to arrange for a test to be given to establish a new list of replacements.

OTHER BUSINESS:

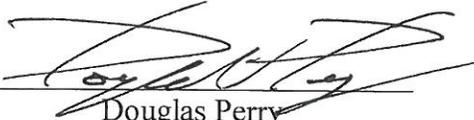
1. The Director presented the Board with Stadium Park drive traffic counts done in 2007. The counts covered the weekend before the light displays were on and the next weekend when they were on. The numbers show a large increase in traffic when the lights are on.
2. The Director presented the Board with a recap of a park and recreation comparison he had put together after a meeting with the Recreation Board. The Board took no action as a result of the information.
3. The Director reported that the Auditor's Office has not paid the contractor for the HUD playground project. It seems the account was not properly created. The Director reported that he had talked to the Budget Director, and she has said she has assigned Community Development to resolve the problem.

4. The Director presented the Board with copies of the budget he submitted for FY 2010. As instructed, funding for the two Operator II's lost in 2009 was included in the 2010 request.

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



Andy Black
President



Douglas Perry
Director/Secretary