

Huntingburg Park Board

June 18, 2012

Park Board Members Present: Mike Fulkerson, Mande Keusch, Jason Lange, and Joyce Fleck.

City Employees Present: Jim Rueger and Phil Schneider, City Attorney

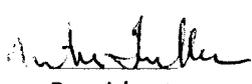
- I. Mande made the motion to approve the claims. Joyce seconded. Board approved 4-0.
- II. Mike made the motion to approve the May 21st minutes. Jason seconded. Board approved 4-0.
- III. Splash Park- Ralph Wallem, President of Benchmark Services, was present to discuss a location for the splash park. Ralph mentioned that he looked at 7 criteria items for the site: safety of the users, for all age groups, 60' x 40' maximum size, 5 toys for younger children and 5-10 toys for older ages, shade with umbrella or awnings and tables or benches, room to expand, and times of usage. The North site has a grade slope South to North that would require fill dirt to level the area and a retaining wall. Utility availability is not as accessible and longer runs would be needed for electrical and sewer hookups. The site is next to the sidewalk and is close to a main roadway and is also prone to getting foul balls from League Stadium. The South site is a flat site, utilities are close and the sanitary sewer is more accessible, and is far enough away from the tennis and basketball courts for the safety criteria. Ralph recommended the South site as the better site than the North site. He also stated that if the neither site can be decided upon a site south of the tennis courts could be used and not connected to the existing swimming pool. Along with his study, the Indiana State Board of Health requires our water to go into the sanitary sewer, not a storm sewer, regardless of which site is chosen. This will add costs to us on our monthly sewer bill. Mike asked for Board member comments and several people in the audience spoke up. City Attorney Phil reminded those in attendance that this meeting was not a public hearing and that the chair can take comments from the audience if he chooses to. Resident Jon Bohnenkemper stated that he along with other residents, spoke to parents at the pool about their preference and most commented in favor of the North side. He also noted the funding was there to build at either site and the Board should consider the citizens opinions before reaching a decision. Jeff Summers, former Park Board member, has been in favor of the North site from the beginning and questioned the fact that the Board had voted unanimously in November of 2011 for the North site and why there has been no progress. Mike and Jason acknowledged Jeff for his dedication to the project, but stated that due to new information with engineering there is reason for more consideration. Tim Wehr, also a resident, urged the Board to make a final decision and proceed with this project. Jason commented that he and the Board have asked for detailed cost comparisons between sites and would like to see these before they vote on a location. A motion was made by Jason and seconded by Mande to hire Ralph Wallem to get actual cost analysis on both sites so a true comparison of cost can be made. This would include electric, plumbing, sewer, fencing, sidewalk, etc. Ralph said he would have the estimates ready in about two weeks.
- IV. Director's Report
 - A. City Auction is being held Saturday, June 23rd. The Parks Department has items listed as surplus to be put into the auction. Mike made a motion to declare items for the auction as surplus. Jason seconded. Board approved 4-0.
 - B. A request from Scott Gladish, who started the fall Old School Baseball League, asked if the Parks Department would be interested in taking over the League. Mike made a motion to not take over the OSBL. Mande seconded. Board approved 4-0.
 - C. 2013 budget is due by the end of July. Jim mentioned capital items for next year could include: playground surfacing and equipment, Frisbee golf, funding for League Stadium, maintenance equipment, a new fence at the Bark Park, and new dugouts for South Side Park. Jim asked the Board to let him know of any additional items that they might want added to the capital fund.

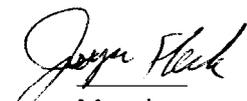
D. Projects:

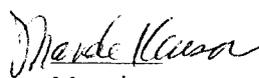
1. The restroom at Niehaus Park is completed and opened on June 15th.
2. Approximately 210' of the City Park walking trail will be torn out and replaced with concrete. The area is between the girls and men's softball fields. Our employees will be doing the concrete work.
3. Missy Abell has painted the Rockford Peaches sign under the manual scoreboard. She will paint the Coca-Cola sign next. We will try to schedule the worst signs first.
4. KWK will be working on the tennis courts. They will clean, patch and re-caulk the two courts. Park Department employees will repaint the court when KWK is finished.

V. Comments – Jason asked about removing the 2 old light poles at the men's field that are embedded in the concrete walk. They are from the old light poles that were damaged by woodpeckers. Our employees will be able to cut them down below the concrete level and pour concrete where the poles are now. Mande and Jim both have conflicts with the next scheduled meeting on Monday July 16th. It was decided to have the next meeting on Monday, July 9th.

VI. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.


President


Member


Member


Member