PARK COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
June 10, 2013
Bedford Township Hall
7:00 P.M.

Present: John Mohr, Chair, Connie Velliquette, Garnet Francis, Sally Dunn, & Joan Schockman.
Also Present: Cindy Amos, Community Education
Excused: Larry O'Dell, Board Liaison

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Chair John Mohr with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda: Francis added item Signage for Ball Diamonds under 10e Indian Creek Park under Old Business. Motion was made by Velliquette, seconded by Francis, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Velliquette, seconded by Dunn, to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2013, Park Board meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

Secretary’s Report: Francis said the $1,000 grant money from St. Luke’s Lutheran Church for playground equipment for Indian Creek Park was received.

Treasurer’s Report: Francis presented the Treasurer’s report, and she presented items for payment. She noted that Consumers Energy shows a credit for Parmelee Park. She mentioned that the T-J Roofing inspections are done annually for all buildings. She will cover the details later under White Park. Francis noted the two Stoneco expenses for the two types of stone purchased for all of the parks. She also noted that Total Expenses are larger than usual because four weeks passed since our previous board meeting. Motion was made by Francis, seconded by Schockman, to approve the treasurer’s report and payment of invoices totaling $9,278.38 as presented. Motion carried.

Presentations: None

Community Education: Amos indicated she just came in from the fields. After the heavy rain earlier in the day, they did get them ready for play. She indicated she might need to leave early if the rain returns. She reported that the numbers for Walk Bedford have been low. She reminded us that $200 is usually spent on gifts for all participants. There will be one grand prize of $100. Amos will make a list and email Francis, and she indicated she will have all the numbers by the next meeting.

Francis Family YMCA: Mohr reported that he had not heard from Toby Sass, so perhaps the skateboard seminar was cancelled.

Comments from the Public: None
OLD BUSINESS

Carr's Grove Park

Velliquette reported that she included four items on a work order for Carr’s Grove including graffiti on one of the tables in the outside shelter and residue on the sidewalk where something may have been burned. She said Gail Keane removed about 20 boxes from the Center (this should say the pole barn); she found another place for storing these. Velliquette mentioned she will be participating in Temperance Days on September 7. If you want to help, you should call Michelle Shepherd, Chair, at 419-708-7408.

Francis reported on the cancellation of the Carr’s Grove Community Center rental by Lena Rahal. A graduation party was cancelled due to the daughter’s hospitalization. Rahal had received a permit which indicates that there is a 30-day notice for cancellation, so we did not refund the down payment. Francis told Rahal that her short notice did not give us time to have someone else use the facility. Mohr commented that we went by the rules and regulations.

Velliquette reported that John Carr, J & R Construction, gave us a contract indicating a cost of $588.50 for installing awnings at Carr’s Grove Community Center. Bettinger Siding & Trim does not have the tools to install the awnings. Mohr said the amount is reasonable. Didn’t we vote to approve this expenditure?

Samaria Park

Francis reported that Rebecca Pasko, organizer of Bark for Life—a Relay for Life fundraising event, accepted the terms of $100 a night and a $200 refundable deposit when the key is returned. Pasko made a change to three nights—Friday, June 28, and Friday, July 12 at Carr’s Grove; and Sunday, July 21, at Samaria—for use of the Community Centers. They are planning to have a Family Night/Dinner and show a movie to raise money for the Bark for Life fundraiser.

Mohr indicated that the Samaria postal workers need to change the use of the Samaria Community Center from July 9 to July 15; they did not have time to get their letters out to the community. They want the facility from 3-5:30 PM. Velliquette emphasized that we need to go and support the Samaria Post Office remaining open.

Schockman indicated that maintenance needs to take care of a few items. Francis reported that the fire inspector will be visiting all buildings including Samaria to check the fire extinguishers. A company checks them and replaces those that do not have a charge. The fire extinguishers are then dated and signed.

Mohr mentioned that he attended his great-granddaughter’s second birthday party at Samaria Community Center, and the family raved about the facility.

White Park

Mohr indicated that the Thornton Fence Company bid for installing the fence at White was $2,300-$2,400. Thornton’s charge came in slightly higher. Mohr said Dan Thornton ran into crushed stone when using the auger for the posts; he had to pull out the stone by hand.
Mohr said Thornton used 2 1/2” posts in order to match those already installed. **Motion was made by Francis, seconded by Velliquette, to approve payment of $2,475 to Thornton Fence Company for the fencing around what used to be the RC track at White Park. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Dunn, Francis, Schockman, Velliquette, & Mohr. Nays: None.**

Mohr also reported that Thornton offered to purchase the old fence for $150. Francis suggested checking with Roger for suggestions. Perhaps we could get more if we sold the old fence for scrap metal. Francis can put this on Bedford Cable.

Francis reported on T-J Roofing’s roof inspections completed 4-19-13. Carr’s Grove and Samaria are fine. The gazebo at Samaria has missing shingles and chimney algae needs to be cleaned up. The White Park old and new concession stands have eight areas that need to be repaired. The maintenance on these buildings is the responsibility of 3-B baseball. Mohr will contact Carey Rakich about needed repairs.

Dunn reported that she and Velliquette met to decide placement of the three benches being built by Grant Bussell for his Eagle Scout Project. Dunn and Velliquette then met with Grant and his parents on May 25 to share the information. Dunn handed out to board members a copy of the memo and White Park map she gave to Bussell indicating placement of the benches.

Velliquette reported that two picnic tables need to be placed at White Park. There are grills in two locations, but there are no picnic tables. Francis indicated that two could be moved from the Indian Creek shelter. She will have Roger take care of this.

Francis also reported on a woman who called about her son who found a tick when he played ball at the Southwest diamond in the back corner of White Park. The mother suggested we have a sign warning of ticks. Francis emphasized that we do not spray for ticks.

**Parmelee Park**

Mohr brought up the skateboard issues discussed at our May 13 meeting. He said we will always have skateboard issues. After much discussion, it was decided to continue not allowing bikers in the skateboard park. Two main reasons were mentioned. The skateboard park is too small to accommodate both skateboarders and bikers, and we need to maintain the safety of our children. **Motion was made by Velliquette, seconded by Dunn, to continue our practice of no bikes allowed in the skateboard park at Parmelee Park. Motion carried.**

Mohr suggested Thornton Fence can give us an estimate for blocking bikers from entering the skateboard park. Velliquette suggested poles like those at Bedford High football stadium could be used. Mohr will talk with Dan Thornton.

Mohr reported that the electricity work still needs to be completed which will help with security.
Indian Creek Park

Dunn handed out her proposal for an Adopt-A-Park program in Bedford Township. The proposal will be reviewed by the other Park Board members and will be discussed and possibly accepted at the next Board meeting.

Dunn reported meeting with Ken Weaver on May 29. Weaver gave her a notebook containing newspaper articles from 1991 to 1998 involving highlights from the time Indian Creek was created. Weaver noted that he is continuing the dragging of the diamonds. He emphasized that Diamonds 3 and 6 need herbicides, since we are losing the diamonds because of weeds.

Discussion occurred on the cost of new signage for the eight ball diamonds at Indian Creek Park. Weaver obtained an estimate from the Monroe County Road Commission. After studying the estimate, the Board members decided that MCRC’s cost of $228.87 was cost prohibitive. They especially did not like the addition of the fringe charge of $65.55 and the overhead charge of $29.85. They suggested Dunn contact Gary Harrell of Graphic Signs for an estimate.

Ansted Park

Francis presented the Privacy Release Consent Form completed by Bedford Township Supervisor Greg Stewart requesting that U.S. Representative Tim Walberg determine why the monies for our Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) development grant that were approved November 30, 2012, have not been received.

Discussion occurred concerning the confusion regarding who would farm the Ansted acreage. Francis informed Dave Kolar that he could farm the land. Velliquette had a verbal contract with Herb Smith to farm the land. Francis indicated she would not have gone ahead with Kolar if she knew Smith was to farm the acreage. Velliquette indicated there was a lack of communication. She said Smith will find out tomorrow if the soybean seed he purchased can be returned. Discussion regarding this conflict will continue at the next meeting.

Mohr said Jamie called about Ansted’s fence being down. When Smith was there, he forgot to put the fence back up. Mohr said the fence is movable so heavy equipment can get through.

Fireworks

Francis said she received the bill for the insurance for the fireworks. The Township will cover this cost of $1,000. She has received $4,310 in donations so far. Joe Garverick will provide three golf carts. The Band Boosters will handle the concession stand during the fireworks. The Sheriff’s Department will be contacted by Velliquette to see what personnel will be able to help us. Extra port-o-potties will be ordered. Francis will call Todd Hershberger about help from CERTS.

A reminder that, if rain, local TV needs to be contacted; the decision must be made by 11 AM. Mohr said he and O’Dell will tape off the last driveway of the Junior High; this will be used only at the end of the fireworks. The U.S. National Anthem will be sung by a member of Compelled Church; Mohr will check on the sound system. Mohr also indicated that announcements will be
made, and Greg Stewart, Supervisor, and Park Board members will be introduced. He reminded us that we have only one more meeting before the fireworks.

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NEW BUSINESS

Photos of Parks for Township Website

Francis said we need new photos for the new Bedford Township website. She emphasized the importance of including photos of the inside and outside of the Carr’s Grove and Samaria Community Centers. Francis asked that submitted photos be placed on a flash drive or disk.

Comments from the Public: None

Commissioner’s Comments

Velliquette—I am concerned that we are losing James Brunt, our night ordinance officer. We count on the deputies, but the sheriff’s department is short-staffed as it is. I am also concerned about the young men in their 20’s hanging out at Carr’s Grove. They have been on the tire swing seeing how rough they can be. They seem to be there in the evenings and on weekends.

Dunn—We got a lot done tonight!

Mohr—The security system will help us a lot. Thanks to everyone for coming. Sally, you’re right; we got a lot done.

Francis—I called about Carr’s Grove. My book says there are 19 long tables; some need to be replaced. We have $4,800 from Consumers Energy. Francis suggested we might purchase additional long, 8-foot tables; there are white tables at various stores. Mohr said he counted 14 tables and 99 chairs at Carr’s Grove. He will check on tables at Lowe’s. Mohr’s son-in-law works at Menards; he will also check there.

Schockman—No comments.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:32 P.M. by Mr. Mohr.

Sally Dunn
Park Board Secretary