

PARK COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Bedford Township Hall
8100 Jackman Road
April 25, 2016
7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: John Mohr, Chairperson, Connie Velliquette, Sally Dunn, Michele DeLaney, & Garnet Francis.

ALSO PRESENT: Jake Sorosiak, Community Education and Larry O'Dell, Board Liaison

EXCUSED: None.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. by Chairman John Mohr, with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion was made by Velliquette, seconded by DeLaney to approve the agenda with the addition of the Diamond Dogs traveling Baseball League's Contract under Old Business. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion was made by Dunn, seconded by Velliquette to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2016 Park Board meeting. Motion carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: None

TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion was made by Velliquette, seconded by DeLaney to approve the Treasurer's report as presented, with expenses totaling \$979.34 and a Fund Balance as of March 31, 2016 of \$19,044.96. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Velliquette, DeLaney, Francis, Dunn, and Mohr. Nays: None. Excused: None. Francis reported \$1,500 was received from the Monroe County Environmental Fund which represents half of the grant money awarded and \$823 from the St. Luke's Endowment Committee which is to be used for a picnic table at Ansted Park.

PRESENTATIONS:

Cameron Miller, Troop 720 – Eagle Scout Project: He presented his plan to build two to four bat houses for Indian Creek Park to increase the bat population and therefore reduce the mosquito population. He presented the board with a booklet outlining his proposal. He plans to have the project completed by the first week of June and will place the houses on existing trees. He will provide his own funding for the project. The Board expressed their appreciation and agreed to allow him to place the bat houses on the north side of the park.

Chelsie O'Neill – American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Walk: She explained her idea to host a suicide prevention walk as a way to raise awareness and help reduce the stigma attached to suicide. The walk would raise funds to be used for suicide prevention research, education, and advocacy in government. AFSP's guidelines require the walk to be between Labor Day and December and to be two to four miles long. Using the Community Stadium was suggested. Dunn offered to represent the Park Board on her committee.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION: Sorosiak is glad to be back. Community Ed's soccer program starts up next week. The beginning of the intermediate pickleball program had to be rescheduled due to bad weather and will start up Thursday, April 28th at 5:00pm. The beginner pickleball program starts on May 11th.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

Carr's Grove Park: Very busy now that the weather is nice. The Board is still waiting to hear back on the wave machine repairs.

Samaria Park: Francis contacted the Drain Commission about a hole in the parking lot where the drain is caving in. It was caused by a water leak and the Drain Commission plans to have it fixed prior to May 1st which is the next time the Community Center is rented out. The cost of the repair will be incurred by the Park Commission. Dunn reported she has 17 Country Kids 4-H members signed up for the Adopt-A-Park program. She would like to proceed with tee-shirts and would like green bags for recycling, black bags for trash, disposable gloves and "pickers" to help with trash pick-up.

White Park: DeLaney reported there was a good turnout for the volunteer park clean-up by 3B members. She also mentioned the problem of the dumpsters being used for non-park trash. The maintenance department has complained about the mess left around the bleachers. There is still someone complaining about the overhang of tree branches in the west parking lot. And there is still the issue of cars parking illegally on Douglas Road. The Park Board would like to move forward with the new parking lot to solve this problem, but needs to get 3B to join in the project.

Parmelee Park: Mohr is still working on the skatepark repairs and the camera issue.

Indian Creek Park: John Diver signed off on the Pet Waste Stations he installed at Indian Creek Park.

Ansted Park: Velliquette gave DeLaney the application from the Wildflower Association of Michigan's Educational Grant Program. Warnke Surveyers will be surveying the south side of the park for the fence placement.

Grant from St. Luke's Lutheran Church: The Park Board received \$823 for a picnic table.

Adopt A Park: Dunn handed out trifolds, parental consent forms, and tee-shirt designs for all six parks. She hopes to have each park sponsored by a different group.

Signage and Crosswalk at Indian Creek & White Parks: Dunn has sent information to the Road Commission asking for permission to fill in the culvert as you enter Indian Creek from the corner of Consear and Douglas Roads. She also plans to attend a 3B Board meeting to see if they are willing to help with the cost of solar lights.

Fireworks: Donations have exceeded \$3000.00 so far.

Diamond Dog's contract: The Diamond Dogs have done a lot of work on the fields and some board members would like to offer them a one-year contract. Francis is against moving forward with this contract because they are not yet a non-profit organization and not yet an arm of 3B Baseball and she feels it is setting a bad precedent and goes against board policy. She would like to hold off on this contract until these stipulations are met. Motion was made by Velliquette, seconded by Dunn to table the contract with the Diamond Dogs traveling baseball league until the next meeting. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Velliquette, Dunn, Francis, DeLaney, and Mohr. Nays: None. Excused: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Park Inventories: Each Park Board member needs to inventory their park and check it against the list on file and bring it back at the next meeting.

Mulch: Motion was made by Velliquette, seconded by Dunn to approve the delivery of engineered wood fiber mulch from Miracle for \$2095.00. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Velliquette, Dunn, Francis, DeLaney, and Mohr. Nays: None. Excused: None.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: None.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:

Velliquette – She welcomed Sorosiak back.

Dunn – She is glad Sorosiak is back too.

Mohr – He reminded everyone about the Beautification Committee presentation, “Wildflowers, Trees, and Grasses of Bedford,” on Saturday, April 30th, 11:00 a.m. at the Bedford Branch Library. Erick Elgin and Ben Lehr from the Monroe Conservation District and Joyce Blanton from the Beautification Committee are the featured speakers. Velliquette reminded the Board this serves as an educational requirement in conjunction with the parks grant. Mohr also mentioned the passing of Bob Nusbaum. Bob has made donations to the Parks in the past, was instrumental in the building of the ball diamonds at White Park, was voted Coach of the Year one year for 3B, and even has a White Park light named after him.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. by Mr. Mohr.

Sally Dunn
Park Board Secretary

Nancy Gin
Recording Secretary