

CITY OF BEECH GROVE
MINUTES-PARK BOARD MEETING
MAY 14, 2012

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Park Board was called to order at 6:35pm by Ed Marks, Board President.

Roll Call Board Members present: Ed Marks, Beth Berg, Joe Prindle, Rick Skirvin. Absent: Cindy Montgomery. Tom Hannan, Parks Department Director.

Guests: Jennifer Spitz, Mark Spitz, Mike Jarvis, John Morgan, Karla Richardson, Cathy Beloat, Dick Templin, Mayor Dennis Buckley, Anthony Kendall, Michelle Withem, Eric Withem, Pam Stallard, Becky Arnwine, Mike DiNapoli, Melissa McCollom, Councilor Anthony Davidson, Susie Dan McMillan, Clerk-Treasurer Dan McMillan, Frank Schwer, Angel Calvert, Ray Schoo, Councilor Ed Bell, Scott Shephard.

Claims: March and April claims were approved, motion - Rick Skirvin, second - Joe Prindle. All voted aye.

Minutes: Minutes of the April meeting were approved as typed, motion - Beth Berg, second - Rick Skirvin. All voted aye.

Director's Report for April Fitness – 2 new 3-month passes for \$110.00, 15 renewed 3-month passes for \$600.00, 1 renewed 6-month pass for \$80.00, 31 daily for \$155.00, total \$945.00, year-to-date \$2,8850.00.

Group Exercise – 2 new 3-month passes for \$110.00, 5 renewed 3-month passes for 200.00, 15 daily for 75.00, total \$385.00, year-to-date \$1690.00.

Senior – 6 renewed 3-month passes for \$240.00, total \$240.00, year-to-date \$1,340.00.

Combo – 1 (school) employee pass for \$5.00, total \$5.00, year-to-date \$90.00.

Hornet Park room rental fees totaled \$725.00, year-to-date \$7,6550.00.

21 shelters were reserved totaling \$1,365.00, year-to-date \$5,850.00.

Dog Park – April total \$600.00

Unfinished Business Greenscape Commission - Berg reported the commission has evaluated a number of street trees at the request of Brad Meriwether and made recommendations for

removal. The commission is also assisting Tom Hannan with getting volunteers to help plant trees in Sarah Bolton Park for the Keep Indianapolis Beautiful project on Saturday, May 19. Hannan secured a donation of 15 trees and we commend him for this and for the recent trimming of trees in the park. Commission members hear a lot of positive comments on how nice the parks are looking. Next meeting is Monday, May 21, 6:00pm at the Hornet Park Community Center.

Clean-up Day - Hannan reported about 20 people came out for Clean-up Day in the Parks. Parks employees involved volunteered their time. Flower beds and trees around the War Memorial and Geshwiler fountain were weeded and mulched in about two hours' time. Ed Marks thanked everyone for their efforts.

Restroom update - Hannan explained the timeline and considerations for replacing the restroom building in Sarah Bolton Park. Port-a-Pots were installed as a temporary solution while other options were researched. The Parks Department had originally looked at and now plans to install a pre-fabricated vault facility that can accommodate 135,000 uses before it needs to be drained. The cost is approximately \$30,000 delivered and Parks staff will do the work to prepare the site. No additional monies will be requested in the proposed bond issue. Photo and information about the vault restroom building were shared. They are widely used in National Parks, State Parks and 14 are in use by IndyParks. For now, the Port-a-Pots are serving patrons without incident.

Marks stated that we unfortunately lost the other restroom building, but especially with looking at its' maintenance history, this is a good alternative. He also stressed the Port-a-Pots are temporary.

Councilor Ed Bell suggested it was important to note the savings vs. expenses for repairs and maintenance.

Susie McMillan asked about the sewer lines, if there were other restrooms in the park, and where the new building would be located. Hannan answered there are restrooms at the Parks Maintenance Building and the Hilltop shelter. The vault building will be set in the general area of the playground and shelter. Marks stated it must be sited for ease of service.

Joe Prindle discussed issues with vandalism and that the costs of tear down, rerouting electric, and the deductible reduced funds available from the insurance settlement.

Scott Shephard asked about the time frame for installation. Hannan responded that is dependent on the bond issue.

Pam Stallard asked if parks hours were being changed. Marks stated the hours are dawn until dusk. Hannan said the lights in the shelters were for security.

Mike Jarvis asked about the hours that problems occur in the parks. Hannan stated it's half and half, day and night. Jarvis also asked how many restrooms would be installed. Hannan stated one building with two stalls.

Mike DiNapoli and Anthony Kendall asked about the cost of the vault building. Hannan stated it will be around \$30,000 delivered and installed. Parks staff can dig the holes to prepare the site.

Cathy Beloit asked about spending \$30,000 for something temporary. Marks stated this is a permanent replacement.

Karla Richardson asked why this wasn't done in the first place and not cause an uproar. Hannan reiterated that the Port-a-Lets were working with no problems, even with 300 people in the park for soccer on Saturday mornings, so the thought at the time was to continue with them and make them look as good as they could. That option was presented at the March meeting and no objections were raised.

Ray Shoo asked if the building would be damaged in a flood. Water will not cause damage.

There was a question on about installing cameras to help with vandalism. Rick Skirvin stated that cameras for the parks are included in the bond requests.

There was a discussion on the cameras. They will not be monitored and are night vision cameras will be motion-activated and will record activity that can then be reviewed following any incident. Councilor Bell stated that the presence of cameras alone will change behaviors.

Susie McMillan asked about police patrols and if the officers get out and walk around. Police officers to drive through and often park and watch, but do not walk around.

Councilor Anthony Davidson asked what the budgets for repairs and maintenance (\$15,000) and improvements (\$10,000) are used for. Hannan explained some of the expenses the monies are used to pay for. Susie McMillan asked about the number of parks in the city. There are four: Sarah Bolton, South Grove (Don Challis), Hartman and Hornet Parks.

New
Business

Historical Society - Asked to be taken off the agenda as Dr. Schmidt from U of I was unable to attend.

Parks Programs for the Summer - Hannan present the parks programs currently scheduled for the summer, with many activities for children and the first one, the Rock Climbing Tower, is for all ages.

Requests - Central Nine's request for a room for GED classes and a waiver of fees was approved, with their schedule contingent on room availability, motion - Rick Skirvin, second - Beth Berg, all voted aye.

Location for June meeting: June 11, South Grove Park Shelter, at 6:30pm. (The name Don Challis Park takes effect on June 15.)

Comments Ed Marks shared that Nikki Shearer has resigned, creating an opening on the Board. This is a Republican appointment by the Mayor and the board would love to talk with anyone who has a knowledge of and interest in the Parks. Individuals should talk with Mayor Buckley as well.

Mike Jarvis offered assistance with shingles that he can donate for roof work. He will get with Tom Hannan. Jarvis also asked about the money from the cell tower in Hartman Park. Clerk Treasurer Dan McMillan said he is currently looking into that.

Mayor Buckley asked about the grills in the parks. Hannan stated the little grills were removed last year due to deteriorating condition. There is one big grill at South Grove Park that needs to be moved as it is too close some playground equipment. Down the road he is looking at small propane grills for people who get a shelter rental. Councilor Anthony Davidson asked who put them away at the end of the day/event. Hannan said that is something they will need to work out.

Susie McMillan asked why the grass along the creek banks is not being cut. Hannan stated that plants along the creek helps hold soil in place and control erosion. Past practice of cutting the growth was a factor in the current erosion problems and engineers involved in the stabilization plans advised that the grasses and plants be allowed to grow. Introducing native and more flowering plants is part of the plan for stabilizing the creek banks.

Ed Marks thanked everyone for attending.

Adjournment Meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm, motion - Rick Skirvin, second - Beth Berg, all voted aye.