

PARK & RECREATION MINUTES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2000
6:30 P.M.

- Call to Order:** The Parks and Recreation Board met on the above date and time in the Council Chambers, 270 W. 15th Street, Rushville. President John Gridley called the meeting to order. Parks Board members present were Roy Bartlett, George Coons and Greg Raike. Jack Harmon and Wilma Jo Kile was absent. Also present were Paul Barada, Attorney; Buck Gray, Parks Director; Carla Sharpe, Secretary; Julie Hogsett, Chamber Director; Mayor Bob Bridges; Brian Sheehan, City Council Member; and Jan Voiles, *Rushville Republican*.
- Minutes:** Minutes of December 14, 1999 was presented for approval. Bartlett moved to approve minutes. Coons seconded. Motion carried.
- Reports:** Julie Hogsett was present representing the Economic and Community Development Commission (ECDC). She stated that she was here again to let the Parks Board know that the ECDC wants to work in conjunction with the Parks Board on this new park. She and Gray put a committee together of individuals, some of who were on the previous committee/task force and some who were not. Certain organizations were pinpointed for a representative, but anyone who is willing to serve and work and brainstorm is welcome to be apart of the committee.
A tentative date has been set for February 16, 2000, at 12:00 Noon at the Elks in the banquet room and will be our first brainstorming session.
Those sent invitations include: Kevin Snyder, President of the ECDC, Duane Newhouse, County Council, John Gridley, Parks Board, John Byrne, City Council, Brian Gauck, Watershed Steering Committee, Terry Smith, Chamber, Merrill Carrigan, Watershed Steering Committee and Richard Lyles, DNR.
Again, we will not exclude anyone from serving as part of the task force who wishes to participate. We are certain that members of this group may come and go for many reasons, as this project from start to finish may last as long as 2 to 5 years presumably. Gridley stated he felt the committee should be appointed by the Park Board and that we should have joint Parks Board and Council Meetings to keep all informed.
Hogsett stated that what ever works is fine but just wants this board to know that the ECDC assistance is behind the Parks Board 100%.
Hogsett stated that at the first meeting on February 16th the meeting goals will be to develop an agenda, set meeting dates and times.
- Mayor Bridges shared with the board information he received from ARa that Columbus has incorporated youth groups into the planning and development stage of a project there. The youth seemingly bought into the program, feeling they had a larger stake or “ownership” in the project. Vandalism and destruction seem to be non-existent in this project. Presumably because the youth have a vested interest in it. Board agreed.
- Raike made a motion that the Parks Board establish a Committee/Core Group for new park development and that the Core Group be appointed based off the Mayor, Julie Hogsett and Parks President recommendations. Bartlett seconded. Motion carried.
- Gray reported on the swimming pool stating things are moving along relatively well.
- Gray stated that the color of the galvanized steel was picked out by himself and he chose orange, same as the mushroom play feature.
- Report on Finances: Some monies were encumbered and brought forward at year’s end and invested into the pool project. Two systems that were owner provided, the chlorinator and chemical feed system, which were brought forward from our old swimming pool we found to be inadequate. The three new play features we will provide in the new swim facility played a major role in this change. The old system was not going to be able to filter and chlorinate the water fast and effectively enough. The chlorinator is called Pulsar IV and the chemical feed is called a Strantrol 5. A new LeMontte waterlab test kit is also being purchased.
- Gray reported that he had budgeted \$2,500 for the computer and only spent \$1,800 leaving extra money for a popcorn machine or whatever.
- Reported that next week he will advertise for Pool Manager.
Gray said that we now have a big business to run and asked if the Parks Board wanted to be a part of the interview process to hire the Pool Manager.
He realizes the Board of Works approves all “new hires” but thought the Pool Manager should be in place to assist in hiring the others who will work with and around her/him.
Gray stressed the importance of getting a good and responsible Pool Manager along with the new pool, the added responsibility of maintaining the levee, the Ashley property, and the so-called “Flatrock River Park” area will fall to the Parks Department. The troops will be spread thin. Good management and cooperation at the pool will be an essential factor in properly maintaining these new areas of responsibility.

Mayor Bridges stated he thinks that would be a good idea having a committee of 2-3 people as each comes up with different questions and the more people helping could come up with better candidate.

Attorney Barada suggested creating a job description, including qualifications and compensation, putting an ad in the paper and accepting applications and resumes. Allow Buck to do the initial rounds of interviews and pare the applicant list down to 3 or 4. Then bring that list to the board for final recommendation to the Board of Works.

Raike recommended getting job and salary descriptions from other pools.

Gray stated that these are part time jobs with full time responsibilities.

Claims: Claims were reviewed prior to meeting by Bartlett and Coons. Bartlett moved to approve claims for the month, along with a Misc. Claim for Patriot Engineering in the amount of \$228.00. Coons seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business: None known at this time.

New Business: Application and Certificate for Payment #6 to R. L. Turner was presented for approval in the amount of \$81,146.00. Raike moved to approve Payment # 6 to R. L. Turner. Bartlett seconded. Motion carried.

Gray stated that R. L. Turner has done a tremendous job for us, along with Brad Whittaker, Site Manager. They have been easy to work with and what a great job they have done.

Ice Skating Rink Update – Gray reported that it is full of water and waiting for Mother Nature to send weather cold enough to make ice. He stated that rules will be in paper. There will be no charge to skate and we are not providing skates.

New Park Layout – Gridley stated that it would be nice if everyone would get an idea as to what you would like to see in this new park.

Items Not Known In Advance:

Raike thanked everyone involved in the planting of the millennium tree. It was very nice and very large and hopes it will survive and wondered if it should be watered. Gray stated he has taken care of it.

Gridley stated he thinks a commemorative plaque stating that it is a millennium tree would be nice. Gray stated he is working on that also.

Raike questioned the netting and poles to go around pool to keep balls from ball field out of pool and from hitting cars. He asked if the City should pay for all or do we ask the ball league to pay half. After further discussion, Raike feels we should think about this soon as we are near term. We need to get estimates. Gray stated he will check on prices. Ball leagues were discussed at length.

There being no further business, Raike moved to adjourn. Coons seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

JOHN GRIDLEY, PRESIDENT

JACK HARMON, VICE PRESIDENT

ROY BARTLETT, MEMBER

GEORGE COONS, MEMBER

WILMA JO KILE, MEMBER

GREG RAIKE, MEMBER

ATTEST:

CARLA SHARPE, SECRETARY