

**PARK & RECREATION BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2001
6:30 P.M.**

Call to Order: The Park & Recreation Board met on the above date and time the Council Chambers, 270 W. 15th Street, Rushville. President Jack Harmon called the meeting to order. Members present were George Coons, Tim Shuppert, Charles Brown, Tracey Phillips and Wilma Jo Kile. Also present was Parks Director Danny Mathews; Attorney Paul Barada; Mayor Bob Bridges; Secretary Carla Sharpe; Joe Malcom & Kim Berkemeier, Little Girls Softball; Marcus Ellis, Kevin Snyder and several members on behalf of the Veterans Memorial.

Minutes: Minutes of February 13, 2001 was presented for approval. Kile moved to approve minutes. Phillips seconded. Motion carried.

Reports: **Budget/Financial** – Still running on tight budget.

Personnel – Has received 3 applications for Pool Manager. Debbie Alspaugh, Heidi Morris and Chuck McMichael. Mathew's recommendation is to hire Alspaugh. He doesn't feel that there is any reason for an interview since she is returning from last year. I feel that she did a good job. After she is hired I would like for the Parks Board, Debbie and City Attorney Barada and Mathews to have a special meeting to discuss all guidelines and that they are understood and followed by all. I would like to get Debbie hired at the next Board of Works meeting which is next Tuesday, March 20th.

Brown moved to recommend to the Board of Works that Alspaugh be hired as Pool Manager and that Chuck McMichael be hired as Assistant Pool Manager. Phillips seconded. Motion carried.

Facilities – In the process of buying a small building for Ed Wolfe, for the downtown maintenance job to store his cart, lawn mower and other tools needed to perform his job. The job seems to be working out very well and I have received a lot of good comments on how nice the downtown looks. I have found a new building for the price of \$789.00 from U.S.A. Barns in Bentonville, IN. Would like to pay for it out of non-reverting budget line with the Park's Board approval. Mathews then went on to say that he can get this barn for the first six months at no charge to display their sign for advertising and then after six months the cost would still be \$789.00.

Kile moved to buy the sign at a cost of \$789.00 now and not do the six-month advertising, and to pay for this out of the non-reverting fund but to check with neighbors and the zoning office for approval to place the barn. Shuppert seconded. Motion carried.

Programs – No programs at this time. Focusing more on getting the pool up and running on time. This is my main objective and first priority this spring.

Other – Mathews reported that himself and Donnie Rains attended a landscape seminar last month on February 28th in Noblesville. They enjoyed the seminar and gained some knowledge.

Mathews reported that he would like to table the Movie in the Park Program at this time. He is looking at other objections for Movies in the Park.

Mathews reported that he has purchased yo-yo's to hand out at the Easter Egg Hunt to every child. The egg hunt will be in Veterans Memorial Park on Saturday, April 14th at noon and those who can attend and help hand them out would be appreciated. This way each child will walk away with something. Brown stated that he had a problem with the egg hunt as his two twins were trampled last year. He feels that there should be a better way of keeping the parents back and letting the kids do their own thing. It was decided to draft a letter to Charles Ray of the Kiwanis Club who is in charge of the egg hunt and explain that there may be a problem and that we don't want to see any one hurt.

Claims: Kile and Brown reviewed claims prior to meeting. Kile moved to approve the minutes for the month of March. Brown seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business: **Marcus Ellis – Memorial** – Mr. Ellis introduced several members in the audience who were there on behalf of the Veterans Memorial. Mr. Ellis handed out information for the boards review. Kevin Snyder then informed the board that this memorial will be a permanent structure, will stand the test of time and is somewhat maintenance free.

Old Business Continued:

Their group is raising the funds themselves without getting any assistance from the government. They have filed paperwork through the DNR. Have strong support verbally for financial help.

He stressed that this will be something we all will be proud of.

Coons asked who would take care of this. Snyder stated that they have set up a fund inside the Community Foundation for upkeep and maintenance. They have support from the VFW to use their tax-exempt status. The total project will run \$46,000.00.

Coons asked how much maintenance this will take and when the maintenance will be needed. Snyder then introduced Dick Fork, he stated that his company had been putting these structures up for 42 years and that aluminum fabrication is a plus. He said there is not much maintenance on these structures. He said vandalism is the biggie.

This memorial will set on a concrete slab, which will be done by D.O.Corn & Son Inc. at a cost of \$23,000.00. The memorial will consist of custom gazebo 20' X 10' aluminum, white in color with steel panel roof.

Double sided 12" lettered top with black letters. Bench frame slats by others installed for a total project of \$23,000.00.

The first drawings were without a roof and they decided a roof needed to be added to protect the plaques in the inside.

Shuppert asked if it was engineered properly. Ellis stated that they would coordinate this through the DNR and work with the Parks Department.

Harmon questioned the roof. Ellis stated the roof would be arched with the lettering on the top.

Harmon asked if this would span a body of water. Shuppert suggested the group talk to the school as they had this with the school project.

Ellis stated this would be placed approximately 50 feet east of the walk bridge in-between the trees. No trees will have to be removed.

Shuppert stated it would be great if was where walking bridge was now and then we could move that one to another location within the parks.

Brown stated that he thinks this is a great idea and even better that no money from the Parks Department is needed.

Ellis stated they will work with this board and if they want them to place where walking bridge is they would accommodate that.

Harmon stated it seems they are heading down the right path. They have definitely done their homework. Great approach and great that they have considered the long-term maintenance plan.

Brown moved to recommend we allow this group to proceed pending final approval of the engineering study and a report from the DNR and evidence that funding has been met. Shuppert seconded. Motion carried.

Joe Malcom and Kim Berkemeier were present on behalf of the Little Girls Softball league. They gave an update on their current project that they approached this board about last July. They have since moved in most of their dirt within the last two weeks and will be seeded. May 1st the field should be ready to play on. Once seeded they will be putting up a 6 foot fence and wants permission to lock up to keep kids off to allow seed to grow. Board said they didn't have a problem with that.

Malcom then asked if their girls could practice the month of April at the Community Park diamond. Sharpe suggested they check the scheduling and coordinate that with Jenny Colestock as she is in charge of the Ladies Softball League. They agreed to coordinate this through Colestock.

Malcom then stated that the Little Girls Softball group has been very fortunate in getting dirt donated to them and that they are now ready to construct a new diamond across from the existing one just west across the street. They are at a point now to make a commitment to build the new diamond.

Harmon questioned the drainage issues. He feels this would be a tremendous undertaking.

Shuppert questioned the existing diamond and its use. Malcom stated they would use it too as they have expanded to three leagues.

Harmon stated that after Sharpe's call to add Malcom and Berkemeier to the agenda, he has reviewed the previous minutes and as of this point this board is not in a position to give their blessing on a new diamond at this time.

Brown stated that since he was new he would like to review this and look over the area and would like a little more time.

Kile stated she definitely feels the drainage needs addressed.

Old Business Continued:

Harmon asked Malcom and Berkemeier to check on the legal requirements, check on drainage issues and if any further questions forward them to Sharpe and she will forward them to the board members.

Mathews questioned which end of the field they wanted to use for the new diamond. Malcom said the higher end.

The parking was questioned. Malcom stated that there would still be ample parking.

Harmon stated that we will put this back on the agenda for next month on Tuesday, April 10th.

Malcom stated that another option would be to move the T-Ball Diamond to where the new diamond would be.

Kile wished them good luck on getting their diamond ready to go.

Charlie Brown – Skateboard Park – Brown handed out information he has compiled from Valparaiso and Columbus Skateparks. Brown stated that he has not physically seen these parks but plans on visiting them. These skateparks require 15,000 square feet and that he measured the old tennis courts and there is 16,000 square feet there.

Brown stated he realizes there is no money in the Parks Budget and with the boards approval he will begin to solicit for money.

Kile stated that she feels this needs to be done and done right.

Brown stated that he would involve the kids. He has been approached by skaters and parents who are very interested in doing this.

Liability Insurance was discussed. Sharpe will call Schroeder and check on insurance.

Shuppert stated he thinks we need to check on the insurance issues and the manning of the skateboard park issues and report back at next meeting.

Discuss Movie in the Park Program – Tabled at this time.

New Business:

Sharpe stated that Administrative Resources association is hosting a seminar on March 20th from 10 am to 12 pm to provide information regarding the development, construction, and implementation of a trails program to its member cities. The program will address grant funding, community issues, implementation steps, and five-year park master plans. This will be held at the Columbus Ramada Inn.

Coons had a request from Charlie Ray that there needs to be a gravel parking lot east of the swimming pool. He feels there needs to be a parking access to that picnic area enough to park 3-6 cars.

Mathews stated that this would be an inexpensive project. Parks could pay for the gravel and have the Street Department level it.

The size of the gravel lot was discussed. Parking was discussed.

It was decided to table this matter at this time for board to review.

There being no further business, Brown moved to adjourn. Phillips seconded. Motion carried.

JACK HARMON, PRESIDENT

GEORGE COONS, VICE PRESIDENT

TIM SHUPERT, MEMBER

WILMA JO KILE, MEMBER

TRACEY PHILLIPS, MEMBER

CHARLES BROWN, MEMBER

ATTEST:

CARLA SHARPE, SECRETARY