

PARK & RECREATION BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2001
6:30 P.M.

Call To Order: The Parks & Recreation Board met on the above date and time in the Council Chambers, 270 W. 15th Street, Rushville. President Jack Harmon called the meeting to order. Members present were George Coons, Charles Brown, Tracey Phillips and Wilma Jo Kile. Tim Shuppert was absent. Also present was Parks Director Danny Mathews; Secretary Carla Sharpe; and Joe Malcom, Kim Berkemeier & Lisa Sampson, Rush County Girls Softball League. Attorney Paul Barada and Mayor Bob Bridges were in attendance for a short period of time.

Minutes: Minutes of March 13, 2001 was presented for approval. One correction was made to the first paragraph on page three under Old Business Continued. Should have read Harmon asked Malcom and Berkemeier to check on a few things and that the Board will check out the legal requirements and the drainage issues. Kile moved to approve minutes with the correction. Coons seconded. Motion carried.

Reports: **Budget/Financial** – Tight Spending.

Personnel – Requested permission to send Chuck McMichael, Assistant Pool Manager to a Certified Pool Operator course for the swimming pool that Spears is offering on April 19th and 20th at a cost of \$225.00 for the class. Mathews stated he could take this money out of Non Reverting Fund Park & Rec. Travel & Training Line Item #120-120-320. Kile moved to transfer the funds to reimburse McMichael for the schooling, mileage and meals. Phillips seconded. Motion carried.

Facilities – Reported that his department has been doing quite a bit of replumbing. Most all outside facilities are up and running now. Water turned on and new facets put in.

Programs – Susan Myers has requested holding a Gospel Concert in the park this summer. . This will consist of a lot of local talent. The board gave the go ahead for Mathews to work with Myers to set this up.

This next Saturday will be the Easter Egg Hunt in Memorial Park at 12:00 Noon and asked all board members available to be present to hand out yo-yo's to the kids on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Department.

Brown stated that he had talked to Charles Ray of the Kiwanis Club and they took their letter from the Parks Board seriously and informed him that they are only allowing one parent per child in the area this year. Board felt this was great and appreciates their cooperation.

Claims: Reviewed prior to meeting by Coons & Brown. Coons moved to approve claims for the month of April. Brown seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business: **Joe Malcom, Kim Berkemeier & Lisa Sampson – Rush County Girls Softball League (Info Concerning New Diamond)** – Malcom presented the board with a photo album of three pages of pictures on the improvements to their existing diamond. The board said their diamond was looking good and thanked them for their tremendous amount of work.

Sharpe stated that she had contacted Rush County Surveyor Marvin Reese and Area Plan Director Bill Todd and both were unaware of any issues at all concerning the drainage issues or legal requirements concerning the new diamond. Todd said as long as they build the diamond on the higher portion of the ground they should be okay.

Brown questioned the parking. Mathews stated that they park all over and feels there is ample parking.

Mathews questioned Malcom if they were going to remove the rocks in the outfield of their existing diamond. Malcom assured the board that they would get the rocks cleaned up. Mathews again complimented them on their work.

Malcom expressed appreciation to the Parks Board, Sharpe, Mayor Bridges, Mathews and Danny Bennett of the Street Department for all their help.

Malcom shared with the board that they have changed their name from the Little Girls Softball League to the Rush County Girls Softball League.

Harmon stated that he will get with Attorney Barada and let him know that the board wants to take action at this time and to give this group a long term contract for the new diamond at \$1.00 a year for 99 years. It was decided that in this contract their needs to be a lay out of the project, who will be in charge of upkeep and the usage commitment.

Malcom questioned the time frame that this board expects the new diamond to be completed. He said that it would take them a couple years to complete as their funds have been depleted on this existing field. They would like to go ahead and start dumping the donated dirt. The board informed him that was fine once the contract is signed and that to keep the area roped off and keep the dirt level and free from any hazards.

Kile moved to approve the concept and the project pending legal paperwork. Phillips seconded. Motion carried.

Harmon will recommend that Barada start working on the legal paperwork.

Harmon asked Malcom to put their heads together and give us a plan and a time frame and to mark off the area for safety purposes.

Malcom asked Mathews if he knew of any bleachers they could bring in. Mathews stated he will try to locate some but asked him to contact Steve Johnson as they are replacing theirs and he may be able to get their old ones. Malcom asked if they can't get them donated and they have to provide them could they please place them on the west side. The board okayed the bleachers. Malcom questioned mowing; Mathews said to just let his department know.

This will be put on the agenda again next month.

Approval of Mini Shelter in Laughlin Park for School – After the last meeting Barada asked on behalf of the Rotary to erect a mini bus shelter for school kids in Laughlin Park. A verbal phone vote was taken of all board members and all agreed. Just for the record and the sake of the minutes, Coons moved to approve the shelter. Kile seconded. Motion carried.

New Business:

A letter was received from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rush County explaining that they are having a fundraiser on Sunday, April 29th for "Bowl for Kids Sake". They give away donated items to the bowlers. Last year the City gave two 5-time swimming passes to the new pool. This year they are requesting five 2 time swimming passes for a donation. Kile moved to approve the donation of five 2-time swimming passes. Brown seconded. Motion carried.

Harmon also received a letter from Susanna Arvin of the DNR acknowledging that they have completed a preliminary review of the Rushville Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The plan meets the Department of Natural Resources' local planning requirements for participation in the Division of Outdoor Recreation's grant programs. However, we failed to forward them a signed Section 504 Compliance form. The form was filed out and Sharpe will mail this off tomorrow.

Kile stated that when she went to look at the new proposed diamond she looked at all the parks and wanted to commend Mathews and his department as all the parks looks good, equipment and all.

Was reported that Ed Wolf was doing a great job downtown and that the Mayor's Office and the Parks Department are getting lots of compliments.

Mary Ann Bridges, Heart of Rushville, could not be present tonight due to an illness but had requested that the Parks and Recreation Department sponsor packets of flower seeds, which will be handed out on May 5th at the Spring Fling downtown. These seeds will say Grow with the Rushville Parks & Recreation Department and will promote our Parks Department. Kile moved to have Mathews approach the City Council requesting \$300 be given to the Heart of Rushville to sponsor this promotion. Brown seconded. Motion carried.

Harmon questioned Brown as the where we stand on the skateboard park. Brown stated that he is working with Phillips on this and that they have ran into a snag on the insurance. He will check with other insurance companies and get more specifics and options for us.

The next meeting date was set for Tuesday, May 8th.

There being no further business, Kile moved to adjourn. Brown seconded.
Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

JACK HARMON, PRESIDENT

GEORGE COONS, VICE PRESIDENT

TIM SHUPPERT, MEMBER

WILMA JO KILE, MEMBER

TRACEY PHILLIPS, MEMBER

CHARLES BROWN, MEMBER

ATTEST:

CARLA SHARPE, SECRETARY