

Tri-Township Park Board Meeting
Wiesemeyer Center
November 13, 2002

Meeting called to order at 7:00 by Phil

Roll call: Phil Loethen, Terry Ball, Louie Simpson, Todd Moore, Barb Wright, and Randy Wiesemeyer

Absent: Norm Beck

Also in attendance; Park Superintendent Tim Greenfield and Dave Roady

Motion to approve Nov 4 minutes Randy/Todd Ayes: 6-0 Ayes

Correspondence –

Received a letter and resume from Deanna Townzen seeking employment as an Athletic Director.

Received a thank you card from the Bruns family for the plant.

Received a request for information concerning workman's comp. This was given to Dave Roady.

Received a letter from the Illinois Dept of Resources telling us there will be no extensions on the OSLAD Grant projects.

Received a thank you letter from the Troy COC Little Ms. Troy pageant.

Received a notice from the City of Troy detailing the planned annexation of some lots in Parkview Ct.

Received a request from Barry Storms about conducting a 2003 summer tennis program in the park – tabled until Citizens on the agenda.

Received IPARKS magazine and misc. IPARKS correspondence.

Received notice from the unemployment office that Mary Kmetz has filed for unemployment. Noted that all information relative to her ongoing employment status and hours worked over the course of the last year were communicated back to them.

Citizens on the Agenda –

Barry Storms – 2003 tennis program – Barry was not in attendance.

Dave Boady – request to have a female swan in the park – Dave was not in attendance.

Thank-You notes –

1) Terry Taake – for donating \$220 labor recently while installing playground.

Treasurer's Report -

Dave Roady gave the Treasurer report. **ATTACHED**

Dave said that we have received the last of the taxes and that the Park was very "healthy". Dave asked if we had the minimum amount in the Bandstand account to avoid monthly fees and or charges. Barb, who opened the account, said she thought we did but would check with the bank to be sure.

Phil said that FOP had promised a \$1,000 donation to seed this account and asked Dave if we had received this as yet. Dave said that we had not.

Tim noted that Mary Kmetz was the treasurer for FOP and that she had recently resigned that position. He said that FOP member Mary Ann Barkley had been in the park that day looking for the checkbook and that he assumed she would be writing that check.

Motion to approve the Treasures Report Barb/Randy 6-0 Ayes

The bills were reviewed. ATTACHED

Motion: Pay the October bills. Louie/Barb 6-0 Ayes

Park Superintendent Report – Tim ATTACHED

Tim said that WEATHER PERMITTING, HE AND Roger would complete the retaining wall and mulch the new playground area to complete it by the end of next week.

Motion: Accept Superintendent Report Randy/Terry 6-0 Ayes

Friends of the Park –

No one from FOP was in attendance.

Terry read a copy of a letter to the editor in the Times-Tribune Oct 31st edition from Laura Wise. The letter concluded with a sentence that states, "The FOP raises money to provide improvements to parks in Troy". Terry reminded the board that the charter for FOP was very clear in the fact that they raise money only for the Tri-Township Park. Terry said that this comment about parks, plural, was particularly distressing given that no one from FOP has attended a Park Board meeting to represent the group and it's activities in a year and a half. And given that Mary Ann Barkley had stated in a park board meeting a few months ago that someone from the City Council had approached FOP to ask that they raise money for city parks. Terry said that somehow we needed to communicate to FOP that they could raise money only for the Tri-Township Park.

Phil said that he had asked Annie and Laura to come into the park and discuss it but that nothing has occurred to date.

Day Camp –
No report

TBSL Report – Terry

Dirt has been dumped on Diamonds 2, 3, 4, and 5. We are only about half way done. This will continue. We received a request from the TBSL to completely rewire the electric on Diamond #2. The TBSL experienced intermittent problems all last season and we couldn't isolate where it was occurring. Tim agreed to have this completed prior to the spring. Tim also agreed to have all of the home plates set on the diamonds by March 15th. This will allow the TBSL to install the special bricks under the plates prior to beginning play on April 1st.

Barry Storm who had requested to be on the agenda arrived –

Barry is interested in operating a summer 2003 tennis program in the park. Barry represents Baseline Tennis Services that operates out of Chicago suburb, Lincolnshire. His company provides programs that teach tennis. He was interested in the Tri-Township Park as we have four tennis courts. Barry said that he had provided similar programs in the park 13 years ago. Tim said that he was a park commissioner then and remembered. Barry proposed running a program June through August in 2003. He said the park can develop and market the programs while Barry provides instructors or Baseline could develop, market, and provide the programs and merely utilize the tennis courts in the park.

Terry asked if this was a business or a community service that his company provided.

Barry said that it is a business and that he can serve individuals or groups. Groups would be charged approximately \$9 to \$10 per hour and individuals could range from \$40 to \$45 per hour.

Phil noted that we would want to have courts available for the general public.

Barry said that even with groups, he would only use one or two of the four courts. He also suggested that we could place signs saying that certain courts were reserved for private lessons.

Phil suggested that Terry talk with Tim and Norm and make a recommendation at the next meeting on Dec 11th.

Terry said he would also contact the tennis coach at the HS and report back.

TSC Report – No one from TSC in attendance. No report.

Phil noted that he had attended the last TSC meeting and they informed him that they had a new member. Phil asked them to supply the name so that the park board could vote to approve the new member. Phil said that he had not received that name. He also noted that TSC had agreed to our request to provide a list of rosters and schedules and they never followed through on this either.

Phil said that at the meeting he attended, TSC had also made multiple requests for services that included replacing divots, dirt, and grass in the soccer fields, fixing a broken lock on the soccer concession, clearing a slow drain in the soccer concession, and painting the concession building. Phil noted the lock had been repaired and the painting would be an ideal Eagle Scout project.

Terry noted that the TBSL takes responsibility for this type of repairs on their concession stand.

Randy noted that the TSC was very uncooperative to the simple requests of the park board and that this situation needed to be corrected quickly.

Financial – Phil

IPARKS conference is in Chicago in January. The cost to attend is \$220 for the entire conference or only \$130 on Friday. Rooms run \$105 for a single and \$115 for a double. Phil said that he has been nominated for an IPARKS award and should probably attend. Barb said that she also might plan on attending. Randy said that he really wants to go but could not commit to the dates off work at this time.

Madison County Community Development Grant –

Received notification from HR that all three of the low bidders on the Wiesemeyer project had satisfied MBE requirements. Based on that, HR recommended that Southwestern be awarded the contract.

Motion: Accept Southwestern Bid for \$113,880 for the Wiesemeyer project. Randy/Todd 6-0 Ayes

Tax Levy – **ATTACHED**

Phil handed out the proposed tax levy for the coming year. The levy is for \$373,000. With the projected growth of approximately 5.9% in the EAV, the levy amount of \$373,000 shows an overall 3.0% tax rate reduction. The old (current) tax rate is .2138. The predicted new tax rate will be .2073. No mandatory tax meeting will be required. Dave Roady noted that there was a typo on the levy and that there was \$400 in audit contingency levy but \$0 in appropriation.

Motion: Accept levy as written with the change of \$400 to audit contingency appropriation. Barb/Todd 6-0 Ayes

HR Dirt Work Bid Status –

Phil noted that now that we have started work on the CXT restrooms we would need to get moving on the dirt work portion of the grant.

Louie said that the new Governor in Illinois has made it quite clear that there is a large budget deficit to balance and Louie is concerned that we may lose a portion of the OSLAD Grant. Louie felt that we had given HR a deadline on completing this and had requested that they be at this meeting to present.

Terry said he didn't remember requesting HR to be here on the dirt work topic. He remembered the deadline request on the Wiesemeyer Center.

Randy said there couldn't have been a deadline set on dirt work because it was contingent upon approving the toilets and we hadn't done that at the last regular board meeting.

Phil said that it was possible for unused OSLAD money to be withdrawn, however he felt it was very unlikely. Phil said it was much more possible that OPSLAD monies that have not been handed out this year would be taken back first.

Madison County Criteria Grant –

Phil reminded the board that our last meeting we had discussed the possibility of using this grant to seek funding for the lighting of the two soccer fields. Tim, Randy and Phil had since met with Musko Lighting Co. Musko estimated that it would take eight poles and cost approximately \$120,000. The poles are slipped onto concrete pillars. This work is currently part of the proposed work in the OSLAD grant. Phil asked for a motion to go ahead and pursue this grant for \$50,000 to light the soccer fields.

Motion: Phil to seek Madison County Criteria Grant for \$50,000 to light the two existing soccer fields.

Barb/Todd 6-0 Ayes

Under discussion, it was decided that we could hire out the borings needed a lot cheaper than the pole suppliers would do it and pulling the wires through on a job like this using volunteers and then hiring an electrician to do the final hookup would save a substantial amount of money over simply bidding the entire project out.

Motion: Bids on this will be for lights and setup only. Borings will be bid out separately. Wire to be pulled using volunteers and an electrician will be hired to perform the hookup. Randy/Todd 6-0 Ayes

Phil said that he has had discussion with a cell phone company who may be willing to pay for some or all of the lighting if we are willing to place a cell phone antennae on top of the light poles. The board asked Phil to research this and communicate his findings to them.

Number One Pavilion and heating status –

Phil said that we had received the bids on the doors for the #1 pavilion. The bid was for \$2,400.

Louie asked if these doors would be handicap accessible.

Phil said that he had talked with Kathy Contario at Impact. He told Kathy that there was handi-capped access through another door, and that to make these doors accessible would be expensive, since concrete block would have to be cut. Kathy told Phil that if there is another access, or other facilities available, or if it creates a financial hardship on the park then it would not need to be changed. Phil said that at the last meeting we voted on a motion to authorize up to \$5,000 for the purchase of these doors. We now know that the cost will be \$2,400.

Motion: Spend up to \$2,400 on the installation of new doors at the #1 Pavilion. Randy/Todd 6-0 Ayes

Phil said that we have been researching heaters for the restrooms at the #1 Pavilion so that they can be open year round. We have received a recommendation from a local heating and cooling company to put a 2000 watt heater in for the women's restroom and the plumbing chase and to install a 4,000 watt heater for the men's room.

Motion: Pay up to \$1,000 for heaters and to hire an electrician to install them in the #1Pavilion.
Randy/Terry 6-0 Ayes

City Park –

Phil reminded the board that the City of Troy has announced it will seek \$50,000 from the Madison County Criteria Grant to pay for the installation of lights on the 11 acre "east end park". Phil commented that \$750,000 would be given out in grants, and that the park and city will be competing for this grant money. In the last Madison County Park grant, 23 park districts and municipalities applied. The Tri-Township Park district was one of nineteen grant winners. We received \$12,060. The total of \$205,000 was distributed. The city and park basically serve the same population. To have two different taxing authorities apply for different items, means we are competing for these grant dollars. It also sends a message that there is not a clear priority for park and recreational needs in the community. Phil continued, that in his experience to date the granting agencies want an understanding that the requestor has "their finger" on the pulse of the community. The items being requested should be in the best interest of the whole community. We are requesting lights that will serve 750 TSC players, at least one select team and over 100 youth in the Troy Titans football organization. Currently these organizations use the large lighted baseball field at all of this use has been hard on the field and could be a hardship to the baseball teams next year. The TSC has been working for lighted fields for years. Lighting these fields are items on our OSLAD grant, however the initial cost estimates are too low. If we are going to get everything done we will need to find every grant dollar possible. The question needs to come down to what is best for the community. If the city does get a grant and the park doesn't how many people would use the soccer/football fields, with no lights or restroom facilities? Phil went on to mention that he had talked to with John Comerio at IPARKS relative to this, John advised Phil to talk to IPARKS attorney Peter Murphy on this issue. He told Phil that this same discussion has come up in other districts and some tax-payer watch groups had been made aware of this issue.

Phil told the commissioners that he had talked to Peter Murphy about this issue today and Peter advised Phil to talk to the city and point out some of these issues. Peter told Phil that parks districts were created to build and maintain parks. Tri-Townships recent success in grant awards demonstrates that the district has recognized the needs of the community and effectively conveyed those needs in the grant applications. Peter urged Phil to talk with the city as soon as possible, and to have the two organizations work together for the betterment of the entire community.

Phil reminded the board that part of the criteria for this grant is "grant money is available to any local government that has a portion of their budget set aside for park maintenance". Phil said he assumed this meant that the budget must have a specific line item for parks and park maintenance. Phil asked Dave Roady if was aware whether the City had parks in their budget.

Dave said that he couldn't remember, but that the City budget is a matter of public record.

Randy said that this situation was definitely a concern. Someone will suffer. \$750,000 available in \$50,000 increments will benefit 15 parks. There are at least three times that many districts and city parks that may apply for the grant.

Terry said that he thought it unlikely that two parks in the same small city in Madison County would both be given the same amount, \$50,000, to both put up lights for fields. He said the sad thing is that the lights the city wants are to benefit only the Troy Titans – maybe 125 kids. The Titans already use the lights at the Tri-Township Park and new lights there would benefit the same 125 Titans and over 750 TSC players as well as many other organizations that use the park.

Louie asked why certain districts failed to get grants?

Phil said that he understood one applicant wanted to re-surface a basketball court and that wasn't considered equipment. He also said that Pin Oak Township was refused a grant because they don't have any parks.

Louie said that we do not want a feud with the City. He said that the City has never charged the Park for permits and licenses in the past but could and maybe would if we upset them. Louie said they could charge us to death on

permits for all the construction going on with the OSLAD project. He also suggested to just let the city go ahead and apply for a grant and get turned down.

Randy asked the board if perhaps Phil should go to the City and ask if we could somehow work together. Phil said the City was suggesting a field for Titans Football. Phil said he has talked to Norm Beck about this. Currently the Titians practice at the park and play at the Middle School. The Titians are already taking advantage of things like lights, bleachers, bathrooms, and storage for equipment. Norm had told Phil earlier that a football field also has to be fenced. These are things that the Troy Middle School football field and the Tri-Township Park already provide. Phil questioned what the city could provide that would greatly improve the current Titian status.

Barb said this is redundant for two taxing bodies to be raising taxes for the same items.

Terry said I'm not worried about the City getting \$50,000. I am worried that they will get money that we would have or could have gotten if they weren't in the race. Or, that neither of us will get any money so that Madison County can avoid picking sides.

Dave Roady reminded the board that the mayor told the City Council that he initially only planned on seeking \$30,000, but that the Council told him to go ahead and go for the entire \$50,000.

Phil said that he didn't think the City Council realized that them going after this grant could cause a problem for the Park. Phil said that he supported satellite parks. He has asked private landowners around the community to consider donating ground for Memorial Parks. Unfortunately, it can be a burden to pay for green space, but if people want to donate land for a tax write-off, as long as it's not swamp property, he would support naming the park in honor of the family making the donation.

Terry asked Phil how he felt we could best proceed.

Phil said that we have an excellent working relationship with the school (day camp), and Jarvis Township (Madison County Wiesemeyer Center Grant). We are working together with these other government entities for the good of the entire community. We should have this same type working relationship with the City. Phil reminded the board again that a couple of months ago, Mary Ann Barkley with FOP, had addressed the park board and told the board that someone from the City had approached FOP and urged them to change their charter and to start raising money for the City Parks. The FOP had not approached the city. This is obviously not a sign of working well together.

Randy said, but look at what we did with that money from the land deal. That \$225,000 went with other grant money and we turned it into \$735,000 to invest in the park.

Terry said that he wanted Phil to go to the City and communicate our concerns and open a dialogue.

Motion: Phil goes to City Council and express Park's concerns about City seeking \$50,000 in Park Grant monies. Terry/Randy 6-0

Swing Status – Phil said that we are waiting for the Gerstnecker swings to be installed before ordering more.

Signs for the park – Phil noted that we have learned we do not need signs stating “Funded by DCCA, OSLAD, ILL First, Madison County until the projects are completed. Phil said we should go ahead and get these signs now and list all parties who have helped fund this expansion.

USDA Inspection – The USDA inspected the zoo and we passed.

Athletics – Terry

Terry presented the proposed volunteer background approval form that all coaches would be required to sign before coaching. **ATTACHED** From this form, a background check would be completed through the State Police. This would satisfy due diligence requirements on behalf of the park and the athletic organizations relative to keeping the kids safe. During the process of developing this form and talking with IPARKS, we learned that by law, the park must do background checks on all park employees as well. The fee for background checks is \$7 each. The State requires that the Park set up a \$1,000 escrow account to pay for this activity. Terry said that while he regrets that it has become necessary to do this, he also believes it is a cost of doing business for the athletic organizations and should be funded through them. He said that given the fact that both organizations were continuing to collect a \$15

per player up charge to fund an athletic director position that no longer existed, both were well able to afford the cost.

Motion: Accept both background forms as written. Terry/Randy 6-0 Ayes

Motion: Pay to fund the \$1,000 state escrow account. Terry/Barb 6-0 Ayes

Motion: TBSL and TSC will be responsible for asking for background checks on all coaches and will reimburse the park \$7 per check. A list of all approved volunteers/coaches will be posted in the park office.
Terry/Louie 6-0 Ayes

It was noted that the TBSL and the TSC did "unofficial" background checks last year on the Illinois State sex offenders web page. It was also noted that the Troy Titans who practice in the park also do background checks on all of their coaches.

Terry said that he would notify the TBSL and TSC.

Insurance - Norm

In Norm's absence, Phil said that he has learned we are paying for Workman's Comp insurance with no deductible. Phil is investigating what kind of rate savings we can get with a \$1,000 deductible policy.

Grounds - Todd

No report.

Special Events - Barb

No report

Personnel & Safety - Louie

No report.

Beautification - Randy

No report

Motion: Adjourn the meeting. 8:55 Randy/Louie 6-0 Ayes

Respectfully submitted by
Terry Ball, Secretary