

Tri-Township Park Board Meeting  
Park Board House  
August 25, 2004

Approved  
9/8/04  
Phil R

Meeting called to order at 7:00 by Phil

Roll call:

Phil Loethen, Randy Wiesemeyer, Terry Ball, Joe Eader, and Jim Derby

Absent: Kevin Woodring and Norm Beck

Also in attendance: Tim Greenfield and Dave Roady.....

Additions to the agenda –

Motion: Add the following: TBSL new names under athletics. Brian Smith wedding request under special events. St Paul's request for diamond usage under athletics. Triad football request under special events.  
Randy/Jim 5-0 Ayes

Approval of Minutes -

Motion: Approve minutes from July 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Randy/Terry 4-0-1 Ayes Joe Eader abstained.

Motion: Approve minutes from July 14<sup>th</sup> Executive session and remain sealed. Randy/Terry 4-0-1 Joe Eader abstained.

7:05 Kevin Woodring arrives.

Citizens on the Agenda –

Kevin Dulaney. Kevin came to talk to the park board about the web page. Kevin said he has been a Troy resident for 5 years and is an Internet developer at Ameron. Kevin offered free development of the park web page including scheduling rentals of pavilions and the use of credit cards. Kevin said that an internet user could look at the calendar on line to determine availability and rent using a credit card. They would be able to print a receipt to show proof of rental. He suggested the calendar could show daily, weekly, or monthly views and show pictures of all pavilions and associated amenities. There are fees for a hosting service and the credit card usage will result in a 2 to 3% transaction fee. Kevin noted that these are less than the bank fees we are paying to make the deposits. The hosting fee is approximately \$26 per month and we will pay half of that, as we are a not-for-profit organization. Phil noted that we are making about \$24,000 a year on rentals. This would result in the loss of about \$500 a year.

Tim asked about refunds.

Kevin said that refunds would be issued through something call Paypal. Money would simply be transferred back to the credit card. Kevin said the easiest way to issue refunds would still be to send a check.

Our current website could be added onto this. Phil said we are paying \$20 a month for this and this move would save us money.

Kevin said that he would develop the new website on his own server until we are ready to say yes.

Kevin said he would investigate what applicable domain names were available.

Motion: Start on project and proceed. Authorize \$100 to get a domain name. Randy/Joe 6-0 Ayes

Thank-You notes –

Dennis Grapperhaus – for the use of the crane.

Friends of the Park – No one in attendance.

Correspondence –

Phil said that we have received a letter from the State and that we our 2000 Audit Report is delinquent.

9/10/04 Phil J

Tim said that he would send it right away.

Phil said that we received a letter from Dick Cain on our tax exemption status and the current land deal and Tim is handling it.

Treasurer's Report – Dave Roady

Current balance sheet - \$447,716.43

**ATTACHED**

Motion: Accept Treasurers report. Kevin/Randy 6-0 Ayes

Bills were reviewed. **ATTACHED**

Motion: Pay all bills totaling \$10,990.54. Randy/Kevin 6-0 Ayes

Park Superintendent Report – Tim **ATTACHED**

Fireproof cabinet – waiting on call back

Water problem by trailers – no action

Water on field #6 parking area – working on

Finish basketball court – completed

Build playground by #8 pavilion – working on

Dam measurements - completed

Bandstand – framework assembled

Fall – electric diamond 3

Fall – cut sod on new fields – Terry said that the TBSL is asking what the park has decided on the new diamond infields.

Phil said that he preferred we go with grass and see how it worked out. If we cut the sod off the infields and go with dirt we will never be able to go back. If we go with grass and it works it will be really nice. If it doesn't work out we can always cut the sod out and go with dirt.

Randy asked why the fountain in the lake is not working.

Tim said that the bank erosion had caused a break in the electrical line and he was waiting for the bank repair to fix the fountain.

Tim showed the board a few bids on a pruner he is interested in getting.

Motion: Will purchase electric pruner for \$98. Randy/Jim 6-0 Ayes

Motion: Accept Superintendents report. Terry/Randy 6-0 Ayes

TBSL Report – Terry Ball

Terry said that we have two new board members that we will need to approve at the next meeting. Terry said that TBSL President Greg Hunt had expressed concern about the playability of the new diamonds, as the ground is still somewhat rough and bumpy.

Tim said that they had tried to roll them for two days with a rental roller.

Randy said that he understood this activity occurred three days after it rained and was supposed to occur the day after a rain.

Tim said that they tried to roll it for two days.

Kevin said that he knows someone who has access to an 8,000 lb roller and has expressed interest in donating this. Kevin said that he would coordinate this activity to get it done.

Terry said that Greg Hunt had also expressed a desire to get direction from the park as to which entity would be responsible for manning the new concession stand.

9/18/04  
Phil

Phil said that he would talk to Norm Beck and the Titans and see if they were interested in operating this. Phil also noted that the park really didn't care which entity operated the concession stand.

TSC Report – Bill Beguhn

Bill said that the TSC season starts this coming Saturday. Bill said that he was concerned about one field on the new 32 acres that was kind of rough and had some rocks.

Tim said that he and his crew would have the rocks raked out by then.

Bill said that the TSC was looking for funding for soccer goals. TSC has built four sets of goals and is in need of \$1,400 to complete them.

Terry said that after a donation of \$20,000 for lights, he was happy to help the TSC out.

There are 752 kids signed up to play as of today.

Motion: Spend up to \$1,400 for additional soccer goals material. Randy/Joe 6-0 Ayes

Financial – Phil

To do list.....

Park Commissioner plaque office – completed.

Gabion Baskets – discuss under Lake Project, assigned to Jim Derby

Park benches – ordered

Update web page with approved coaches – not completed yet

Update web page with Jim Derby info - completed

Land acquisition – completed

Dog drinking fountain – not completed. Phil said that the park still has four drinking fountains that have to be removed every winter. As these become inoperable they should be replaced with frost-free drinking fountains. Phil said that he has had a couple of people talk to him about dog drinking fountains. Phil suggested that we remove the drinking fountain by diamond 5 and replace it with a fountain that is frost-free and contains a dog drinking station. Phil said that he has just one quote for such a fountain (\$2,800), and he would explore other cheaper alternatives.

Oil and Chipping – Phil said that he would be getting quotes for oiling and chipping the park roads for next year.

MEPRD Grant (Change from bridge to walking trail?) – Phil gave the new commissioners a brief history on what the MEPRD is and how they give out money. He said that we had expressed an interest in asking them to finance the \$20,000 it would cost to add a walkway across the new 55/70 bridge. Phil noted that given the mission of the MEPRD is to facilitate trails and the connection of trails to parks, that perhaps we should consider asking them to help finance the completion of the walking trail in the park. Phil said that he recommended bidding out the entire project of completing the walking trail through the 32 acres and submitting this for consideration on their new \$100,000 grant that is available.

Terry said that discussions in the Park/City skateboard meetings, the councilmen had suggested that the Park use this grant to try and get money for the skateboard park idea. Terry said that given the possibility of the slam dunk on the trails grant and given that we have the contingency money already available to fund the entire skateboard park, he thought we should pursue the trail extension grant idea.

Motion: Phil to pursue MEPRD Grant for \$100,000 for extension of walking trail in the 32 acres.

Randy/Terry 6-0 Ayes

Phil talked about the fact that the MEPRD is suppose to be connecting trails and parks and they should really be doing the trail on the 1632 bridge project. What also needs to be thought about is a trail from the current park property to the west. Perhaps behind the trail should run behind the existing business on 162. This is currently farm land that is in the TIF district, but a park maintained trail to the west would probably be embraced by the local business. Phil said this is something that we should be thinking about.

All-Purpose Erectors replace baseball electrical – Panel is ordered. Will be completed shortly

*Phil & Norm*

OSLAD –

Waiting on check for \$153,000.

Roof Leak #14 – Not fixed yet.

Jeff Hunt Eagle Scout project/Titan's curb effort – Waiting on Titans. Joe will follow with Norm.

Ryan Fultz Eagle Scout project – numbered signs for the ball fields. No word.

Budget Changes –

Phil said that he made a budget change to add the #1 roof painting job. This decreased the contingency fund, and gave us a better idea of park improvements that are being made. It was noted that Dave had used the modified budget in this month's financial report.

Motion: Approve budget changes as presented by Phil. Terry/Joe 6-0 Ayes

No vandalism in the park and no water leaks.

Athletics – Norm - Phil reported in Norm's absence

The volunteer appreciation dinner is scheduled for October 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup>. This will include the boards of the three athletic organizations, their spouses, and various volunteers and friends of the park. Phil suggested that we consider recognizing one person who has really worked hard for the park and buy them a plaque and recognize them as volunteer of the year. He suggested that the various athletic boards and the park board pool names and then we vote on it.

Terry said that he liked the idea but was concerned that given how little the three athletic boards worked together, someone might get offended depending on who got picked.

Phil asked the board to think about it.

Phil said that we have a request for diamond usage from St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Given that it was not on the agenda we can't vote on it. He will check and make sure that the diamonds are available and we will hope for the best.

Insurance - Kevin

Kevin said that our insurance supplier had recommended the board watch some videos. They have a multitude of videos available and will send some from time to time. The first two we received are in the office and available to everyone.

Kevin said that the fishing signs were delivered and are up.

Kevin said that the insurance inspection status report was completed and mailed in.

Grounds – Jim Derby

Phil reminded Jim of the secondary drainpipe problem in the lake and noted that when it is clogged the lake will not drain.

Jim said that he would look at it and get with Tim to coordinate what needed to be done.

Bank Problem – Jim noted that we had originally looked at Gabion baskets. These would cost around \$20,000 for the baskets and another \$30,000 for the stone to fill them. This was for 2,000 feet at 3 feet high and did not include the labor costs.

Jim said that he had met with a representative on Keystone Walls. These are concrete blocks that are buried in the lake. Based on what he has priced it would take about \$27,000 to do half the pond. Jim showed pictures and prices related to the stones. He said that only half the pond would be necessary and that geoweb panels could be used for the remainder of the lake at a cost of about \$8,000.

Motion: Jim, Phil, and Joe will write specifications and seek bids on labor and materials separately for block wall on bank. Terry/Randy 6-0 Ayes

9/10/04  
Phil

Special Events – Joe Eader

Girls Scout Meeting –

Motion: Approve use of lower level of the Wiesemeyer Center on Friday evenings, till next June, for the Girl Scout Troop #471 (Sherri Franklin request) Joe/Randy 6-0 Ayes

Brian Smith has rented pavilion #14 for a wedding reception and wants to have the wedding behind the park office. He has requested the park office be open and to be able to store chairs in the basement.

Phil noted that this would take at least a couple of hours of employee time. Phil said he would ask if Mr. Smith is willing to pay for this expense.

Triad Football wants the #1 pavilion on Thursday August 26<sup>th</sup>. While we cannot vote on this tonight, the 26<sup>th</sup> is tomorrow and it is not booked.

Personnel & Safety - Terry

Terry said that he and Randy had met with Jay Evans and Darrel Hampsten to discuss the Skateboard park idea. Darrell is the councilman in charge of tourism dollars and he indicated that he does support the skateboard park and that the tourism dollars were appropriate for this plan.

Phil said that he has recently had a discussion with Mike Johnson, Superintendent of Schools, on this topic. Dr. Johnson suggested that we survey all students in the 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup> grades and ask them if they owned skateboards and if so how often they used them. Dr. Johnson said the school would help distribute a questionnaire such as this.

Terry said that the next meeting with the City was scheduled for August 31<sup>st</sup>. A letter to the local businesses explaining what we are trying to accomplish and soliciting donations is being drafted. Terry said that at the meeting with the City, Darrell Hampsten insisted that we approach the Township and ask them for financial assistance and involvement.

Phil said that he would talk to Alan Dunstan about this idea.

Terry said that he wanted to clarify for the new commissioners where the skateboard idea came from. In the August 19th edition of the Times-Tribune, on the front page, it clearly states, "that the City and the Park are meeting, at the request of and because of the idea of the City, to iron out our differences. And during one of those meetings, the joint idea of a skateboard park was decided on". Terry said that this is not what happened and he doesn't understand how it got reported this way. Terry said that the entire history of the project had been explained to the Times-Tribune reporter and had been verified and agreed to by Councilman Jay Evans at the last meeting prior to this most recent article being published. That history was as follows: Last spring, the Mayor asked for the park and the city to sit down and iron out our differences. The park agreed and then the Mayor subsequently cancelled the meeting that he had called. During this time, the Park Board had been discussing the skateboard idea. Terry then attended a City Council meeting and requested that the City consider working with the park on this skateboard park idea, given how much benefit it would have for the city and the issues they have been experiencing with multitudes of skateboarders and local businesses. After discussion on this request, the City Council formed a committee of Jay Evans and Duane Hughes to meet with Park Commissioners to discuss this topic.

Beautification – Randy

Nothing to report. The park looks nice.

9:55 PM Motion: Adjourn to executive session. Kevin/Joe 6-0 Ayes

10:35 PM Return from executive session.

Terry said that Mary Kmetz is the highest paid part-time worker employed in the park, and that given the season is slowing down and several of our part time workers have reduced hours or no longer working, we should do the financially correct thing and lay her off effective 8/30.

*Base  
7/8*

Motion: Lay off Mary Kmetz effective 8/30. Terry Randy 3 Ayes - 3 Nays Kevin Woodring, Jim Derby, and Joe Eader were the Nay votes. No action taken.

Joe said that we should not lay Mary off before any of the rest of the seasonal employees.

Terry said that there has already been some work reduction. Most of the remaining part time staff are being paid \$7.50 per hour, our grass cutters are paid \$6 per hour. Terry also noted that Mary is paid at a rate of \$10 per hour, and her job description does not include a lot of the responsibilities that the other people are required to perform.

Joe asked when does the season slow down enough that we can further reduce the work force.

Phil said Labor Day is the last big summer holiday. With baseball season over, maintaining the park becomes significantly easier.

Joe said that after Labor Day would be a good time for further work force reductions.

Motion: Lay off Mary Kmetz effective Sept 6<sup>th</sup> to coincide with Labor Day. Terry/Randy 3 Ayes - 3 Nays Kevin Woodring, Jim Derby, and Joe Eader were the Nay votes. No action taken.

11:25PM Motion to adjourn meeting. Kevin/Randy 6-0 Ayes

Respectfully submitted by

Terry Ball, Secretary