

Tri-Township Park Board Meeting
July Regular Meeting
Park Office
September 14, 2005

*Phil
Approved
10/12/05*

7:00 PM Meeting called to order.

In Attendance: Phil Loethen, Terry Ball, Randy Wiesemeyer, Jim Derby, Mary Kmetz, and Kevin Woodring

Absent: Norm Beck

Also in Attendance: George Bryant, Darwin Meier, Willie Bullard, Brian Clifton, Maryanne Barkley, Steve Giacoletto, Dave Roady, Pat Cox from the Times-Tribune, Mike Terry from the Herald, Ann Niccum from the Edwardsville Intelligencer, Ruby Schultze, and Pat Huck

Steve Giacoletto as Park Attorney –

Phil said that George and he had been working to find a new attorney to represent the park district. Ron Motil had reluctantly resigned due to a strenuous workload. Phil introduced Steve Giacoletto to the board and said that both he and George highly recommended that we hire him. Steve has numerous years of experience and his resume was reviewed.

Motion: Approve resolution 2005-01 providing for an agreement with Giacoletto Law Office for legal services. Terry/Randy 6-0 Ayes Roll call vote

7:05 Norm arrives.

Additions to the Agenda –

Mary said that she had paperwork she wanted to hand out to the board detailing IMRF benefits and how they can be applied to a workers time served in the military.

Phil asked Steve if this should be added to the normal meeting or discussed in executive session as it pertained to employees and benefits.

Steve said to add it wherever you want to.

Mary said she did not want to talk about it tonight. She just wants to hand out the paperwork to the commissioners and have them review it and then we can discuss at the next meeting.

George asked that we add general comments under Park Director report.

Motion: Add general comments section under Park Director report. Randy/Norm 7-0 Ayes Roll Call vote.

Approval of Minutes –

Motion: Approve August 10, 2005 minutes. Kevin/Norm 6-0-1 Ayes Mary Kmetz abstained.
Roll Call vote

Phil said that all of the currently sealed executive session minutes would remain sealed.

Citizens on the Agenda – None

Thank you notes/Get Well –

Thank you notes sent to Roger Alon's for Torches Across America. We received thank you notes from Rob Bledsoe for the summer concert series, and from Sergio Torres.

Friends of the Park –

Maryanne Barkley spoke about the progress at the bandstand.

Phil said that at the July meeting we voted to spend money on the handicap rails but there was no mention of it in the minutes. He said we needed to vote again on this to get it into the record.

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Motion: Spend \$3,936 at the Deck and Fence Store for handicap railings at the bandstand.
Norm/Randy 7-0 Ayes Roll call vote

Randy asked Maryanne for permission to work in the landscaping around the bandstand. He said he may need to pull some of the tulips but would replant them.

Maryanne said to go ahead and do whatever he needed to do.

Motion: Approve \$4,100 for paver brick installation from Fetter's Landscaping. Norm/Randy 7-0 Ayes Roll call vote.

Correspondence –

Received a thank you note for Sounds of Summer Concert series.

Treasures Report –

\$491,945 in the bank.

Dave said that we are still waiting on approximately \$162,000 in tax revenues.

Motion: Accept treasures report. Norm/Mary 7-0 Ayes Roll call vote.

Pay Bills –

Bills totaling \$11,509.14 were reviewed.

Motion: Pay all bills for \$11,509.14. Terry/Mary 7-0 Ayes Roll Call Vote

Park Director Report – George Bryant

George said that he wanted to introduce the staff to the board. He introduced Willie Bullard who is responsible for mowing and turf maintenance. He introduced Darwin Meier who also mows and is responsible for turf maintenance. He introduced Brian Clifton and said that he possesses exceptional mechanical skills and 20 plus years of military experience.

George said that he looks at his staff as bridge builders to the community and to the future.

George presented Phil with a plaque as a token of appreciation for his four plus years volunteering as Park Director and for all of the time and effort Phil has put in the last six weeks working closely with him and helping to inform and educate George as he took over the position.

George said that he has received a request from Sherri Andrews for a free rental of the #1 pavilion to raise money for hurricane relief. This will tentatively be held on October 14th. He has penciled it into the book but wanted to know if any commissioners would have heartburn approving this at the next meeting. No one had an issue.

Five-year plan – George said that he would be working on this at a later date.

Repair of the lake fountain – George had an estimate for repairing the fountain.

Motion: Buy \$575 light fixture. Norm/Randy 7-0 Ayes Roll Call vote

Electric to Bandstand – George said that he was looking into options.

Oil & Chip – Phil said that we budgeted \$7,000 and suggested we oil and chip Wickcliffe from the Wiesemeyer Center to Riggins Road.

Motion: Schedule oil & chip not to exceed \$7,000. Terry/Norm 7-0 Ayes Roll call vote

Stump grinding for firewood – George said that Bob Converse has offered to grind out stumps in the park, free of charge, if he can have the firewood from the felled tree. George wanted to notify the board that this was an exceptionally good deal and one he wanted to pursue and he wanted to make sure that the public was aware.

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Geo-Cache in the park – George said that Todd Walter has notified him that GPS users will be operating in the park. They will leave a GPS cache in the park and see if folks can locate it.

Phil said that people have done this in the past.

George said that the office air conditioner is in bad shape and is not able to be repaired. He has a quote for \$1,700 for a new unit.

Motion: Approve \$1,700 for new outside A/C unit for park office. Norm/Terry 7-0 Ayes Roll call vote

George said that he has received a request for the park office to be a drop off site for items for the Spencer Memorial Animal Shelter.

Motion: Approve the request for the park office to be used as a drop off site for the Spencer Memorial Animal Shelter. Randy/Mary 7-0 Ayes Roll Call vote

George said that he is working with Hurst-Roche to develop a scale map of the entire park. He said this would be very useful for mapping and to overlay with electrical and water lines as needed.

Motion: Approve up to \$1,000 for a park map drawn to scale by engineering firm of Hurst-Roche. Norm/Jim 7-0 Ayes Roll call vote

George said that he is working with the Dept. of Human Services for folks that can be used in the park as first work experience. The Dept pays these folks and George will continue looking into and expects to get a contract for the next meeting to present to the board.

TBSL – Terry Ball

Terry said that the TBSL season is now complete. Nothing to report.

TSC –

No one from TSC was in attendance.

Kevin said that the U6 fields are under water after a rain and he suggested to the TSC that if this happens they should move up to diamond #4.

Phil said that we have an agreement with the Troy Titans for use of that field and didn't want to have a double booking. Phil suggested that they move over to the Teeball fields on the 32 acres.

Norm said that that the Titans can always move to any open spot for practice during daylight hours. Evenings would be the only possible conflict.

Financial – Phil

Madison County Grant/Playground status – Completed. The check should be in the mail.

Auditor – Phil has a 2006 contract from Joe Barth. The cost of the annual audit is now up to \$4,600.

Terry said that he liked having the public openness of the park finances but suggested that as this audit is not required and is getting quite expensive that perhaps we consider doing it every other year.

Phil said that we sometimes need the audit for grants and that he felt it was the right thing to do.

Motion: Agree to accept Luallen, Clearlock, and Barth for park audit at a cost of \$4,600.
Randy/Jim 7-0 Ayes Roll call vote

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Commissioner Ethic's agreement – Phil presented an ethics agreement that has been penned by the IAPD and is being widely accepted in park districts throughout the state. He said he wanted the board to consider adopting it.

Norm asked what the ramifications would be if a commissioner chose not to follow it.

Phil said there were none. It is a non-binding agreement for all commissioners to sign and thereby publicly commit to working positively for the board and supporting the will of the board and it's actions.

Motion: Adopt the ethics agreement as written. Randy/Norm 7-0 Aye Roll call vote

Phil passed the agreement around and all of the commissioners signed it.
Phil detailed the recent changes to the working budget – office A/C, park map, paver bricks, W.C. A/C, Director training and travel, and bandstand railing.

Motion: Approve new working budget. Norm/Terry 7-0 Roll call vote

Mr. Ed – No action at this time.

Phil said that George would work with City officials on the recent question of paying for lights in the park.

Phil said that we would be doing random background checks on TSC coaches and that all will be checked against the sex offender list.

Athletics – Norm

Norm said that he has read of and heard of Troy Thunder tryouts scheduled for diamond #4 in the park. He said that was unaware of any commitment made to these teams to promise them fields and lighting. He asked if anyone else knew anything.

George, Phil, and Terry said that they did not.

Phil checked the rental book and it appears that Tim Greenfield has authorized this. It is in the book but no one on the board or the park director was aware.

Norm said that George would be working on the walking trail on the 162 bridge.

Motion: Approve TBSL/TSC board member list. Randy/Jim 7-0 Ayes Roll call vote

Insurance – Kevin

Nothing to report.

Grounds – Jim

Jim said that he was working on the specs for the pavement at the Collinsville Road entrance. He said that we would probably have to close this entrance.

Phil said to write the specs so that any accidental driving onto or into the wet concrete will be the responsibility of the vendor.

Special Events – Mary

Motion: Approve paid use of the #1 pavilion for St. Paul's Lutheran Church rummage sale Wed – Sat (Oct 19 – 22). Mary/Norm 7-0 Ayes Roll call vote

Motion: Approve Veterans Memorial parade and activities on Sunday, Nov 13, 2005.
Mary/Randy 7-0 Ayes Roll call vote

Motion: Approve Brownie Troop 813 to sell cookies in the park on Sat Sept 24. Mary/Kevin 7-0 Ayes Roll call vote

*Phil
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Motion: Approve Cancer Society Relay for Life – Fri and Sat, June 16 and 17, 2006. Mary/Randy 7-0 Ayes Roll call vote

Motion: Approve uses of bandstand on Monday evenings for Concert ion the Park beginning the third Monday in June 2006 and going for 10 weeks. Mary/Terry 7-0 Ayes Roll call vote.

Mary said that she and George were working on the Wiesemeyer free use policy and she would have a proposal to present to the board at the October meeting.

Personnel & Safety – Terry

Terry said that as chairmen of personnel, he would prefer that we discuss the IMRF proposal Mary is suggesting during executive session at the next meeting. He said that this discussion would be about a specific employee and about the amount of benefits he is paid and should not be discussed in open session.

Beautification – Randy

Randy said that he wanted to do some work with the landscaping at the office and the gazebo. He asked what the spending limit would be on this.

Terry said that Phil has a \$1,000 per day spending limit without approval and could buy whatever Randy needed. Terry said that we need to discuss approving a spending limit for George at the next meeting.

8:15 Motion: Enter into closed session to discuss imminent litigation pursuant to 5 ILCS 120 sec. 2c1
Terry/Norm 6-1 Ayes Mary was the no vote. Roll call vote taken
Mary – No Norm – Yes Randy – Yes
Phil – Yes Kevin – Yes Jim – Yes Terry - Yes

9:30 Reconvene meeting.

Terry said that over the last several months, we have had numerous occasions where information that was discussed in executive session was reported on in the next week’s paper. A specific example is in the hiring of the park director. During executive session, we discussed salary and benefits ranges. Terry handed out a list of proposals for benefits. In open session, the motion made contained the salary amount and “benefits as discussed”. Less than a week later, the benefits information, verbatim as presented in executive session was listed in the Times-Tribune. It is obvious that a commissioner is knowingly providing this private information to the newspaper.

Terry asked Steve Giacoletto what the fiduciary responsibility of a park commissioner was in regards to this private information and what the laws were on this and possible ramifications.

Steve said that Commissioners should never release this type of information and that it is obviously acting against the best interest of the board. He said that there are no repercussions that he is aware of. He reminded all commissioners that they should always act in the best interest of the board.

Motion: Adjourn the meeting. Randy/Jim 7-0 Ayes Roll call vote

Submitted by
Terry Ball, Secretary