

**PARK BOARD**  
**ST. JOHN, INDIANA**  
**January 28, 1974**

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The Park Board of the Town of St. John met on this date with the following members present:

Attendee 1, Richard Spring, President	Attendee 4, James Thiel
Attendee 2, Eileen Jernberg	Attendee 5,
Attendee 3, Elaine Pietrzak	Attendee 6,

The following members absent:

Absent 1,	Absent 4
Absent 2,	Absent 5
Absent 3,	Absent 6

The regular meeting of the Department of Parks and Recreation for the Town of St. John, Indiana was held on January 28, 1974, with all four members in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the November meeting were read and approved. There was no December meeting due to the Christmas holiday.

The following announcements were made by Mr. Spring:

1. It has not been possible to have the stone put in the basketball court at the Park, and upon checking into prices for paving of the court, blacktopping would be the most economical.
2. The Jaycees have dumped a load of sand at the Park, which will be spread in place on the baseball diamond as soon as weather permits.
3. Pete Monix has discussed with Mr. Spring the possibility of installing drain tile in the Park to keep the ground dry, and Mr. Spring agreed this would be a good idea.

4. With regard to the model airplane show, the gentleman that he had in mind, a Mr. Munson, worked more with construction of airplanes, but did not rule out the possibility of some type of show.

Mrs. Pietrzak reported on what she found out about the ice skating party discussed previously to rent the Omni 41 Indoor Ice Rink. It would cost \$65.00 per hour for the large rink. In order to give each division two hours of skating, it would cost us a total of \$260.00. She plans to approach the local town organizations to enlist their financial aid. We will be able to bring in our own refreshments, and she thought that the Town's businessmen might be approached for financial aid there. A motion was made by Mrs. Jernberg and seconded by Mrs. Pietrzak that we sponsor an indoor ice skating party of the Junior and Senior High School age group on March 17<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup>, preferably, or whichever date is available. Mr. Spring asked Mrs. Pietrzak if she would take charge of arranging the party and she agreed. The motion was then carried.

Mrs. Pietrzak said that she had been notified that the flags had been taken down at the Park because they were in such bad condition. Discussion followed with reference to whether or not the flags should be flown in the winter since we do have the problem of no one to put them up or taken them down daily. A motion was made by Mr. Thiel and seconded by Mrs. Jernberg that the flags be flown at the park from April 1<sup>st</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup> each year. The motion was carried. Mr. Thiel then suggested that the VFW be contacted for donation of a flag for the Park the next time they have one available.

Mr. Spring reported to us on a meeting that he had attended, held by the Lake County Parks and Recreation Department on January 23, 1974. The Lake County Conference of Parks and Recreation Systems is just in the process of being formed. The by-laws were brought back by Mr. Spring for our discussion and approval. Several questions were asked with reference to the Conference, and after some discussion, it was agreed that it would be to our benefit to join the conference. There are presently no dues. Mr. Thiel moved that we join the Lake County Conference of Parks and Recreation Systems and Mrs. Jernberg seconded his motion. The motion was carried.

Mr. Hugh J. Rhein was then introduced to the Park Board. Mr. Rhein is Chief Comprehensive Planner with the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission. He explained the purpose of the Regional Planning Commission, and gave us two reports on its Open Space Program, which will be made a part of the Park Department's records for reference.

Mr. Rhein said he was present at our meeting to help us lay the groundwork for obtaining matching federal funds. He proceeded to explain what B.O.R. funds are. B.O.R. stands for Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, and is a division of the Department of the Interior. He explained that the Department makes "X" number of dollars available each year to the fifty states, and each year Indiana gets a certain number of these dollars for park and recreation purposes. Indiana first determines how much money it will use for its own systems, and then makes the balance available to the municipalities.

FY 1975 Funds would be what we would apply for if we were interested in these funds from B.O.R. The cut-off date is September of 1974. The state requires that we come up with fifty percent (50%) of the total of whatever we would need, and the first

requirement before we could apply (after accumulating our 50%), is the establishment of a Park and Recreation Master Plan. For communities with a population of under five thousand (5,000) it is a very simple process. The Master Plan would be established by completion of a lengthy questionnaire and an interview by a Park Board member in conjunction with the questionnaire. (A consultant is not needed for completion of the questionnaire).

After application is made to B.O.R., the application is then judged by the point system, which Mr. Rhein briefly explained, and which is further outlined in the two reports he left with us on Open Space. He also explained the priorities assigned to the application insofar as the point system for judging is concerned. He pointed out that whether or not we plan to apply now or in the future, it would be to our advantage to have this Master Plan on file now.

Mr. Rhein answered a few of our questions about how the fifty percent (50%) requirement could be raised. He was very adamant in pointing out that if we were going to use the appraised value of a proposed park site as our 50% that it must be donated by a private individual, company or organization and could not be a transfer of land from one department of the town to another. The money then had to be used for the development of that park site and no other. Application has to be made by the Park Board itself, but by the Town or any private organization.

We questioned Mr. Rhein about the establishment of a non-reverting fund for the acquisition of park property. He promised to get more information to us on this matter.

Mr. Rhein told us that his Division is available to a certain extent to help us plan the development of parks, but do not consider themselves experts in the field of park planning. However, he invited us to come down to his office whenever we thought we might be able to use their services and they would help us in any way possible. We thanked him for attending our meeting and told him he had been very helpful.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Election of officers for the year 1974 followed, and the following officers were re-elected:

President – Dick Spring  
Vice President – Eileen Jernberg  
Secretary – Elaine Pietrzak

The newly elected officers once again accepted their respective offices.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was then adjourned until February 25, 1974m at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Elaine Pietrzak  
Secretary