

**PARK BOARD**  
**ST. JOHN, INDIANA**  
**January 17, 1985**

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

- |                              |                           |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Attendee 1, Ronald Estep     | Attendee 4, Paul Anderson |
| Attendee 2, Ralph Ehresman   | Attendee 5,               |
| Attendee 3, Caroline Petrick | Attendee 6,               |

The following members absent:

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Ronald Estep. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was said.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the December 20, 1984 regular meeting were read. Being there were no errors or omissions, President Estep ordered the minutes approved as read.

OLD BUSINESS

Update of the Master Plan for Parks – Ron contacted that Lake County Park and Recreation Department who told him a person would contact him regarding the updating of the Master Plan. A gentleman contacted Ron identifying himself as a Landscaping Architect, and that he had assisted the Lake County Parks and Recreation Department in writing some of their master plans and grants. Ron scheduled a meeting with him to discuss this matter. He cancelled the meeting and told Ron he would contact him at a later date to reschedule the meeting. Ron had contacted another individual of the Lake County Parks and Recreation Department and asked them to find out why we were contacted from an outside agency. Ron was told that as a matter of policy, if all of their

people are booked up and scheduled with a heavy workload, they will go to an outside agency. Ron has not yet determined whether this will be a cost factor to use. Ron to investigate this further.

### NEW BUSINESS

- A. Pete Monix has told Ron that we will need a mower deck for our John Deere. Paul to check with Pete to see if we could get through this year with the old one. If not, when we do our budget planning in June, we will get bids to see what a new deck would cost, and put it in our budget for next year.
- B. Ron made a motion to renew our contract with Sharon Smith, our Aerobic Instructor from January 2, 1985 to the end of the school year. Everything else in the contract is the same as before. Seconded by Paul. Motion carried 4-0.
- C. Ron stated that every new year we are supposed to write a Year End Report and turn it in to the Clerk-Treasurer so she can keep it in her records. It is the responsibility of the President to prepare the Year End Report and turn it in to the Clerk-Treasurer.

### ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Budget – Out ending budget balance for 1984 was \$2,576.38. Our tax receipts for year-end totaled \$8,820.65. After our disbursements, that left us a cash balance of \$4,326.90. That amount has to last us from now until next June when we get our next tax receipt. Out beginning budget balance for 1985 is \$29,302.00.
- B. Fitness Program – Ron stated our Aerobic Program has started again after the holidays at Kolling Elementary School on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Ron is going to talk to the people at Omni to see if they have programs available to Park Departments.
- C. Public Relations – No report.
- D. Park Maintenance – Paul reported everything is covered with snow and frozen. Ron asked Paul to check with Pete and see if they could take the backboards down and take them inside to paint and repair so they will be ready for this spring.
- E. Liaison to Plan Commission and Town Board – Paul reported that he did make the meetings and reported to the Town Board on the activities of the Park Board. Nothing new to report on the Plan Commission and Town Board meetings in regards to the Park Board.
- F. Summer Programs – Caroline stated that we did not get any more applications for Summer Program Director. Caroline called several of the references given by Dana Szakatits. They were all favorable and said she was very reliable and dependable, and spoke very highly of her qualifications and experience.

- Caroline also called Lake Central High School to find out about Robin Lamott. Lake Central was very vague about giving out personal evaluations on students and very hesitant to give out any information on a personal basis through the school.
  - They are the only two resumes that have been submitted in writing. Ron stated that we should decide who we are going to give this job to tonight. Ron suggested we continue with our agenda and then recess for 10 minutes to let the Board read the resumes of the two applicants. Everyone agreed.
- G. Winter Programs – Caroline stated that the owner of the sledding hill is an absolute “No” on leasing the land to the Park Board. Caroline to check with Pete Monix on the possibility of dumping the excess dirt from the sewer projects on a piece of property owned by the Town to use as a sledding hill in the winter. An ice-skating rink was discussed and Ron made a motion that Caroline proceed with the ice-skating rink not to exceed a cost of \$100.00. Seconded by Ralph. Motion carried 4-0.
- H. Baseball & Softball – Ralph asked the Press to advertise in their paper that the Park Board is now accepting requests for field use of the following baseball fields: Larimer, Security Federal, and Keilman. All requests should be turned in to the St. John Park Board no later than March 21, 1985 in writing. All teams or leagues must be from St. John.
- I. Town Festival – Ralph reported on the Town Festival meeting and Steering Committee meeting, which he attended on January 9, 1985. He stated that he had requested the “moon walk” for our participation in the festival if we will still want it. Ralph then stated that the Town Festival will be June 21, 22, and 23. Ralph will be busy with baseball from May through August, and he doesn’t mind attending the festival meetings, but would like someone to handle the “moon walk”. Caroline agreed to look into the “moon walk”.

### CORRESPONDENCE

A letter from the Town of New Whiteland, Indiana regarding the Indiana Parks and Recreation Association who are holding a State Conference in Merrillville sometime in April. New Whiteland is a little put off by the fact that most of these associations and organizations are concerned with large park systems. So they have taken upon themselves to get the small towns and small park departments involved with this and see what kind of funding and programs are available for cities of our size. Ron filled out the questionnaire include with this letter, and marked that we would like some more information on the Indiana Parks and Recreation Association, and we would be interested in an idea exchange for small cities and towns.

Received two forms. One from the Post Tribune and one from WJOB Radio station to be filled out asking s to give them official notice of our meetings. Ralph to fill our and return.

Received from Purdue University Center for Public Policy and Public Administration, a booklet called, “Indiana Local Governments Do Have Other Options”. This publication provides an introduction to the choices available to Indiana Local Governments in the

delivery of public services as an alternative to imposing the local option income tax. Ron is going to pass this around for the next couple of meetings so the members of the Board can read it.

Paul contacted the representative from Miracle Recreation Equipment, and he told Paul that this equipment is of very high quality. Ron stated we will not purchase the piece of equipment for Homestead Park until the pavilion is put up.

### PAYMENT OF BILLS

The Clerk-Treasurer did not leave our file for us, so this will be postponed until next month.

At this point the Board took a recess to review the resumes for a Summer Program Director.

Robin Lamott, an 18 year old student at Lake Central High School who will be graduating in June.

Dana Lynn Szakatits, who is 35 years old, married, a St. John resident for 6 years with a BS from Indiana University with a major in Child Development.

After a ten-minute recess, Ron called the meeting back to order.

After reviewing the applications, Caroline made a motion to hire Dana Szakatits as our Summer Program Director. Seconded by Paul. Motion carried 4-0.

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ron stated that in the past, the Board members have rotated positions, and feels it is a good idea to have everyone get their change to hold the different offices. Ron would move to member, Caroline would move to President, Ralph would move to Vice President and Paul would move to Secretary. Ralph stated that he would not mind being Secretary for another year. Caroline stated she was very new at this. Ron replied after one meeting no one is new any more. After a discussion, Paul made a motion to elect the following officers for the year 1985 as follows:

- ◆ President – Caroline Petrick
- ◆ Vice President – Paul Anderson
- ◆ Secretary – Ralph Ehresman
- ◆ Member – Ronald Estep

Seconded by Caroline. Motion carried 4-0.

### OPEN DISCUSSION

Caroline wanted to know how far we are going to carry the Master Plan. Caroline thought the Lake Central Computer Class might want to take this on as a class project. The Board thought this might be a good idea, and asked her to look into this,

ADJOURNMENT

Being there was no further business, Caroline made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Ron. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Ralph Ehresman  
Secretary

Approved:

/s/ Caroline Petrick  
President  
St. John Park and Recreation Board