

PARK BOARD
ST. JOHN, INDIANA
June 19, 1986

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

Attendee 1, Paul Anderson	Attendee 4, Ronald Estep
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 7:35 p.m. by President Paul Anderson. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was said.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the May 15, 1986 regular meeting were read. A correction to the minutes was made by Ralph Ehresman. He stated his comment of a "bid" of about \$2,000.00 should state it was an estimate of cost and not a bid.

OLD BUSINESS

Master Plan Update – The Surveys were sent to 1,000 families in St. John and 71 were returned to date. The facilities needed that were mentioned first or second were:

Picnic Areas – 5
Bicycle Paths – 19
Playgrounds – 14
Sports Fields – 21
Tennis Courts – 10
Recreation Center – 17

Small Parks – 16
Ice Rinks – 8

Extra surveys are available upon request and the deadline had been extended for another month. The Town's survey results will be given by request.

Larimer Park Structure – The May 20th special meeting at Larimer Park to determine the specifics of the structure ended with no agreement by all members. Local residents of Larimer Park area submitted a petition with 21 signatures stating that they would like to be informed of any decision this Board makes as per this structure in Larimer Park. In attendance at this meeting were three families who voiced their objections to the structure being planned. Items mentioned.

- (1) Lack of parking. Only 15 cars can park in the space available now. They would like to see more parking spaces added by purchasing more land around the park. The Board stated we are not financially capable of such a large amount of money to be used for land acquisition now.
- (2) Maintenance of the structure. The Board explained that someone would be hired to maintain this structure. It was also stated that this structure would only be operating softball games, summer activities and special events, so as not to invite vandalism.
- (3) Use of the park by ballplayers other than neighbors. It was stated that Larimer Park is a "public" park and that our concern should be as such by Caroline, but that anyone who wants to reserve use of the field must obtain a permit.
- (4) The site of the structure. Comments from the floor unanimously objected to the structure altogether no matter where we would like to see it put in.

Ron Estep made a motion to table the bathroom/concession facility until the Board can come up with an agreeable plan. Paul seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-1 with Caroline voting against tabling this issue.

Paul Anderson made his personal comment that he was no longer in favor of this project and that the money be spent somewhere else.

Ralph Ehresman stated the main idea of this project was to benefit the community, not penalize the neighbors, but to maintain a functional use of this park.

Caroline Petrick continued to try to explain the reasons for this project, to enhance the facilities of Larimer Park to all the citizens of St. John, especially the ones who use the park most often. The quest was to no avail.

Larimer Park Pond – Paul sent nine different weeds for analysis to the Fish Hatchery at Bass Lake. The pond at Larimer Park is actually considered a marsh since it is only 2 ½ feet deep and that the control of weeds and game fish would only be accomplished by deepening the pond. Copper Sulfate could be used to control the algae. Aquazine could be used but it could kill trees and shrubs along the shoreline. A discussion about the flow of water entering the pond, with a disagreement of opinions is in litigation now. Hick Doffin, the Lake County Health Officer, took samples from the Larimer Park Pond

but no results were sent back to the Park Board to date. Paul stated that a permit would be obtained before the Park Board approved anything that would be put into Larimer Park Pond.

Mr. Casboni was in attendance at this meeting requesting consent forms be sent to the 19 residents around Larimer Park before anything is added to the pond, and Paul stated that only a permit was needed and that this Board would follow whatever rules were needed to insure a safe method to control the algae in the pond. Mr. Casboni was directed by Paul to submit any other questions in writing to the Park Board with reference to this subject.

Town Festival – The Park Board will be sponsoring the Horseshoe Contest on Sunday as per plan.

NEW BUSINESS

Lancer Park – Lancer Park received fill and Pete Monix contracted O'Day Trucking for leveling. The survey showed the residents of Lancer Park area would like the park developed.

ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Budget – Cash stands at \$14,075.96. Budget balance is \$28,670.53.
- B. Fitness Program – Ron brought a receipt for \$68.00 for the out of town residents' fees to be added. Debbie Sjoerdsma would like to continue as Fitness Director when it resumes in the fall.
- C. Public Relations – Pictures of the flowers at Larimer Park could not be taken because of scheduling difficulties between both parties. Ron requested pictures for the Horseshoe Contact by both presses.
- D. Park Maintenance – Paul stated that the Town employees have the parks under control as far as maintenance is concerned. Mosquito abatement by spraying was discussed by the people present and Ron explained that this method was used in Hammond year ago to no avail. FLIT has been mentioned for use in Larimer Park Pond, but the County states that the amount of algae in the pond would not allow the FLIT to disburse on the top of the water.
- E. Town Board Meeting – Ralph gave our report to them and nothing was reported as to the Park Board.
- F. Summer Program – Caroline reported that a change of Director for the Summer Program was needed because Dana Szakatits had submitted her resignation as per June 17, 1986 with the recommendation that Barb Swanson be hired as Director now instead of Assistant. Ron Estep made the motion to accept Barn Swanson as Director of the Summer Recreation Program with the same fee and schedule.
- G. Winter Program – No report given.

- H. Baseball & Softball – Ralph had no report, but Caroline said Girls Softball requested foul line posts at the parks that needed them. The request was denied because of their hindrance of other uses in the areas mentioned.
- I. Town Festival – Paul stated that the Horseshoe Contact is still being sponsored by the Park Board as stated before.

CORRESPONDENCE

Petition from Larimer Park area residents. Department of Natural Resources letter about contents of Larimer Park Pond. Various catalogs.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Industrial Supply	\$43.24
Schilling diesel fuel	\$31.54
Jerry Matlon (postage for survey)	\$108.81
Nipsco	\$112.06
Schilling Lumber	\$34.99 – Homestead Park lumber
Debbie Sjoerdsma	\$15.00
Crown Rentals	\$60.00 – concrete for Homestead Park
Caroline Petrick	\$28.19 - flowers for Larimer memorial
Barb Swanson	\$40.37
D. Blitt	\$11.47 – recreation supplies
SS Supplies	\$118.78 – recreation supplies
Dana Szakatiis	\$170.00

Paul made the motion to approve the bills as read. Ralph seconded motion. Ron commented that the bill from Jerry Matlon for postage for the survey was billed entirely to the Park Board instead of evenly divided as we agreed. Paul to look into this matter.

DISCUSSION

Ron Estep received a request for a portable facility (portable bathroom) at Homestead Park. He made a motion to fill this request. Ralph seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0. Ron made a motion that Paul contact the police about the Sunday ballplayers at Larimer Park, to either obtain a permit for the use of the field or not use the field any longer.

Schedules for reservations of parks are with Paul Anderson. Ralph mentioned that these schedules should also be recorded at the Town Hall on their calendar as well as his schedule.

ADJOURNMENT

Ron made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Paul seconded motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Caroline Petrick
Secretary

Approved:

/s/ Paul Anderson
President
St. John Park and Recreation Board