

**PARK BOARD**  
**ST. JOHN, INDIANA**  
**February 20, 1992**

**Document Title**            PARK BOARD OF ST. JOHN, INDIANA  
**Document No.**  
**Approval Date**            February 20, 1992  
**Archive Date**  
**Published In**  
**Document Type**            Park Board Minutes

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

- |                              |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Attendee 1, Richard Conaway  | Attendee 4, Colleen Hansen |
| Attendee 2, Mary Anne Koke   | 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 February meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was called to order 8:00 p.m. in the St. John Town Hall.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

After the reading of the January minutes, Mary Anne Koke made a motion to accept them with corrections.

OLD BUSINESS

Harold Monkin, a resident and representative for those in the Fairway subdivision, inquired as to the status of Fairway Park, and noted the improved condition of the property. Board members informed him that Mrs. Egnatz volunteered her expertise to design the park's layout which included a playground on the west, rustic shelter on the east large enough for thirty people to congregate and a barbecue pit adjacent to it. Work is expected to begin in March.

Ken Jakubowicz of the St. John Youth Babe Ruth Baseball Commission for ages 13, 14, and 15, addressed the Board as to the need for fields. He said that Dale Rudd

(Commissioner of Northwest County) organized Dyer and Schererville to play official games, and helps with fields, but he is desperate for practice areas.

Board member, Richard Conaway, had already been investigating the situation and advised of some alternatives. There is a level area of property just off of 93<sup>rd</sup> Avenue that will be cleared for Girls Softball practice. Negotiations are in progress for this property owned by the Lake Central School Corporation at a minimum annual fee. The acreage may also be available for the Babe Ruth Leagues. The lonely caveat at this point in time is that no permanent structure may be erected since it is the site planned for an elementary school some time in the future. Mr. Conaway also requested the help of volunteers from Larry Franks, past president of the Girls Softball League, to help rake the infield area.

Ken Schneider presented a site plan defining three fields, parking and concession areas for the property if the Town is successful in attaining it for the leagues' use.

- Motion made by Mrs. Koke, seconded by Caroline Petrick, and receiving unanimous approval, that the 14 acre Sun Meadows Park will have about 2.5 acres for a small tot park, a basketball court and the remaining land will remain in a natural state.

Central Park located to the east of U.S. 41, south of Kolling School and north of 93<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, is one step closer to reality. All members agreed that the property is the most appropriate site and will pursue avenues to complete the project. This may include condemnation procedures.

- Motion made by Mrs. Petrick to purchase six bottles of Aquafil, a drying agent, for the ball fields. Motion seconded by Mrs. Koke and unanimously approved. The motion included a cost not to exceed \$100.00 for the six bottles.

The State Board of Accounts advised that projects in the Non-Reverting Park Fund must be self-supporting. The Winter activities at Kolling School do not meet this requirement. There were three options available to address the problem:

Option 1 – Adjust fees until self-supporting.

Option 2 – Do away with the fund and operate the program through the general park fund with any fees collected.

Option 3 – A combination of Options 1 & 2.

- Motion was unanimously passed. Motion made by Mrs. Koke, seconded by Mrs. Petrick to eliminate the Park Non-reverting Fund and to deposit all park program fees into the park operating fund while also adjusting the fees.

The new fee schedule will increase user's contributions to \$1.00 for St. John residents and \$2.00 for non-residents for those that participate in Aerobics, Volleyball and Basketball.

- Unanimous approval given to Mrs. Petrick's motion, seconded by Mrs. Koke, to lease Keilman Field for Girls Softball for \$235.00.

- Unanimous approval to underwrite the Officer Friendly Olympics at \$1,000.00 from the Promotional Budget. Motion made by Mrs. Koke and seconded by Mrs. Petrick.
- Unanimous approval to purchase trailer to transport park maintenance equipment as recommended by Public Works Director, Pete Monix. Cost not to exceed \$1,200.00 and equipment to be inventoried. Motion made by Mrs. Koke and seconded by Mrs. Petrick.

Mrs. Petrick will be negotiating the 1992 contract for the Fitness Program with Pam Zych.

The Impact Fee status has been discussed at a Special Meeting held on January 29, 1992 with the Town Attorney, David Austgen. Any cash fees in lieu of parkland, not collected by December 31, 1991, regardless of previous agreements with developers, is no longer available. Although the attorney is continuing his research on the new legislation, his guarded opinion is that park land is still an acceptable requirement of any new development. Should a developer offer cash rather than donating real estate, the offer can be accepted.

- Motion made by Mrs. Koke, seconded by Mrs. Petrick, and unanimously approved for the Park Board to sponsor one team in each of the Boys Baseball and Girls Softball leagues, not to exceed \$225.00 per team.

Mr. Conaway announced that the Board's account balance has been cleared after long negotiations with Clearing Disposal Services. The problem occurred when the "porta-potti" was not removed on schedule by the company, which then continued to bill St. John for the extended period of time. That has now been corrected.

#### PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion made by Mrs. Koke, seconded by Mrs. Petrick to pay the bills, with unanimous approval.

- A fee of \$900.00 from Bob's Tree Service was approved for the removal of dead tress at Fairway Park.
- Jim's Repair invoice at \$22.27 approved for sharpening chains for the Town's saws used to cut down trees at Fairway Park.
- Nipsco will be issued a check for \$68.97 for electricity.
- Men's Basketball Program's \$50.00 fee was approved.
- Liz Fenney, assistant aerobic instructor, fee approved at \$40.00.
- Pam Zych's fee for co-ed volleyball approved at \$250.00.

#### ANY AND ALL

Board President Richard Conaway officially welcomed and thanked Town Councilman Carl Brown's attendance and participation at the Park Board's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mrs. Koke, seconded by Mrs. Petrick to adjourn at 10:00 p.m.  
Unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Colleen Hansen  
Secretary