

PARK BOARD
ST. JOHN, INDIANA
December 3, 1996

Document Title PARK BOARD OF ST. JOHN, INDIANA
Document No.
Approval Date December 3, 1996
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, Joan Millis	Attendee 4, Paul Haller
Attendee 2, Mary Anne Koke	Attendee 5, Fred Kish, Council Liaison
Attendee 3, Eileen Butcher	Attendee 6,

The following members absent:

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

CALL TO ORDER

The December 3rd meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Motion by Mary Anne Koke, seconded by Eileen Butcher, to approve the minutes of the Oct. 29th meeting as submitted. Discussion: It was noted that the president called the roll, and in Item 5, New Business, Fair Oaks Manor, "outlets" was corrected to read "outlots." Passed unanimously with the noted corrections.

OLD BUSINESS

[Drinking Fountains at Schillton Hills](#) - Joan Millis announced that the drinking fountain in Schillton Hills is not yet completed and will not be finished before spring. This item will be returned to the agenda in March or April of 1997, as previously suggested by Paul Haller.

[Resolution #96-11-26A "Annexation Fiscal Plan Dated 11/26/96"](#) - Joan Millis distributed copies of the resolution preparing to annex the land at 10616 White Oak Avenue in Dyer, IN for Central Park. The resolution was approved and signed at the November 26th Town Council meeting. David Wickland is submitting the appropriate paperwork to the County

[John Taylor Presentation](#) - John Taylor presented conceptual drawings for an ice arena based on the facility at Orland Park, IL. The preformed concrete slab building (about 350' x 235') would allow for quick construction. John discussed the technical background of the mechanical room, the machinery to smooth the ice, the additional health facility and some other changes to the Orland plan. He noted that he had been meeting with several investors, reviewing the mechanics of the private and public municipal involvement for a not-for-profit building, and municipal ownership to shield taxes. Endowments and foundations will also be approached for future funding. John noted that the wife of one of the investors is a former national Polish skating champion, and has an association with the Eastern European Coaching Staff for figure skating. This group may be interested in the arena to create a nationally predominant coaching facility.

The estimated cost of the building is \$4.2-4.5 million. The developer is Carl Sutton who is heading the development group; the site plans have been developed by the architectural firm of Styczynski Walker & Associates of Willowbrook, IL. The feasibility study from Turzo and Bologna in Cincinnati is expected in mid-December. John noted that he tried to arrange an agreement with Schererville to share the facility, but this was rejected when they announced plans to do it separately. He noted that site plans and elevations for the arena would be presented to the Plan Commission at 7:00 p.m. on December 4th, following the second reading of the annexation resolution at 2:00 p.m. the same day. The investment group is meeting at 6:00 p.m., prior to the Plan Commission meeting.

Planning for the facility is ready for bidding. Some additional meetings of the Plan Commission may be called to expedite the development. Joan Millis inquired whether the development would wait for the feasibility study to arrive; John replied that they would, but that plans will continue to move forward, including the preparation of the prospectus, based on samples from similar facilities in other states. He felt that the facility will yield a profit that will cover the cost of bonds or the Town's developmental expenses. The addition of several other entities is expected to increase the profitability. He feels that the work over the past year is coming together quickly with a broad base of support.

According to John, expenses for the project to date have been borne by the development group, with no expense to the Town. Paul Haller inquired whether the 6:00 p.m. meeting with the investor group, while a closed meeting, would be open to a member of the Park Board. Taylor indicated a Park Board member would be welcome. He expressed hope that Tom McDermott of the Northwest Indiana Forum would attend the Plan Commission meeting on December 4th. John reiterated his belief in the potential of the facility as a training center to develop Olympic skaters.

[Five-Year Master Plan](#) - Joan Millis indicated that the St. John Thoroughfare Plan is being updated, which is related to the Five-Year plan. She still expects to receive the

plan from Storrow and Kinsella by the end of the year. She noted they attended the last Impact Fee meeting and reviewed the structure of the Impact Fee Committee (Joan and Eileen are members). The next meeting is December 17th, and some figures on land values are expected to be ready for presentation.

Impact Fees - No additional information was presented.

Prairie West Fountains - Joan distributed copies of the bids for one large and two smaller fountains for the pond. The Town Council has requested proposals; the first one from Century Rain for \$12,840 was presented. Two other proposals must be sought before one can be selected. Lowell has a smaller fountain in Evergreen Park from the same company, which cost \$4000 in 1993. Munster's fountain is owned by the developer and was purchased from the same company. Joan noted that monies (a draw) may be allocated the last day of December and must be earmarked or appropriated for next year. Joan expressed her preference for future developers to provide for the required aeration to maintain healthy ponds. Eileen Butcher agreed to seek other bids. The next meeting date was set for Tuesday, December 17th at 6:30 p.m. to review the bids.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was presented.

REPORTS

Parks - Joan reported that aerobics brought in \$195.00 against expenses of \$270.00; volleyball brought in \$79.00 against expenses of \$80.00; and basketball brought in \$99.00 against expenses of \$40.00. No bills have been submitted for "Fit For Kids"; a few free sessions were offered to early participants.

Joan suggested that Ordinance No.890 (from the 1980's) listing charges for residents and non-residents should be amended to increase residential charges to \$2.00 and non-residential charges to \$3.00, for all activities. Aerobics costs \$60.00/week for the instructors; attendance has been good and the instructors are well liked. Volleyball and basketball are also drawing good attendance; it was felt that an additional charge would not turn anyone away.

- Motion by Mary Anne Koke, seconded by Eileen Butcher, to increase the rates for aerobics, basketball and volleyball to \$2.00/session for St. John residents and \$3.00/session for non-residents beginning in January 1997 (to correct Ordinance No. 890). Passed unanimously.

Joan will forward the information to David Wickland for appropriate action.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Joan Millis presented the following bills for payment:
(Asterisked items will be paid from the Park Development Fund)

2329*	Storrow & Kinsella	\$1,000.00	Master Plan
-------	--------------------	------------	-------------

2328*	Pflum – Klausmeier	\$2,076.86	Impact fees
2454	Fitfully Yours	\$270.00	Aerobics
2455	Carl Decker	\$40.00	Basketball
2456	Pam Zych	\$80.00	Volleyball
2457	Post Tribune	\$29.82	Ads for farm and house
2458	Nipsco	\$38.35	Dusk to dawn light
2459	Nipsco	\$17.54	Dusk to dawn light
2460	St. John Municipal Utilities	\$20.00	Water
2461	Popa Sheet Metal	\$59.00	Furnace at White Oak
2462	Kleines	\$50.00	Tractor filter
2463	Miracle Recreation Equipment	\$1,807.00	Slide replacement

- Motion by Mary Anne Koke, seconded by Paul Haller, to approve and pay the bills as presented. Passed unanimously.

ANY AND ALL

No topics were presented for discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mary Anne Koke, seconded by Paul Haller, to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Norma R. Yaeger
Recording Secretary