

**PARK BOARD**  
**ST. JOHN, INDIANA**  
**January 7, 1997**

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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 January 7<sup>th</sup> meeting was called to order with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1997

Joan Millis requested nominations for the office of President.

- Motion by Mary Anne Koke, seconded by Paul Haller, to nominate Joan Millis as President. Passed, Joan Millis abstaining.

Joan Millis requested nominations for the office of Vice President.

- Motion by Paul Haller, seconded by Eileen Butcher, to nominate Mary Anne Koke as Vice President. Pass, Mary Anne Koke abstaining.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Motion by Mary Anne Koke, seconded by Paul Haller to approve the minutes of December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Discussion: Joan Millis requested a change to note that Ordinance No. 890 dated from 1990, not 1980. Passed, with the noted amendment.
- Motion by Paul Haller, seconded by Mary Anne Koke, to approve the minutes of December 17<sup>th</sup> meeting as distributed. Passed.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Central Park** – Joan Millis reported that just before Christmas break, the St. John schools had received colorful flyers requesting help from the school children to name Central Park.

Joan Millis displayed a copy of the plan for Central Park presented at the Plan Commission on January 6<sup>th</sup>, as designed by the Town Engineer Kenn Kraus. The plan shows the location of the existing buildings, the proposed two-sheet ice arena, the driver and 320 parking spaces, ball fields, and the detention basin. She discussed the proposed plan to provide water, sanitary and sewer services; these will be discussed at the Water Board meeting on January 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. The plan proposes that the sewer will tie into the existing lift station at 107<sup>th</sup> or increase the capacity of the pumps.

Mary Anne Koke inquired about the number of entrances to the building, which will be sufficient to meet fire codes. The detention (or retention) basin is designed for the appropriate capacity and release rates, but could be relocated. The Park Board envisions concessions and restrooms, which will further affect the location of the water services. Members were reminded of the offer to develop gardens in the park or along the drive.

Future items for discussion include the soil testing and the farm rental agreement with Daryl Batterman (pending the amount of land available to farm this year).

**Five-Year Master Plan** – Storrow and Kinsella were expected to attend tonight's meeting, but called to cancel their visit. Joan Millis noted that they have been attending the Impact Fee meetings, and will plan to come to the February 4<sup>th</sup> Park Board meeting. They have prepared a map showing 19 parks, including Civic Park. St. John's thoroughfare plan is also being updated; this will enable the Park Board to apply for grants to bike paths and walking paths. There was some discussion of the Lantern View Park, the sidewalk, and the grading and seeding, and finishing work to be done in the spring.

**Impact Fees** – The last meeting of the Impact Fee Committee is scheduled for January 28<sup>th</sup>. At that time, the impact fees may be set; \$825.00 per dwelling is being discussed. Joan Millis will use that number to compare the relative donations per dwelling received in the past. The proposed amount will be presented to the Plan Commission and the Town Council for approval.

**Prairie West Fountains** – The Park Board's request for fountains in Prairie West was relayed by the Town Council to the Town Engineer for further study to determine the adequacy of the proposed fountains. Mary Anne Koke noted that the Park Board had

selected and approved a plan on December 17<sup>th</sup>, so that the funds could be expended by December 31<sup>st</sup>, when the draw was received.

Fred Kish stated that neither the Town Council nor the Town Engineer was aware that the Park Board budget would be reduced delaying the expenditure to 1997. Joan Millis reported that Judy Companik, the Clerk-Treasurer, felt the funds from the Park Development Fund, could be used. Joan Millis noted that there would be additional sources of revenue this year from the renter, the farming contract, and eventually, the impact fees from developers. Park Board members expressed resentment at the situation, which will negatively impact the 1997 Budget. A greater effort will be made by the members to attend meetings impacting the Park Board.

### NEW BUSINESS

[St. John Girls Softball League Sponsorship](#) – Joan Millis presented a request to again sponsor a softball team this summer. Mary Anne Koke inquired what funds would be available to sponsor teams.

Joan Millis noted that as soon as the draw was received, \$20,000.00 was paid back to the Park Development Fund; a balance of \$24,345.00 remains through June 1<sup>st</sup>. The Park Development Fund has a new balance of \$49,367.03. Extra funds have been received from insurance (\$2,869.50 received against \$1,800.00 paid), and D. Batterman has paid \$625.00 into the cash balance. Joan Millis felt these funds should count toward 1997 appropriations to help re-build the budget.

She also noted there will be some changes in the Public Works Office this year due to the retirement of Pete Monix, and the proposed hiring of two “fair weather” employees (not out of Public Works). Mary Anne Koke noted that a plan was tried two summers ago to hire Public Works employees to gain their equipment maintenance expertise. However, most other towns are using students or retirees to cut grass, and Fred Kish noted that repairs are being contracted out. He suggested that lawn maintenance firms be researched. Expenses for wages would not begin until early summer.

In addition to Girls Softball, St. John has sponsored Boys Baseball and Schererville Soccer. A contribution is requested in lieu of sponsorship if possible. Joan Millis noted that the baseball people have helped with numerous expenses.

- Motion by Mary Anne Koke, seconded by Eileen Butcher, to sponsor the St. John Girls Softball League for \$250.00. Passed.

[Resolution No. 97-01-23A](#) – Joan Millis provided copies of this resolution that will go to the Town Council for approval on January 23<sup>rd</sup> at the request of the Clerk-Treasurer. The resolution will transfer \$600.00 from Equipment Repairs and Maintenance to machinery Equipment to cover expenses incurred to repair the well at the home in White Oak Park. The expense of \$1,500.00 exceeds the amount that can be authorized by the Park Board (i.e. \$1,200.00), so this has to go to the Town Council for approval. Mary Anne Koke inquired whether fund transfer requests should be a function of the Park Board; at this time it is not.

REPORTS

[Parks – Ordinance No. 1029](#) – Joan Millis noted that Ordinance No. 1029 increasing the fees for activities was passed. She has received a few phone calls supportive of the increases. The newspaper also printed a supportive article.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

3	Norma Yaeger	\$30.00	Recording secretary
4	Tri-Town Y	\$107.50	Fit For Kids
5	Tri-Town Y	\$129.00	Fit For Kids
6	Tri-Town Y	\$107.50	Fit For Kids
7	Pam Zych	\$60.00	Volleyball
8	Fitfully Yours	\$180.00	Aerobics
9	Aron Farmer	\$1,596.25	Well repair
10*	Pflum Klausmeier	\$2,920.00	Impact fees
11	Illiana Fence (from gift fund)	\$1,450.00	Softball field fence – East Park
2737	St. John Park Development	\$20,000.00	Loan repayment

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

ANY AND ALL

Joan Millis noted that Pflum Klausmeier contract of \$8,500.00 has not been totally expended yet.

Eileen Butcher reported on the St. John / Schererville meeting reference the proposed ice arenas as unpleasant and unproductive. While St. John’s proposed price for the two rinks has increased, the costs will be covered by private investors. A ceremonial groundbreaking is expected as soon as State approvals are received.

Joan Millis expressed her hope that Park Board members will work as a team and help cover meetings affecting the Park Board. This coming year will ring additional challenges with Central Park and the impact fees. Mary Anne Koke suggested the Board increase to five members.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mary Anne Koke, seconded by Paul Haller, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Norma R. Yaeger  
Recording Secretary

