

PARK BOARD
ST. JOHN, INDIANA
March 4, 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,
Attendee 2, Paul Haller	Attendee 5, Fred Kish, Council Liaison
Attendee 3, Eileen Butcher	Attendee 6,

The following members absent:

Absent 1, Mary Anne Koke	Absent 4
Absent 2,	Absent 5
Absent 3,	Absent 6

CALL TO ORDER

The March 4th meeting was called to order with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Eileen Butcher, seconded by Joan Millis, to approve the minutes of February 4, 1997. Passed.

OLD BUSINESS

[Prairie West Fountain](#)

Joan Millis informed the Board that at the February 27th meeting, the St. John Town Council approved the purchase of two diffusers (aerators) and a fountain from the Crystal Palace. These have been ordered and will be installed by Public Works as soon as the pond is open.

[Central Park](#)

Joan Millis noted that infrastructure blueprint drawings should be available by the April meeting for review by Park Board members.

Joan Millis reported that she had visited St. John Evangelist and Kolling Elementary to pick up students' nominations for the name of Central Park. Other schools will be visited to pick up any additional nominations. Board members are asked to review the names; Joan will either call a special session or phone members to poll their preferences in preparation for voting at the April meeting.

Five-Year Master Plan

Copies of the 5-year Master Plan have been made available to the public at the St. John Library, the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, and in Building and Planning. Any suggestions should be forwarded to her prior to the April 1 meeting, when the public hearing will be held prior to voting on adoption. Members of the Plan Commission also received copies to consider in relation to their review of impact fees.

Impact Fees

The Plan Commission will be holding a public hearing at their March meeting. Minutes of their previous meeting and the minutes of the last Impact Fee Advisory Committee were distributed to Park Board members for review. The six-month waiting period begins after the public hearing and adoption of the plan.

NEW BUSINESS

Porta-Potties

Joan Millis distributed copies of the two bids received from Service Sanitation and Bruce's Septic Service for park porta-potties for the period April 1 through September 1. The Park Board has used Bruce's for the past two years, paying \$65.00/unit plus \$120.00/handicapped unit, and has been satisfied. The prices include the rental, materials and cleaning. Service Sanitation provides an optional damage waiver for \$7.00/month to protect the Board from replacing the unit at full cost, should there be damage. Joan will inquire whether Bruce's would provide similar coverage, particularly for Homestead where there was considerable vandalism last summer. The unit was pulled out two weeks after installation, and the Board had to pay the insurance deductible (\$250.00) for damages. Selection of a service will be made at the April meeting, in time for the beginning of ball games.

Parks – Grass Cutting

Joan Millis asked Board members to consider the annual cost of grass cutting for 70-80 acres of parks. Public Works has performed the work at an annual cost of \$22,500.00, about half of the Park Board's budget. Last summer, after an advertisement was placed for employees, Public Works indicated they could handle the grass cutting. John Taylor felt there were more hours and resources consumed than actually reported.

Joan suggested that 1 or 2 “fair weather employees” could perform the work using Public Works equipment at a considerable savings, estimating 40 hour/week for two people for 11 weeks at various wage rates; this in turn would free up Public Works employees for other projects. There was discussion of the pros and cons of a part-time employee versus an outside contract, i.e., benefits, hourly wages, indemnification, and level of responsibility. Joan will contact the Clerk-Treasurer’s Office for further clarification. Members expressed concern over the employee’s skills and conscientious use of Town equipment; training would be provided. John Taylor offered to explore the insurance aspects of the decision. Eileen Butcher expressed a preference for an outside contractor.

- Motion by Eileen Butcher, seconded by Paul Haller, to authorize Joan Millis to place an advertisement for summer grass cutters to try to hire someone by April 1 and to investigate the appropriate employment status. Passed unanimously.

Keilman Field

Joan Millis reported that she has asked Gary Ruvoli of St. John Youth Baseball to provide a check for \$235.00 to help defray the taxes of Mr. and Mrs. Keilman for the use of their field for ball games. A lease agreement will be signed between the Keilmans and the St. John Park Board.

REPORTS

Programs

Joan Millis noted that aerobics has experienced growth in attendance and came out \$29.00 ahead, with an average attendance of 14. No reported was received from volleyball, basketball, or “Fit or Kids”.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

317*	Pflum Klausmeier	\$876.87	Impact fees
318*	Storrow Kinsella	\$1,500.00	5-year Master Plan
440	St. John Youth Baseball	\$225.00	Team sponsorship
441	McShanes	\$10.20	Office supplies
442	Nipsco	\$44.62	Dusk/dawn lights
443	St. John Municipal Utilities	\$44.40	Semi-annual water bill
444	Lake Central School	\$222.50	Gym rental
445	Norma Yaeger	\$60.00	Recording secretary

- Motion by Paul Haller, seconded by Eileen Butcher, to approve and pay the bills as presented. Passed unanimously.

ANY AND ALL

Central Park

Paul Haller asked for clarification on the ownership of Central Park, as it has not been officially deeded over, and inquired about the responsibility for payment of expenses. John Taylor explained that a down payment was made from capital development funds; the remainder of the approximately \$300,000.00 cost will be paid from the St. John Town Council general funds.

The Town has received the feasibility study done by the Cincinnati firm, which is positive and projects a profit margin for the ice arena. The ownership and management of the park is still under study with the attorney, taking into account existing legislation and other towns' experiences. The details of ownership are expected to be decided within a short time. The construction firm expects to begin work in April with a target completion date in September, even though no memorandum of understanding is in place.

John Taylor indicated he expects to discuss the possibility of a semi-pro A or AA baseball team later this week.

Posted Signs

Joan Millis reported that the warning signs required by Indiana Insurance have been posted around the ponds in Homestead, Larimer, and Louis parks, as of February 28th.

Girls Softball

Mr. John Henry appeared on behalf of St. John Girls Softball, inquiring whether any arrangements had been made with any of the organized sports. This has not been done, but a meeting of interested parties on the use of Central Park is planned for the near future; written comments are also welcome. Joan Millis noted that extended poles and cables have been installed at the East Park Complex at the Babe Ruth field; netting will be hung as soon as feasible.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Paul, seconded by Eileen Butcher, to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.
Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Norma R. Yaeger
Recording Secretary