

**PARK BOARD**  
**ST. JOHN, INDIANA**  
**April 1, 1997**

**Document Title**           PARK BOARD OF ST. JOHN, INDIANA  
**Document No.**  
**Approval Date**           April 1, 1997  
**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 April 1st meeting was called to order with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Eileen Butcher, seconded by Mary Anne Koke, to approve the minutes of March 4th, 1997. Passed.

OLD BUSINESS

[Prairie West Fountain](#)

Joan Millis announced that Crystal Palace Perennials will be installing the fountain within the next week. Many of the parts are already in, but some trenching from the pond to the lift station remains to connect the electricity at an additional cost of approximately \$250.00. A bill for \$3555.02 has been received for the two diffusers, tubing, compressor, fountain, strainer, the power cord, shipping, handling, and installation, which is considerably less than the original proposal.

## Central Park

About 60 names were nominated by the school children in the St. John schools. Those names favored included Heartland, United, and Heritage. Mary Anne Koke noted that United Park might present a problem if another park were developed on the East side of St. John. Paul Haller felt that most of the names were "too cute" and unsophisticated.

- Motion by Mary Anne Koke, seconded by Eileen Butcher, to name the park currently known as Central Park at 106th and White Oak the "St. John Heartland Park". Passed unanimously.

The name was submitted by Sophia Bairaktaris, a first grader at Kolling Elementary School. She wins the pizza party in St. John for ten people.

## Five-Year Master Plan

The public hearing will be delayed until May 6th because the legal notice was not submitted in time. No corrections or suggestions have been received during this review period.

## Impact Fees

The Plan Commission will hold a public hearing on the Impact Fee plan at their meeting on April 2nd at 7:00 p.m. Park Board members are encouraged to attend.

## Porta-Potties

Two proposals were received, one from Bruce Septic Service, and one from Service Sanitation for the period May 1st to October 1st. Service's bid offers an optional damage waiver for \$7.00 on as many units as desired; this protects the Town from replacing the unit at full cost should it get damaged. Bruce does not offer this. Joan Millis reviewed and compared the costs for the monthly rent, disposal fee, cleaning, and all materials for the two available sizes (standard and ADA). An ADA unit was rented last summer for Homestead but was pulled out after 2 weeks because of the fire.

Mary Anne Koke inquired whether the Town is required to provide ADA units; Thomas Keilman and the president of the girls softball league both noted that senior citizens and disabled people have attended the girls softball, Schererville Soccer League and St. John Evangelist games, and appreciate having the larger units. Two tournaments are scheduled at East Park this summer.

- Motion by Mary Anne Koke, seconded by Paul Haller, to contract with Service Sanitation Inc. for porta-potties in the St. John Parks for the summer of 1997. Passed unanimously.
- Motion by Mary Anne Koke, seconded by Eileen Butcher, to contract with Service Sanitation to rent:
  - 1 ADA unit, insured, at East Park Complex
  - 1 standard unit, insured, at East Park Complex

- 1 standard unit, insured, at Homestead Acres
- 1 standard unit, uninsured, at Larimer
- 1 standard unit, uninsured, at Keilman.

Passed.

Paul Haller suggested that the units be removed the first time there is damage.

### Parks - Grass Cutting

An ad for grass cutters for St. John's 22 parks was placed in the Schererville News for one printing; three applications were received. Mary Anne Koke suggested that more responses are needed, and J. Millis recommended that the topic be taken under advisement until further research is conducted on the costs of private lawn services. Paul Haller was asked to review the park budget and obtain estimates from private companies.

Charlie Williams, the new Public Works Director, has offered to help with the grass cutting, though it is not known exactly how many hours work has been required in the past. Joan Millis will tally the available information. Concerns were expressed over the responsible use and maintenance of the equipment (including weekly sharpening and periodic blade replacement), the transportation of the equipment to the various locations, adequate training and supervision, age and maturity of part-time employee(s), willingness to work any day depending on the weather, various hourly rates and benefits and insurance, the pros and cons of utilizing the Public Works staff, and the uncertain savings to be gained by changing from last summer.

Although warmer weather is here and the grass is beginning to grow, a hiring decision can be postponed, based on using Public Works as a backup until then.

- Motion by Paul Haller, seconded by Mary Anne Koke, to take under advisement further consideration of grass cutting in the parks. Passed.

### Keilman Field

St. John Youth Baseball League has submitted a check for \$235.00, which will be paid to Thomas and Vivian Keilman who have signed a lease agreement for use of the field.

### NEW BUSINESS

Paul Haller inquired about the completion of the Turtle Island and its proposed location in Prairie West. He expressed concern for placing it there because of the new fountain and aerators, and because of the few turtles and many geese in that park. He recommended that it be located in Larimer where there are many turtles. The Eagle Scout who designed and completed it also did some research on its proposed location, although Paul Haller felt it should be the board's decision where to locate it.

Joan Millis offered to check with the Boy Scout Council on their flexibility. Paul also felt that the residents nearest the Prairie West Park who want additional facilities might not be pleased to see a turtle island installed.

## REPORTS

### Programs

Joan Millis reported that basketball in January and February had average attendance of 20; the money earned was \$108.00 over expenses. In March, the average attendance was \$18.00, with the money earned \$42.00. She felt the increased charge imposed at the first of the year has helped. Volley for January, February, March has had an average attendance of 12, with money earned at \$69.00. No report was received for the "Fit for Kids" or aerobics program. All the programs will end by April 30th.

## PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

643	Norma Yaeger	\$60.00	Recording secretary
644	Hofer Enterprises	\$61.52	Groundbreaking ceremony plaque at Ice Arena
645	AAA Supply	\$83.65	Sign posts
646	Pam Zych	\$180.00	Volleyball
648	Carl Decker	\$40.00	Basketball
649	Fitfully Yours	\$240.00	Instructors
650	Herald News	\$26.96	Newspaper advertisement
651	Nipsco	\$17.54	Dusk/dawn lights
652	CD Technologies	\$756.00	Park Board portion of Building-Planning database
653*	Leon Fisher	\$429.30	Ice Arena renderings (this expense is expected to be reimbursed)
532*	Pflum Klausmeier	\$839.00	Impact Fee study

- MOTION by Paul Haller, seconded by Eileen Butcher, to approve and pay the bills as presented. Discussion: There was some objection to paying for the plaque, which was "given" to the Town of St. John by the developers of the ice arena. Eileen Butcher felt the Park Board should also be reimbursed for this "expense." Passed unanimously.

## ANY AND ALL

### Pond Signs

Paul Haller inquired about the pond signs; they specify that there is to be no ice fishing. Mary Anne Koke also noted that juveniles with an adult escort may fish, but adult fishing is prohibited by ordinance, though it is inconsistently enforced.

### Girls Softball

The president of the Girls Softball League presented copies of a proposal to the Park Board members. The proposal was developed by experienced board members and

includes the needs of the team, some background history and growth records, suggestions for concessions, and ways to make money on tournaments. Board members commended the League on the work put into the proposal.

### Net Installation

Joan Millis noted that St. John will be able to borrow the cherry picker from Highland to install the netting on the posts. This will help stop the line drives and foul balls between fields; spring practice has already begun. P. Haller expressed his concern for the proximity of the girls softball and boys baseball simultaneous games; scheduling will help prevent some of the conflict.

### Park Readiness

Joan Millis noted that Public Works has begun checking the equipment at the parks to get ready for the summer season. Some of the park grounds and soccer fields have been rolled and seeded.

Pursuant to the discussion on grass cutting, Paul Haller inquired whether it would be advantageous for the Town to hire a summer employee to assist Public Works. However, there may be no distinction whether the Town or the Park Board hires; the difference will be between part or full time, with or without insurance and/or benefits.

Pete Monix suggested that Public Works continue to service the parks, so that all the concerns expressed by the Board, could be addressed by Town employees. He added to the list of needed services and concerns: weekend garbage pickup, proper mowing to keep the grass clippings out of the ponds, and safety on the steep banks.

Fred Kish felt that an outside firm would be able to provide the services and cover all the concerns with their own employees, with no wear and tear on the Town's equipment. Mary Anne Koke inquired whether this would free up a Town employee; Fred Kish felt the Town's employees would be able to address other pressing problems, especially for drainage.

Eileen Butcher called for a special meeting to address grass cutting and park maintenance. Joan Millis offered to check the meeting schedule.

### ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Paul Haller, seconded by Joan Millis, to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Norma R. Yaeger  
Recording Secretary