

PARK BOARD
ST. JOHN, INDIANA
May 6, 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 May 6th meeting was called to order 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 April 1, 1997. Passed.

PUBLIC HEARING

[Five-year Master Plan](#)

This item was postponed until later in the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

[Prairie West Fountain](#)

Joan Millis announced that Crystal Palace Perennials has installed the 20 feet of electric lines, tubing and conduit in a trench from the lift station, but hit Nipsco lines. The fountain is in; the aerators are yet to be installed. Permission is needed from the Sanitary Water Board to use the same connection. A separate outside meter has been installed by Austgen Electric. The Sanitary Water Board also requested assurance that any problem with the fountain would not short-circuit the lift station. The fountain will be on a timer to reduce usage.

Joan expressed concern that the pond already needs a chemical treatment for the algae. Crystal Palace last year recommended "blue veil" to shade out the weeds, at a cost of \$50.00; this is a different chemical from that used last year. However, it was unclear what size of application would be covered by the \$50.00. Mary Anne Koke read from the safety sheet and expressed concern over the requirements for assistance from fire fighters. Signs would have to be posted for 1-2 days announcing the application. Joan was asked to do further research on the chemical application and the subject was tabled.

Central Park

No report; the name will be changed on future agendas to Heartland Park, as selected at the last meeting.

Impact Fees

The Town Council will review the ordinance at their May 22nd meeting.

Grass Cutting

Paul contacted four Indiana and two Illinois grass cutting companies, as well as the Town of Munster. However, Munster's contract is for fertilization, not grass cutting. Paul offered to provide the names of the firms to Joan.

The lowest cost was quoted by Grass Masters at \$9.85/hr, using the Town's equipment. They would provide trucks to move the equipment to the various sites. The other firms would use their own equipment at about \$12/hr, but they have substantial contract commitments, which might preclude their availability for the 75 acres in the St. John parks. No written cost information or estimate of the length of time required was received; none would do landscaping or trimming (considered "special services"), nor was it clear whether they would be available to work on weekends.

Joan presented information on the number of hours Public Works put in for the past few years: 1994 - 892 hrs; 1995 - 1,095 hrs; 1996 - 410 hrs. She felt further information was needed, particularly for insurance. Public Works is paying \$22,000/year for an employee to do it now which includes trimming and maintenance (about 70-80% of the parks budget). It was noted that under a new program, the Lake County work release people have worked for about three weeks. The subject was tabled until the next meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING

Five-Year Master Plan

Meg Storrow and John Kinsella arrived at 7:25 PM. Legal notices were published in the Post and the Times announcing tonight's public hearing, which was opened, at 7:30 PM.

Meg Storrow distributed copies of the revised plan. No written comments had been received, but revisions in the Vision Plan were made based on discussions. She pointed out on the map the corridor network and park linkages, particularly the Bull Run Corridor, the Utility Corridor Greenway Loop, the Bicycle Enhanced Trail and Thoroughfare System, and the Rail Corridor. Other park initiatives include Central Park, the ice arena and future athletic fields. The plan proposes an East Side park to link to the utility or rail corridor, perhaps as a donation or in conjunction with a development next to the water for sports and/or conservation. On page 36, Meg highlighted the recommendation for a marketing effort to develop a consistent logo for all signs, then adding location signs to provide directions to the parks. A 501(c) 3 not-for-profit parks foundation was also recommended to accept donations of land and contributions. She recommended that 10% of any capital funding be set aside to accrue funds for a maintenance endowment to self-fund park maintenance. That way that tax dollars can be used for current and new capital projects. A maintenance plan should be developed for each park, preferably in conjunction with a neighbor-hood or constituency group. The Park Master Plan includes a database, which should be kept up to date.

Meg further strongly recommended that St. John renew its membership in the Indiana Parks and Recreation Association. The organization promotes education to recreation professionals, and provides input to DNR. Sources of funds and grants were also provided. The completion of the parks' master plan makes the Town eligible for certain grants.

The Action Plan beginning on page 85 is divided by priorities, starting with improvements to the existing parks, then beginning work on the Vision Plan, including development of an East side park and expansion of Central Park. Meg indicated that a resolution of acceptance needs to be submitted to the Dept. of Natural Resources with a copy of the plan. Members of the Park Board thanked Storrow and Kinsella for their work resulting in the Parks 2001 Master Plan. The public hearing was closed at 8:10 p.m.

Corrections to be made on the first page included reversing the titles for Fred Kish and Douglas Patterson, and changing all the references of City to Town.

- MOTION by Mary Anne Koke, seconded by Eileen Butcher, to adopt resolution #050697 to approve and adopt the St. John Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Heron Park Estates Park Dedication

Michael Muenich reviewed the development of the Heron Park Estates, which includes 49 lots for single family residences and 9 duplexes. A 1.5-acre park is being offered which abuts the neighboring Heron Lake Park, for a total of five acres. Neither the

detention area nor the wetlands is included in the area being offered. Joan indicated the ground was high, like the Heron Lake Park. Access will be off Osage Drive, which also connects with Heron Lake.

- MOTION by Paul Haller, seconded by Mary Anne Koke, to give a favorable recommendation to accept the proposal as presented for Heron Park Estates. Passed unanimously.

East Park Complex

St. John Babe Ruth Shed

The School Board and Dr. Emerick have requested a 10' x 8' shed on the third base line; it will be used to store their equipment and will not be considered a permanent structure.

- MOTION by Eileen Butcher, seconded by Paul Haller, to approve the proposed shed site at East Park Complex. Passed unanimously.

Signs Regarding Vehicles

A resident wrote to express concern for the safety of the children at East Park. The fire lane on 93rd leading to the concession stand is used by the concession trucks and by parents to drop off equipment. The gate does not deter drivers from using the road. Joan has ordered signs saying "No Unauthorized Vehicles Beyond This Point" at a cost of \$25.71 each, with an additional cost of \$10.00/post; cars should be left in the parking lot for loading and unloading.

Larimer Park

Bushes

A memorial in the park was covered by overgrown evergreen bushes. Public Works crews cut back the bushes in a way that left them unattractive; Joan feels they need to be removed by a backhoe and replaced. The bushes around the flagpole are also too large to permit access to the pole. Mary Anne Koke asked whether a Scout Troop would be interested in doing a landscape project. David Wickland suggested that she call the Scout office. Joan will authorize Public Works to remove the bushes.

New Pavilion Roof

A new roof is needed for the pavilion. Last year the Park Board approved a motion to purchase new shingles, which had been torn off. Now the entire roof needs replacing; one proposal from Derwin Nietzel will cost \$1000 for about 18 squares and others materials and labor to put new shingles over the old ones. P. Haller inquired if there was an alternative roofing material less subject to destruction.

- MOTION by Mary Anne Koke, seconded by Eileen Butcher, to authorize Derwin Nietzel to spend \$1000.00 to repair the Larimer Park pavilion roof. Passed unanimously.

Prairie West Park

Fishing Derby - St. John Cub Scouts Pack #550

The Cub Scouts have requested permission to hold a fishing derby on June 11 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. There will be one parent for every two children. There are currently "No Fishing" signs posted, primarily for ice fishing. Paul Haller inquired how this permission would affect the Town's insurance. Carroll Austin, the Town's insurance agent of record with Began Insurance, will be contacted.

- MOTION by Mary Anne Koke, seconded by Eileen Butcher, to grant approval to the Cub Scout Pack #550 to hold a fishing derby at Prairie West Park on June 11 between 6:30 and 8:30, providing that the project is approved by the insurance carrier. Passed unanimously.

Stocking Fish

A resident has offered to put about \$60.00 worth of fish into the Prairie West Park detention area. Joan contacted the fish hatchery and a conservation officer to determine whether that constitutes public waters, which it is not. It is a contained body of water so that no permit is needed, but the Park Board would like to know what kinds of fish he plans to add. P. Haller noted that the overflow drains the plant-eating fish to the Kankakee and inquired whether there would be any negative ramifications.

MOTION by Mary Anne Koke, seconded by Paul Haller, to grant approval to add fish to the Prairie West detention pond, pending notification on the kinds of fish. Passed unanimously.

St. John Youth Baseball

Minor League Field Request

St. John Youth Baseball has requested an additional porta-pottie by the minor league field in Civic Park. Mary Anne Koke noted that the Park Board does not control Civic Park, but it was noted that the Park Board did place a porta-pottie in Keilman field, which is under the control of the Park Board. Civic Park belongs to the Town of St. John.

REPORTS

Programs

The aerobics and fit-for-kids programs are finished; basketball and volleyball are continuing.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

880	Norma Yaeger	\$60.00	Recording secretary
881	Pizza Hut	\$58.64	Park naming prize
882	Southlake Electric	\$83.67	Conduit
883	Schilling Brothers	\$35.12	Equipment/parts
884	Ruim Equipment	\$111.64	Parts
885	Herman Monix	\$19.90	System 3 – 16 CV white
886	Nelson Construction	\$240.90	Pea gravel
887	Fitfully Yours	\$90.00	Aerobics
888	Carl Decker	\$20.00	Basketball – 2 sessions
889	St. John Postmaster	\$32.00	Stamps
890	The Times	\$13.63	Legal notices
891	Post Tribune	\$11.75	Ads
892	Nipsco	\$67.70	Park lighting
893	Jim's Repair	\$15.00	Blade sharpening
894	Service Sanitation	\$775.16	Porta-potties
765*	Pflum Klausmeier	\$597.85	Impact fees
766*	Storrow Kinsella	\$3,000.00	Final plans

- MOTION by Paul Haller, seconded by Eileen Butcher, to approve and pay the bills 880-894 from Parks and Recreation, and 765 and 766 from the Park Development Fund, as presented. Passed unanimously.

ANY AND ALL

Paul Haller inquired whether there was any news about Turtle Island; Joan was not able to make contact.

Joan noted that the Homestead Acres porta-pottie had been tipped over; no damage was incurred. It cost \$50.00 to have it righted.

The volleyball court in Homestead Acres is nearly complete; Pam Zych will have an adult season for the two courts for 8 weeks.

A letter was received from a child objecting to the graffiti on the playground equipment in Sun Meadows.

A letter was received from the Girls Softball team thanking the Town of St. John for its sponsorship of the season. Their opening day is May 10th.

Paul Haller inquired about the gravel added to the parks. Joan indicated that two loads of pea gravel were ordered for any park that needed it under the equipment.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Eileen Butcher, seconded by Mary Anne Koke, to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Norma R. Yaeger
Recording Secretary