

PARK BOARD
ST. JOHN, INDIANA
June 3, 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, Mary Anne Koke	Attendee 5, Fred Kish, Council Liaison
Attendee 3, Eileen Butcher	Attendee 6,

The following members absent:

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

CALL TO ORDER

The June 3rd 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 May 6, 1997 as submitted. Passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

[Prairie West Fountain](#)

Joan Millis reviewed the dispute between Austgen Electric and Crystal Palace over the malfunction of the fountain. The two groups met at the pond to review the wiring and installation and found that the fountain had a defective shaft. This was removed and returned to the manufacturer under warranty. The two aerators remain in place and are working. Joan Millis suggested that the expense be approved but that the check be held until the fountain is working.

Prairie West Chemical Treatment

Joan Millis presented bids solicited for chemical treatment for the pond because it has become so unattractive. One bid is from McNamara Aquatic Weed Control, who has successfully treated the pond in Evergreen Park in Lowell. A one-time treatment would cost \$1,600.00; follow-up maintenance through September to stop re-growth of the plants and algae would cost \$2,100.00 (the number of follow-up visits is unknown). She felt that even with the aerators and fountain, the pond needs chemical treatment very soon. The Lewis Park pond at the entrance to the subdivision appears to have the same underwater weed growth and poor appearance.

Some the chemicals recommended in the bids require licensed applicators and/or a flat-bottomed boat for application by dragging or spraying. Eileen Butcher inquired whether the chemicals mentioned kill the fish; this can be avoided by applying small portions over a period of time.

Mary Anne Koke expressed her opposition to the costs of the bids. Board members were dissatisfied with the treatments of the past two years. Joan Millis noted that funds could be drawn from the Park Development Fund, and that all the affected ponds should be treated similarly. She suggested that the Board establishes a dollar limit for a chemical treatment, and then tries to find another licensed applicator to provide a bid, but she did not want to wait another month for the application.

Mike Ryan, speaking from the audience, inquired why the Park Board spends money for ineffective treatments. Joan Millis noted that the pond should have been dug deeper and now has a mucky bottom. The overflow water from the shaded pond across the street adversely mixes with Prairie West water during heavy rains. Kimberly King, speaking from the audience, supported the need for the ongoing maintenance program. Dick Banas, speaking from the audience, inquired what guarantees the bidders provide; there are none. He recommended that any side effects of the stronger chemicals be known in advance of the application. Notices of chemical application need to be posted. Fred Kish indicated he would supply information on an alternative form of pellet treatment.

Discussion of the subject was tabled until later in the meeting.

St. John Heartland Park

Ground has been broken for the ice arena. The memorandum of understanding is due to be signed later this week.

Impact Fees

Joan Millis noted that the Impact Fee ordinance was signed at the last Town Council meeting. She distributed a list of the subdivisions that have met their park donations, or are still in the process. All future subdivisions' park donations will be considered under the new ordinance; the fee was set at \$723.00.

Joan Millis noted that the deed to Edgewood Park has not been accepted because it has not been graded or seeded.

Parks - Grass Cutting

Due to the absence of P. Haller who was researching sources, the subject was tabled until July. The Town of St. John passed Ordinance #1041 on April 24th, setting the rate for class X and class XI public works employees at \$7.50 and \$7.00 respectively.

NEW BUSINESS

King's Addition Park Dedication

Kimberly King, representing King's Addition, outlined her addition of 3 homes on the north side of 93rd Ave., 1.25 miles east of Hwy 41. She noted that the easternmost lot (#3 on the drawing) is unsuitable for building. Two three-bedroom, bi-level single family homes of 1,400 square feet are planned. The existing home will be included in the addition. The developer feels there is no available land to donate, so the cash donation was calculated at \$2,373.00 for 3 lots with three 3-bedroom homes, to be paid at the time of application for building permits. Ms. King expressed some frustration with the Town's requirements of small builders, that considerable expense is already being required for the sewers to cross the road.

Joan Millis noted that the developer could ask the Plan Commission to waive the cash donation, but that the Park Board has to submit a recommendation to the Plan Commission, based on the calculations required by the ordinance.

Dick Banas, speaking from the audience, inquired whether there was any precedent for exceptions for small builders. In the past, the Plan Commission has waived the park requirements for very small developments. This subdivision is on their June 4th agenda.

Tractor Proposals

Joan Millis distributed copies of the bids received from Ruim Equipment (\$2790.00), Hubinger (\$2789.50), and Ken's Lawn (\$2939.50) for a John Deere LX173 lawn tractor with rear bagger.

Resolution #97-06-03A

Copies of this resolution were distributed to show the request for transfer of funds from various line items (promotional - \$1,000.00, and office supplies - \$391.25) to machinery equipment for the purchase of the tractor. The Park Board is responsible for half the cost of the tractor (\$1,391.25), to be shared with Public Works and MVH. The ordinance will be corrected to remove the words Police Department and correct the line item number to 204001446.

- Motion by Mary Anne Koke, seconded by Eileen Butcher, to adopt Resolution #97-06-03A, with the following corrections: change Police Department to Parks, change 101003991 to 204001446 for a total of \$1,391.25. Passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Programs

Joan Millis noted that all the fitness programs are completed. Carl Decker agreed to run the program again next year. Pam Zych will be continuing volleyball through the summer with five leagues at Homestead Park. Joan will summarize all the programs at the July meeting.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

1055	Norma Yaeger	\$60.00	Recording secretary
1056	Ruim Equipment	\$102.77	Blades
1057	Ruim Equipment	\$57.80	Oil filter
1058	Nelson Construction	\$258.00	Sand
1059	Hall Signs	\$109.40	Signs
1060	Nelson Construction	\$241.45	Pea gravel
1061	Fitfully Yours	\$150.00	
1062	Carl Decker	\$30.00	Basketball
1063	Pam Zych	\$60.00	Volleyball
1064	Carl Decker	\$50.00	Basketball
1065	Bekan Insurance	\$145.00	Park equipment coverage
1066	Nipsco	\$42.62	Lights
1067	Service Sanitation	\$423.00	Porta-potties
1068*	Crystal Palace	\$4,155.02	Fountain installation
1069*	Austgen Electric	\$1,730.00	Electrical work

- Motion by Mary Anne Koke, seconded by Eileen Butcher, to approve and pay the bills 1055-1067 from the Parks and Recreation budget, as presented. Passed unanimously.
- Motion by Mary Anne Koke, seconded by Eileen Butcher, to approve and pay bill #1068 to Crystal Palace Perennials for \$4,155.02, contingent upon the Prairie West fountain being operational prior to delivery of the check.
- Motion by Eileen Butcher, seconded by Mary Anne Koke, to approve bill #1069 to Austgen Electric for \$1,730 for electrical work on the Prairie West fountain. Passed unanimously.

Joan Millis noted that a check meter will be installed so that St. John can read the electrical usage for the fountain.

ANY AND ALL

Dave Banas, 9875 Northcote Avenue, presented safety concerns to the Park Board for possible corrective actions. On the east side of the street where Olcott cuts across the park, there is a steep drop off of 8-10' down to Bull Run Creek. The grassy border

provides a deceptive feeling of safety that is instead hazardous, as there are large rocks at the bottom of the hill. The fence along the road ends too soon. He suggested that the Town of St. John install a safety rail.

Mr. Banas also expressed concern for the rusty play tower east of the volleyball courts. The tower is about 9' high with no handrails or a sufficiently high guardrail. He asked that the whole structure be removed in the best interest of safety for the children.

Joan Millis noted that Public Works has looked at the tower; it has no handles because it was designed for older children and is not located in a "tot park." The guardrail has been discussed but not added. She also noted that the structure stands within 75' of Bull Run, which county property, not Town property.

Mary Anne Koke will call Frank Hupenthal at County Drainage to investigate the situation along the creek. Charlie Williams will be asked to review the play tower. Mr. Banas asked to be notified of the outcome of the two inquiries.

Mr. Mike Ryan, speaking from the audience, inquired about staffing and liability coverage for the grass cutting. Joan Millis noted that \$23,000.00 of the Park Board budget is designated for public works, which also needs to cover seeding, equipment repair, and construction of picnic tables. Mr. Ryan suggested that the Park Board look into other alternatives; Paul Haller's research showed that companies would charge about \$9/hr to cut grass with St. John's equipment. Records are being gathered this summer to closely track actual expenses for public works employees.

Joan Millis noted that Dyer has an employee charged to the Parks for half the year who hires 2-3 other people at \$5/hr to cut grass. The other half of the year, the person returns to the Public Works department budget. St. John has two people; at this time, the Park Board could not afford to pay half their salaries. The impact fees in November should help the Park Board budget.

Joan Millis has also contacted the Town's insurance agency regarding coverage for people who provide free community service to the Town.

OLD BUSINESS

[Prairie West - Chemical Treatment](#)

The board returned to discussion of this item, following Mr. Banas' recommendations that the side effects of the chemicals on children and animals be researched. He further recommended that a two-year guarantee be sought from the applicator.

Mary Anne Koke reiterated her opposition to the proposed \$3700.00 expense without getting a second bid. Joan Millis expressed her preference for immediate action to avoid a worsening condition of the pond, and that she would not re-hire last year's person. She will try to find two more bids. Eileen Butcher suggested that a dollar limit be set and that Joan Millis try to find a licensed applicator to get the treatment started.

- Motion by Joan Millis, seconded by Eileen Butcher, to approve \$1600.00 for the first treatment, contingent upon receiving two additional bids from licensed persons, with additional discussion of the maintenance program at the July meeting.

Discussion: Eileen Butcher asked:

- 1) That the safety of the chemicals be researched for their effects on the environment, fish, and people, and
- 2) That the applicator be asked for a guarantee of work.

Mr. Banas, speaking from the audience, suggested that other bidders might not agree with the initial treatment; bidders should be allowed only 7 days to respond so that the Board could meet again shortly to review the bids and begin treatment.

Mary Anne Koke inquired whether Aquatic Control would apply the chemical; they are only suppliers. There was some concern expressed over the promptness of service received from Crystal Palace. Joan Millis noted that McNamara had voluntarily approached the Park Board last fall offering to do a fall treatment. It was suggested that he be asked about a price reduction for service in the second year; a contract might be required.

- Voting: (Aye) Joan Millis, Eileen Butcher; (Nay) Mary Anne Koke. Passed.

Joan Millis distributed copies of the letter received from DNR regarding their acceptance of St. John's 5-Year Master Plan, noting that the Park Board can now apply for grants. At the beginning of each year, a list of available grants can be requested.

No decision has been reached on the installation of Turtle Island.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mary Anne Koke, seconded by Eileen Butcher, to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Norma R. Yaeger
Recording Secretary