

PARK BOARD
ST. JOHN, INDIANA
August 5, 1997

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The Park Board of the Town of St. John met on this date with the following members present:

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| 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 August 5th meeting was called to order with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion by Paul Haller, seconded by Mary Anne Koke, to approve the minutes of June 3 and June 18, 1997. Passed.

OLD BUSINESS

[Prairie West Fountain](#)

Joan Millis announced that the fountain is in and running. Paul Haller inquired why the level of the fountain fluctuates; the spray is adjustable. Crystal Palace will be asked to quote the cost of shutting off the aerators and removing the fountain in the fall to prevent breakage due to the ice. Austgen Electric charged \$58.00 to reconnect the wiring and install a longer cord to give it more "play". The total cost for the fountain was \$5,943.05 as follows (within the \$6000 cap):

| | |
|------------|--|
| \$1,730.00 | Initial hook up, timer and meter installation by Austgen (the meter reading will be recorded at the same time each month to determine monthly usage and costs. |
| \$58.00 | Reconnection by Austgen |
| \$4,155.05 | Fountain by Crystal Palace |

Chemical Treatment

Joan Millis reported a phone call from a resident around Louis Pond concerned about feces in the pond. Mr. McNamara, who is treating the ponds, determined that the dead algae floated up from the gas bubbles, and easily disintegrates. There was a fish kill in Prairie West Pond as a result of the first treatment; this was due to the overgrowth of weeds, lack of oxygen, and the warm water, which stressed the fish. There may be too many fish in the pond, since they find their way from Muenich's pond. Homestead Pond and Louis Pond both appear much clearer.

St. John Heartland Park

Joan Millis noted that the Ice Arena is under construction. Members were asked to consider a petition from Andrew Parsons to provide a place in the park for skateboarders from St. John, Dyer, and Schererville to skate. She noted a news article about a skateboarding site in Hobart; Eileen Butcher noted that Crown Point is also considering providing a skateboarding location. Paul Haller inquired whether the indoor facility could accommodate such a use; Mary Anne Koke noted that skateboarders need ramps and prefer to be outside. The subject will be considered at a future time.

Joan Millis noted that the Park Board was reimbursed \$61.52 for the plaque presented at the groundbreaking for the ice arena.

Paul Haller inquired whether the permits for the construction were in order. Joan Millis confirmed that they were.

Parks Grass Cutting

Joan Millis noted that she has contacted four or five large landscaping firms for information to present to the Park Board in September. St. John Public Works has paid about \$22,000.00 for an employee this year. Next year it will be \$35,000.00, half of the two 6-month summer park employees' wages. If bids come in under \$35,000.00, the bid process would be implemented. Paul Haller asked that the bids include grass cutting, edging, and trash clean up.

NEW BUSINESS

NIPSCO Environmental Challenge Fund

Joan Millis provided copies of the information to apply for a grant (\$5,000.00-10,000.00). Eileen Butcher will prepare a draft.

New Playground Equipment

Joan Millis and a representative from NuToys visited the parks. A packet of information on the kinds of equipment, costs, phases, and other installations (e.g., Lincoln Elementary) was provided to Park Board members; display boards with color photos were also shown.

The total cost for the proposed equipment for one park would be \$35-40,000; the phased installation would reduce the cost. The equipment serves many age and skill levels, and can be purchased with new or recycled materials (which is more costly). Other elements not included in the cost are the concrete borders, wood chips, and plastic edging to raise the equipment slightly above ground level. Joan felt some funding might be available from Lake County Solid Waste Management

She suggested Lantern View as the most likely site for new equipment since it is ready, pending some sidewalks and extra dirt. Prairie West needs equipment but has many low spots; these could be filled with dirt from the excavation for the Ice Arena. Pete Monix offered to rototill, grade and seed the new dirt. Mary Anne Koke recommended that some equipment be put in several parks, rather than doing a full installation in one park. Members were asked to visit the parks to determine possible locations for the equipment. Eileen recommended that the equipment be made handicapped accessible. Joan will solicit two other bids for playground equipment.

[Resolution #PK 97-08-05](#)

Joan Millis distributed copies of a resolution which states that any monies borrowed by the Park Board before the bond resolution process is completed will be returned (see attached).

Mr. Joe Hero, speaking from the audience, inquired what would happen if the bond did not go through. John Taylor indicated that the memorandum of understanding covers such situations, but that questions should be directed to the Town Attorney, David Wickland. He noted that this resolution would go to the Town Council, which will then approve or reject the resolution for the bond; passage seems likely with the support of the Park Board and the Town Council. This resolution assures that whatever Town funds are used for the Park Board can be reimbursed.

Mr. Hero inquired why this resolution would come in advance of the bond issue and whether the Park Board understood its implications. Mr. Taylor responded that this step has to precede the bond issue in order to insure reimbursement for expenses. Paul Haller felt that the Park Board should not comment on the bond issue, as it has not yet received an explanation from Mr. Wickland, and that without the bond issue, there would be no additional expenses.

- Motion by Mary Anne Koke, seconded by Eileen Butcher, to accept Resolution PK97-08-05.

Discussion: Mr. Hero asked for a reading of the resolution; Joan Millis responded that this was an unnecessary step since the intent of the resolution had been explained. Signed copies will be available from the Clerk Treasurer; a copy will be attached to the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Programs

Joan Millis reported on the proceeds of each program for '96-'97:

| | |
|------------|--|
| + \$28.00 | Volleyball (not including the summer program) |
| - \$155.50 | Fit for Kids, this program will not return next year due to a change in personnel. Pam declined to conduct it next year. |
| + 441.00 | Men's basketball. There is enough interest to build another session. Joan will check for available times |
| - \$401.50 | Aerobics. Interest fluctuates seasonally. |

Joan Millis noted that the State Board of Accounts has asked for the monies to be deposited within 1-2 business days of each session, rather than at the end of the month. The instructors can be asked to deposit funds more frequently, or users can be asked to pay by the month and have a card punched when they attend. Eileen Butcher recommended that the aerobics program be modified to improve the attendance so that the adults have a variety of programs available; she will contact another instructor. Mary Anne Koke inquired whether the billing was correct; Joan checks them each month.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

| | | | |
|------|-------------------|----------|----------------------|
| 1503 | St. John Sports | \$80.00 | Volleyball shirts |
| 1504 | Norma Yaeger | \$60.00 | Recording secretary |
| 1505 | Norma Yaeger | \$30.00 | Recording secretary |
| 1506 | Raymark | \$21.99 | Copy machine paper |
| 1507 | Superior Petrol | \$712.36 | Gas |
| 1508 | Ruim Equipment | \$52.69 | Parts |
| 1509 | Ruim Equipment | \$24.56 | Blade |
| 1510 | St. John Marathon | \$160.00 | Tire tubes |
| 1511 | Jim's Repair | \$14.60 | Repair weed eater |
| 1512 | J & S Photo | \$21.94 | Photos |
| 1513 | K-Mart | \$22.55 | Goof off |
| 1514 | Schilling Lumber | \$13.55 | Bolts |
| 1515 | MTS Supply | \$48.72 | Shower valve |
| 1516 | Schilling Lumber | \$186.89 | Supplies |
| 1517 | Leon Fisher | \$24.50 | Copies |
| 1518 | Pam Zych | \$100.47 | Volleyball |
| 1519 | Pam Zych | \$180.00 | Volleyball |
| 1520 | Fitfully Yours | \$90.00 | Aerobics |
| 1521 | Tri-Town Y | \$559.00 | Fit for Kids program |
| 1522 | Post Tribune | \$309.05 | Legal notices |
| 1523 | The Times | \$317.32 | Legal notices |
| 1524 | Nipsco | \$111.39 | Lights |

| | | | |
|-------|----------------------------|------------|------------------|
| 1525 | St. John Utilities | \$84.40 | Utilities |
| 1526 | MTS Supply | \$171.76 | Valves |
| 1527 | Austgen Electric | \$58.00 | Fountain hook up |
| 1528 | Ruim Equipment | \$573.75 | Tractor parts |
| 1530 | Service Sanitation | \$423.02 | Porta-potties |
| 1531 | Service Sanitation | \$423.02 | Porta-potties |
| 1532 | Indiana Parks & Recreation | \$125.00 | Membership |
| 1394* | McNamara Aquatic Weed | \$2,400.00 | Weed treatment |

Paul Haller inquired about the \$573.00 expense for the lawn mower; Joan Millis noted that the bill is about 2 months old, pending a satisfactory explanation of expenses (the warranty had expired); estimates will be required in the future.

Paul also inquired about the expenses for the treatment of the three ponds; \$2,400.00 covers all three ponds. McNamara is now on a maintenance program for the ponds.

Joan Millis also marked one bill from C.D. Technology not to be paid. The bill charges \$315.00 for a software manual that has not been received.

- Motion by Mary Anne Koke, seconded by Eileen Butcher, to pay claims 1503-1528 and 1530-1532. Passed
- Motion by Mary Anne Koke, seconded by Eileen Butcher, to pay \$2400 to McNamara Aquatic Weed Control from the Park Development Fund. Passed.

ANY AND ALL

Bond Issue

Joe Hero, speaking from the audience, inquired what would happen if the amount of the bond issue did not cover the amount of the expenses, and whether another bond issue could be forced to cover overruns, i.e., does the resolution give the Park Board a "blank check" for cost overruns. Joan Millis noted that the resolution caps expenses at \$1.2 million; Mr. Hero inquired about the source of the dollar amount. The question was referred to Mr. Wickland.

Mr. Taylor responded that the resolution is simply for reimbursement of expenses; he explained that "the dollar amount is based on the income from the Ice Arena, coupled with 125% of the construction cost, along with the lease amount, with the bond covering the costs, thereby avoiding any costs to the residents. The maximum bond issue, along with income from the Ice Arena is leveraged for the completion of the parks, in excess of the cost of the basic improvements for the parking facility and other things."

Mr. Hero further inquired what elements make up the \$1.2 million. Paul Haller asked him to consider what would happen if the bond issue is not passed. Mr. Taylor further noted that the number is an amortized extension of the income from the Ice Arena. Mr. Hero asked to see Addendum A to the memorandum of understanding.

Lot Purchase

Mr. Frank Brekke, speaking from the audience, inquired about purchasing part of Sun Meadows which adjoins his property. He wants to enlarge his yard and feels it can be better maintained privately. Mr. Taylor responded that two appraisals would be required, then the property would be put up for bid following legal notices.

Mary Anne Koke noted that residents have planted gardens and store vehicles on park property, making it difficult to mow. The proposed sale would eliminate one of the three accesses to the park. She further noted that nature walks have been planned for the wetlands and prairie lands in this park. Joan Millis noted that the park needs more dirt, tilling and seeding. Park board members pledged to improve the appearance of the park.

Miscellaneous

Joan Millis reported that the porta-potty in Homestead was overturned on June 16th.

St. John Girls Softball sent a thank you letter and a photo of the backstop, which says St. John Parks and Recreation.

St. John Youth Baseball sent a plaque for display in the case.

Mary Anne Koke reported that she observed the Homestead Acres volleyball courts being completely used for the afternoon.

Joan Millis reported a great deal of graffiti in Schillton Hills Park.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mary Anne Koke, seconded by Eileen Butcher, to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Norma R. Yaeger
Recording Secretary