

**PARK BOARD**  
**ST. JOHN, INDIANA**  
**February 24, 1998**

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

Attendee 1, Eileen Butcher	Attendee 4,
Attendee 2, Mary Anne Koke	Attendee 5,
Attendee 3, Paul Haller	Attendee 6,

The following members absent:

Absent 1, Joan Millis	Absent 4
Absent 2, Fred Kish, Council Liaison	Absent 5
Absent 3,	Absent 6

**CALL TO ORDER**

The February 24th meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Mary Anne Koke, seconded by Paul Haller, to approve the minutes of the January 27, 1998 meeting. Passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

[St. John Heartland Park](#)

Eileen Butcher noted that she had met with representatives of Girls' Softball and Boys' Baseball to try to come to an agreement on what they would like to have done. Boys' Baseball would like to see a Babe Ruth field and four softball fields. Land clearing and grading at the site is tentatively scheduled for April, at an estimated cost of \$45,000.00.

Paul Haller inquired about the East Park field, which Heartland Park will replace; Eileen Butcher had discussed with the team representatives the costs of moving the fixed and portable backstops. However, Eileen Butcher noted that the ball teams would like to keep both fields, and have worked out an agreement with Lake Central to keep them through 2005. Mary Anne Koke objected to such an arrangement, noting that the St. John Park Board is paying the insurance on the field.

Eileen Butcher explained that she had asked them to meet jointly prior to the Park Board meeting to review the available funding and how best to utilize the monies. Both representatives expressed their support for lighted parks, although Town Council President John Taylor prefers no lights because of the possible impact on the neighbors across the street. Cost estimates vary from \$170,000.00 to \$65,000.00. Mary Anne Koke expressed her concern for one-on-one meetings with the team representatives where contradictory claims and "promises" create misunderstandings, such as that surrounding the installation of water fountains in Civic Park (which is a Town park, not a Park Board park). She suggested that future meetings with the team representatives should include Park Board and Town Council members.

### [Parks Grass Cutting](#)

Eileen Butcher has received a revised bid from Touch of Grass for \$27,200.00 for grass cutting and trimming using their equipment; the firm is licensed, bonded, and insured. The cost reduction depends on slower growth during late summer and fall. She noted that the Town has started deducting part of Freddie's salary (Public Works employee) for supervision of part-time employees. Paul Haller inquired whether the Park Board would be reimbursed for his salary if an independent firm were hired; this is so. He would still be needed to direct the workers to the parks.

Mary Anne Koke shared complaints that some parks were only cut 2 or 3 times during the season; each of the 16 parks should receive a like amount of care. P. Haller inquired about the Park Board's investment in grass cutting equipment; these would still be needed for culverts, and the maintenance is an expensive item.

All interested bidders will be brought to the March board meeting for consideration of their bids. References listed by Touch of Grass will be contacted prior to the next meeting.

### [New Playground Equipment: Lantern View Park](#)

Eileen Butcher noted that NuToys will be paid from the recycling funds when the equipment is delivered and installed, probably in April. They, not the Town, are responsible for assembly and installation.

### [Nipsco Grant](#)

Eileen Butcher reported that she resubmitted the Nipsco grant for the Bull Run area from 93rd to Homestead, east of Olcott. She has received positive feedback about the proposal, but not a firm commitment.

### [Prairie West Park Chemicals](#)

Mr. Colin McNamara of Aquatic Weed Control will return to the April meeting to review his proposed treatment for the Homestead, Lewis, and Prairie West ponds.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Porta-potties

Eileen Butcher received an estimate from Service Sanitation for 3 portables @\$77 each and 1 handicapped restroom @ \$148 plus \$7/month for cleaning. An additional unit would be needed to service the East, Keilman, Homestead, and Larimer parks. Last year, an additional handicapped unit was installed in Homestead Acres, but later was pulled due to vandalism. Board members agreed to try again this summer to have the handicapped unit installed. Mary Anne Koke recalled that the bids last summer were very close in price, depending on insurance (damage waiver). Schererville soccer pays for one month at the end of the summer to keep a unit at East Park. Installation would be scheduled for May.

### St. John Youth Baseball Sponsor Fee

The Park Board has supported the T-ball program in the past. Mary Anne Koke noted that last year the board voted to support a sponsorship but that the funds were returned as unneeded.

- Motion by Mary Anne Koke, seconded by Paul Haller, to support an instructional T-ball team for the 1998 season for a donation of \$225. Discussion: Paul Haller inquired whether the same people were involved in the program this year and whether they needed funds. Passed unanimously.

### Keilman Field

Eileen Butcher explained that Mr. Keilman allows the teams to use his field for the cost of his taxes, \$235.00, and will do so again.

- Motion by Mary Anne Koke, seconded, to approve the expense of \$235.00 to reimburse Mr. Keilman. Discussion: Eileen Butcher pointed out that Boys' Baseball is responsible for the expense. The motion was dropped.

## **REPORTS**

### Programs

Average attendance, and monies spent and received for each program for February were presented. Net results are as follows:

- ◆ Aerobics: -\$47
- ◆ Men's Basketball: +\$112
- ◆ Coed Volleyball: +\$42
- ◆ Net income: +\$107

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Eileen Butcher presented the following bills for payment:

285	Norma Yaeger	\$60.00	Recording secretary
286	Leon Fisher	\$3.50	Bond copies
287	Pam Zych	\$40.00	Volleyball
288	Susan Hynek	\$50.00	Aerobics
289	Debra Rokosz	\$100.00	Aerobics
290	Carl Decker	\$40.00	Basketball
291	Nipsco	\$42.62	Dusk to dawn lights
292	Lake Central School Corp	\$167.50	Use of gym
293	St. John Softball	\$250.00	Sponsorship

- Motion by Paul Haller, seconded by Mary Anne Koke, to approve bills as submitted. Passed unanimously.

**ANY AND ALL**

[Kilkenny Deed](#)

Eileen Butcher has been unable to talk to David Wickland regarding Michael Muenich's letter of February 2nd, regarding a deed to transfer real estate in Kilkenny to meet the park donation requirements.

Eileen Butcher reminded Board members that the Park Board had never accepted any land for this development.

Mary Anne Koke recalled that a fenced tower was expected in this park, although the location was never clarified. She also inquired about the "chain of responsibility" with the Plan Commission. She further requested clarification of the letter, which states that the deed represents 25% of the developer's real estate commitment, whereas the deed states that the donation satisfies all the ordinances for Kilkenny Estates. Eileen Butcher will contact David Wickland for further explanation.

[Prairie West Land Grading](#)

The land needs to be graded, evened, seeded, and possibly tiled to put in play equipment at some future time. Parking on the north side of the sidewalk is also planned. Eileen Butcher asked Charlie Williams about the excavation and a possible manhole; he will research it and obtain estimates. Mary Anne Koke asked that the records be checked to be sure that drain tiles were not installed prior to Pete Monix' retirement. If they were, they are not functioning properly.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Mary Anne Koke, seconded by Paul Haller, to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Norma R. Yaeger  
Recording Secretary