

PARK BOARD
ST. JOHN, INDIANA
March 31, 1998

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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, Eileen Butcher | Attendee 4, Joan Millis |
| Attendee 2, Mary Anne Koke | Attendee 5, |
| Attendee 3, Paul Haller | Attendee 6, |

The following members absent:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Absent 1, Fred Kish, Council Liaison | Absent 4 |
| Absent 2, | Absent 5 |
| Absent 3, | Absent 6 |

CALL TO ORDER

The March meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on March 31st, having been postponed for one week, 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 February 24, 1998 as submitted. Passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

[St. John Heartland Park House at 10616 White Oak Ave.](#)

Eileen Butcher noted that the rented house in the park had some damage to soffits on the porch due to the recent high winds. Bekan Insurance will review the extent of the damage to determine whether to file a claim.

Last fall, there was a construction accident, which damaged a water line for the furnace at the ice rink. The firm causing the damage will send a check to cover the expense the Town of St. John incurred with Loopmaster to repair it.

[Parks Grass Cutting](#)

David Wickland offered some comments on the contract proposal submitted by Touch of Grass, Inc. He suggested that Bekan Insurance be asked to review the statements in paragraph 4 of terms and conditions regarding the insurance liability coverage, whether anything was needed; Joan will follow up. Dave also suggested that the names and acreages of the parks be listed in paragraph 1. And finally, a paragraph on default should be added to the terms and conditions that says that "in the event of default by either party to the contract, if litigation is required, the successful party in the litigation shall be entitled to recover their attorney fees." Dave will follow up on these two items.

Paul Haller inquired whether the firm would be considered an employee of the Town. David Wickland explained that Touch of Grass would be an independent contractor; no withholding is held from employee wages. Eileen Butcher reported on her contacts with the references supplied by Touch of Grass; both were positive. Mary Anne Koke reported that her contact was not familiar with the contractor. Paul Haller had no report.

- Motion by Mary Anne Koke, seconded by Joan Millis, to approve and sign the contract with Touch of Grass for \$4,533.34 per month for the 1998 summer grass-cutting season (April-Sept.), contingent upon the parks being named, that a default statement be added, and that the level of insurance be determined and evaluated by Bekan. Passed unanimously.

Paul Haller inquired whether this contract would be lower than last year's costs for grass cutting. Joan Millis felt the amount would be about the same as when Public Works did it; however she felt the amount paid to Freddie plus the amount for an assistant would have come in higher than this contract. Since Freddie's salary has been charged to the Park Board since January, reimbursement will be sought.

Paul Haller inquired whether the Park Board could rent its equipment to this firm. Joan Millis explained that Public Works would still need the equipment for rolling, seeding, cutting medians, roadsides and Civic Park, and would maintain the picnic tables.

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

Joan Millis has shown NuToys where to place the equipment. A bridge over the water or drain tiles to drain it is needed to get to the play area in the middle of the park. Joan agreed it could be a Boy Scout project, but that it has to be addressed, since the wet areas will always be difficult to cut. A storm drain is nearby that could be tapped for drainage. A 40' sidewalk is also needed; extra dirt has been deposited which Public Works will level.

[Nipsco Grant](#)

Eileen Butcher has received no response to the grant application.

Prairie West Park Chemicals

The chemicals for the pond will be discussed at the April meeting.

Fountain Aeration

The aerator needs to be reinstalled and activated at a charge of \$150.00. Eileen Butcher will follow up.

Porta-potties

Three bids were received for porta-potties: Bruce Septic Service, Wilson Rental, and Service Sanitation for April through September (note: the soccer leagues pick up the expense for September). Joan recalled that the Board switched from Bruce to Service last year because of the cost of the vandalism to the units. Service Sanitation provided a damage waiver in the contract for \$7, which was not needed last year. Bruce's indicated they would plan to install an older unit in Homestead Park, because of the possibility of vandalism.

- Motion by Paul Haller, seconded by Joan Millis, to accept the quote from Bruce Septic Service for three regular and two handicapped units. Passed unanimously.

St. John Youth Baseball - Keilman Field

The wind damage to the baseball backstops will also be reviewed by Began Insurance for a claim. Eileen Butcher suggested that the baseball group be asked to pick up the deductible.

Starwood Estates

A check for \$18,000.00 was received from Starwood Estates for their park donation, to be deposited in the Park Development Fund.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 97-12-29A

David Wickland noted that this resolution needs to be rescinded because it was already done in a previous resolution.

- Motion by Mary Anne Koke, seconded by Joan Millis, to rescind Resolution 97-12-29A. Passed unanimously.

Resolution 98-03-31A and 98-03-31B

David Wickland explained that the house in Heartland Park is being leased, with the rent accruing to the Park Board. When the park was subdivided into Lots 1 (park minus the ice arena) and 2 (the house), Lot 2 was never conveyed to the Park Board. The Town Council has approved conveyance of Lot 2 to the Park Board, retroactive to January 1, 1997. This resolution allows the Park Board to accept conveyance of Lot 2; the legal

description is attached. David Wickland will prepare the appropriate deeds. Joan Millis inquired whether Lot 2 included the drive to the house from White Oak; it includes what Kenn Kraus platted at Lot 2.

Resolution 98-03-31B provides that the Pole Barn, which is part of Lot 1 and was conveyed to the Park Board, be conveyed back to the Town Council. It will be used to store Public Works equipment, items for the Sanitary District, and to house the Animal Control facility, per a Bi-Town Commission agreement with Dyer. A legal description and drawing are attached. Paul Haller inquired why the Park Board could not retain the pole barn and rent it to the Town, since the Park Board paid for the park. However, Joan Millis noted that the Town picked up the bulk of the cost, and the building needs to be in the Town's name to meet the terms of the agreement with Dyer for animal control.

Mary Anne Koke inquired whether the Town would accrue rent for the use of the pole barn. David Wickland confirmed that the animal control agreement established a Bi-Town Commission; monies will be received from Dyer.

- Motion by Mary Anne Koke, seconded by Joan Millis, to accept resolution 98-03-31A. Passed unanimously.
- Motion by Mary Anne Koke, seconded by Joan Millis, to adopt resolution 98-03-31B. Passed 3-1: (Aye) Koke, Millis, and Butcher (Nay) Haller.

[Basketball Court - Homestead Acres and Lancer Estates](#)

Eileen Butcher presented information from K & M Asphalt Sealing Maintenance, Inc. showing the cost of resurfacing basketball courts in two parks. Lancer Estates would cost \$4,975.00; Homestead would cost \$9,755.00. Other bids will be sought from the firm doing work in Civic Park and from other cities and schools facing similar problems.

REPORTS

[Programs](#)

Monies received for each program for March were presented. Net results are as follows:

- ◆ Aerobics: -\$97.50
- ◆ Men's Basketball: +\$66
- ◆ Coed Volleyball: +\$138
- ◆ Net income: +\$106.50

Joan Millis suggested that the Park Board select a date for aerobics to end, such as the end of April. Men's Basketball does well until school is out; additional sessions were not available due to the lack of space. Paul Haller inquired about replacing aerobics with something else; Fit for Kids was always popular. Joan Millis will talk with Pam about starting up the program.

- Motion by Paul Haller, seconded by Mary Anne Koke, to conclude the aerobics program as of April 30. Passed unanimously.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Eileen Butcher presented the following bills for payment:

* This bill was returned to Public Works.

711	Norma Yaeger	\$60.00	Recording secretary
712	Quality Auto Parts	\$49.97	
713	Deb Rokosz	\$100.00	Aerobics
714	Carl Decker	\$20.00	Men's basketball
715	Pam Zych	\$80.00	Volleyball
716	Susan Hynek	\$75.00	Aerobics
717	Nipsco	\$42.62	Dusk to dawn lights
718	Grainger	\$13.45	Impeller
719*	Service Sanitation	\$700.00	
720	St. John Youth Baseball	\$225.00	Sponsor fee

Motion by Mary Anne Koke, seconded by Joan Millis, to approve bills as submitted.
Passed unanimously.

ANY AND ALL BUSINESS

Dave Slupczynski, speaking from the audience, noted that Girls' Softball has begun practice at East Field. Soccer goals are being left in the outfield; these need to be moved. Joan Millis will contact Schererville Soccer League.

Dave also noted there is some damage to the tops of the dugouts, causing a dangerous situation. Public Works will be asked to remove the damaged portion (at no charge to the Park Board), then Beken Insurance will review it. Dave offered to fix it.

Eileen Butcher reported receiving positive feedback from John Taylor about lighting in Heartland Park for the ball fields. Coordination and cooperation will be needed from baseball, softball, and the residents in the area.

Mary Anne Koke inquired about the Kilkenny park donation. David Wickland reported that Michael Muenich has offered to provide more information.

Eileen Butcher reported that a St. John resident has asked to use the Homestead pavilion for a party for her son on June 20th; the usual rent is \$20. The pony rides have been replaced by an inflatable balloon (moonwalker) at no charge to her guests. David Wickland suggested that Beken Insurance be contacted regarding liability for the balloon. Mary Anne Koke noted that there is no electricity available at the site, and inquired about the normal number of picnic tables there; a \$5.00 charge is in place to bring in more tables. Paul Haller inquired whether the Park Board could donate back the rent; Mary Anne Koke agreed this could be done after the resident made the reservation for her activity for that day.

Eileen Butcher shared a request from Dave Griffin of Dave Griffin's Baseball School to hold a summer camp at East Park or Babe Ruth. The camp is proposed for 9-11:30 AM or 12:30-3PM, Monday-Wednesday, at \$75/child, for six weeks, mid-June-July. Ten

children per instructor would be accepted at the school. Concern was expressed for the heavy use of the diamonds and the repairs required for the girls' softball teams.

Mary Anne Koke asked that there be some kind of cooperation between the baseball school and the Park Board. Paul Haller inquired how this program differed from Little League; Dave Griffin was a professional player. David Wickland recommended that the Park Board determine its costs and charge a fee for the program, and require maintenance of the field, and a certificate of insurance.

Mary Anne Koke recommended that the request be taken under advisement until an appropriate rental fee can be set, to find out the number of instructors, how many people would be involved, and the schedule of other teams.

Mary Anne Koke inquired about the Prairie West drain tile, whether the tile was broken or replaced, why it wasn't working right. Options other than trenching are being reviewed, since trenching could cost \$4,000.00 to correct the low spots in the middle of the park. Specs for a drain tile and grading are needed before any equipment or trails can be considered.

Mary Anne Koke inquired why the \$18,000.00 was not reflected in the financial statement. Eileen Butcher explained that the report provided was for February. The reports now are about a month old before the Park Board meets on the 4th Tuesday.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Paul Haller, seconded by Joan Millis, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.
Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Norma R. Yaeger
Recording Secretary