

**PARK BOARD**  
**ST. JOHN, INDIANA**  
**September 22, 1998**

**Document Title**           PARK BOARD OF ST. JOHN, INDIANA  
**Document No.**  
**Approval Date**           September 22, 1998  
**Archive Date**  
**Published In**  
**Document Type**           Park Board Minutes

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, Joan Millis	Attendee 5,
Attendee 3, Paul Haller	Attendee 6,

The following members absent:

Absent 1, Mary Anne Koke	Absent 4
Absent 2, Fred Kish, Council Liaison	Absent 5
Absent 3,	Absent 6

**CALL TO ORDER**

The May meeting was called to order at 7:19 p.m. on September 22nd followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Motion by Paul Haller, seconded by Joan Millis, to approve the minutes of September 1st as presented. Passed unanimously on voice vote.

**OLD BUSINESS**

[St. John Heartland Park -Award of Proposals for Walking Paths](#)

Joan Millis presented information on a bid solicited, reviewed, and approved by the Town Council (contingent upon Park Board approval) for a one-mile, 12' wide walking and bicycle path around the ball fields and ice arena. Joan has drawings of the proposed layout. Rieth-Riley Construction's bid came in at \$59,115.00. Payment would come from the \$1.1 million bond, which has about \$300,000.00 still available. Joan clarified that the park (except the Ice Arena and pole barn) has been deeded to the Park

Board. The goal is to complete the path yet this fall, assuming good weather for construction.

- Motion by Paul Haller, seconded by Joan Millis, to approve the Rieith-Riley bid for a walking and bicycle path at Heartland Park. Passed unanimously on voice vote.

#### Award of Proposals - Softball Fencing

Joan Millis presented information on 3 bids solicited and reviewed by the Town Council for fencing for two girls' softball fields (200' radius) and one boys' baseball field (300' radius) at Heartland Park. Joan noted that when additional land is acquired around the park, more fields will be built. Paul inquired about the ANR pipeline land needed for the outfields; ANR has extended use of the field as long as no structures are put there. The fencing bids were for backstops, sidelines, outfields, gates, overhangs, and foul posts.

Illiana Fencing's bid came in at \$86,000.00; Acorn's totaled \$105,000.00, and Reeves's at \$74,000.00. The Town Council recommended Reeves, contingent upon approval by the Park Board. Reeves bid was delivered in three sections with two alternates.

Paul Haller expressed his opposition to the "extremely expensive and elaborate" cost of the project. He supported the need for backstops and dugouts and possibly bleachers, but felt this cost for fencing was excessive; he felt some degree of risk is part of contact sports. Joan Millis noted that the outfield fences are needed so the teams know what counts as a homerun; East Park has not had outfield fences and the teams have been asking for them. Eileen suggested that the Park Board talk to the boys and girls teams to solicit help with either the cost or construction of the fencing or the lights, although John Taylor has expressed a desire to "have it done right." Paul inquired about a wood fence; this would require a great deal of maintenance. Eileen announced that she had a conflict of interest and would abstain from a vote on the Town Council's recommendation.

- Motion by Joan Millis, to approve the Reeves fencing proposal for baseball and softball fields at Heartland Park. Died for lack of a second.

#### Award of Proposals - Land Balancing

Joan Millis presented information on bids solicited and reviewed by the Town Council for land balancing (grading) at Heartland Park. Two bids were received, one from Nelson Construction for \$69,000.00, and one from J. Metro Excavating for \$43,500.00. The Town Council approved J. Metro's bid, contingent upon Park Board approval. Park Board members were aware that work by J. Metro Excavating had been ongoing this week.

Paul and Eileen expressed their strong opposition to the Town Council's actions allowing the contractor to begin work prior to the Park Board's meeting, in effect, making the Park Board "a rubber stamp". Eileen indicated that, although she was in frequent contact with John Taylor, she was not aware of the selection and authorization of the bid prior to this meeting. The Board discussed the division of responsibility in planning for the park, with Joan Millis supporting the Town Council's initiative to get the work done

this fall, and Paul and Eileen disagreeing with the procedure. Joan indicated that she would not be able to solicit additional bids for the work.

#### The Board called for a two-minute break.

- Motion by Joan Millis, to accept J. Metro's proposal for site grading, clearing of the topsoil and balancing for \$43,500.00. Died for lack of a second.

Paul explained that he was opposed to the way the procedure was handled, but that he supports the work that needs to be done and finishing the project. He and Eileen expressed their intent to set up a meeting with John Taylor.

#### Prairie West Park Seeding

Joan Millis confirmed that Herman Monix will use his equipment to seed the park. Two thousand pounds of seed has been purchased at \$.85/lb from United Horticultural Supply; Mr. Monix will charge \$45-50/hour. Eileen inquired about the tall grasses in the park. This work will be following seeding at Lantern View.

- Motion by Paul Haller, seconded by Joan Millis, to accept Herman Monix' proposal for the seeding at Prairie West Park. Passed unanimously on voice vote.

#### Basketball Courts at Homestead and Lancer Estates

Eileen Butcher stated that there are no funds to make improvements, although the courts are worsening rapidly. The subject was tabled until the January meeting.

#### Lantern View Park Seeding

Joan Millis confirmed that this was being done this week on the same terms as the Prairie West Park. No additional motion was needed since the caps were set at the last meeting. Joan confirmed the item was on the agenda to provide an update to the board.

#### Sun Meadows Easement Encroachment

Board members agreed to meet on Tuesday, October 13th at Joan Millis' office at 8:45 a.m., since Monday the 12<sup>th</sup> is a Town Holiday. Eileen suggested that Dave Wickland be invited to attend the next meeting, and be given a chance to review the findings of the October 13th meeting. Eileen will contact Mary Anne about the meeting. The Board will try to meet following the review, as Joan will be away at the end of the month.

#### St. John Eagle Scout Trop 550 Project

Having received no additional information on the project, this item will be dropped from the agenda.

#### St. John Garden Club

Having received no additional information on the project, this item will be dropped from the agenda.

#### [1999 Lawn Care](#)

Eileen Butcher expressed her support for this year's contractor, Touch of Grass. She felt they had been very responsive to the requests of the board, and she had received no complaints. They will be asked to submit a bid again next year.

#### [Fountain Removal](#)

Joan was asked to arrange to have the fountain removed and aerators turned off around Friday, October 23rd. She noted that there will be a \$150.00 charge for this service.

#### [Tree Donation](#)

Eileen Butcher had talked to several people who suggested she would have better luck working directly with nurseries.

#### [Edgewood Estates](#)

Joan Millis presented pictures of the completed park in this development. The photos show the location of the 4= sidewalk and where the additional 50 yards is needed to reach the wooded buffer area. Ray Eggert, the developer, will be asked about putting in the additional sidewalk. Mr. Cowser, a resident of the subdivision, is doing the concrete work. Joan has asked Kenn Kraus to work with the developers in the future to be sure sidewalks reach park property.

Joan noted that since the park has no storm drain, extensive swales around the park will collect storm water. The inspection sheet was completed today. Joan also noted the need for temporary fencing at one entrance to keep out cars, which are damaging the parkland.

Joan felt the park is ready to be accepted by the Park Board, but recommended that each member go visit the park to be aware of the location for the remainder of the sidewalk. Paul expressed his approval for the appearance of the park in the photos. This item was tabled until the next meeting.

#### [St. John Park Web Site](#)

Tina Fletcher is preparing a Web site for the Park Board, and has asked for a review of the fees set in 1989 for use of the parks, pavilions, tables, and garbage cans and clean up. The current fees are \$20 for residents and \$35 for non-residents, regardless of the number of people at the event. Joan noted that other towns have a sliding scale related to the number of people in attendance. Additional costs are incurred to bring in additional picnic tables and to clean up the park after weekend events.

Paul stated that it would be his preference to make usage of the parks as easy as possible, while recognizing the Town's costs for services. Eileen will contact other towns to get an idea of comparative costs.

## **REPORTS ON PROGRAMS**

Joan indicated that the report was incomplete, but that the aerobics program has good attendance. Six hundred flyers were distributed at Kolling, and 400 at St. John Evangelist. The Fit for Kids program will begin in October.

## **PAYMENT OF BILLS:**

2273	Norma Yaeger	\$60.00	Recording secretary
2274	Quality Auto Parts	\$51.53	Park tractor
2275	Pam Zych	\$31.75	
2276	Dan McElroy	\$76.54	Basketball nets
2277	Schilling Brothers	\$7.98	Spray paint
2278	Leon Fisher	\$17.50	Bond copies
2279	Nipsco	\$25.08	
2280	Touch of Grass	\$4,533.00	Grass cutting
2281	Bruce Septic	\$350.00	Porta-potties
2282	Allen Landscaping	\$1,134.76	Larimer Park Memorial
2283	McShanes	\$37.98	Copy paper

- Motion by Paul Haller, seconded by Joan Millis, to pay all bills as presented. Passed unanimously on voice vote.

## **ANY AND ALL**

No items were presented for discussion.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Joan Millis, seconded by Paul Haller, to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m. Passed unanimously on voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Norma R. Yaeger  
Recording Secretary