

PARK BOARD
ST. JOHN, INDIANA
October 19, 1998

Document Title PARK BOARD OF ST. JOHN, INDIANA
Document No.
Approval Date October 19, 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, David Wickland, Attorney
Attendee 2, Joan Millis	Attendee 5,
Attendee 3, Mary Anne Koke	Attendee 6,

The following members absent:

Absent 1, Paul Haller	Absent 4
Absent 2, Fred Kish, Council Liaison	Absent 5
Absent 3,	Absent 6

CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting was called to order with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The president called the roll. In attendance were Eileen Butcher, Mary Anne Koke, Joan Millis, and David Wickland. Eileen noted that the minutes for the regular September 22nd meeting would be approved at the November meeting. The minutes of the September 28th Executive Session were presented for approval.

- Motion by Joan Millis, seconded by Eileen Butcher, to approve the minutes of the September 28th meeting. Passed unanimously on voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

[St. John Heartland Park](#)

Joan Millis asked that this subject be tabled until John Taylor arrives to discuss what's going on at the Park.

Basketball Courts

Eileen Butcher felt that this subject had to remain on hold until funds became available for resurfacing.

St. John Heartland Park (return to this agenda item)

Eileen Butcher re-opened this item to discuss the spreadsheets distributed by John Taylor. John explained that the asterisks denote items ordered for the health club. They have been paid for out of various accounts to complete the health club. A total of \$31,255 in carryover is the estimated remaining balance needed for completion of the facility. The whole project is coming in within the initial construction budget, \$106,586. The Park Board is being asked to be a participant, in that the health club will be deeded to the Park Board; information is pending on the actual procedure.

The current balance of the bond after the Park improvements is \$115,200.00. The Park Development Fund has \$42,379. The CCD and CCI funds have \$8,432.00 and \$3,641.00. The Town is picking up some additional items through purchase and lease arrangements. Bids, which include lease purchase options, will be opened tomorrow for equipment for the health club. John felt that completion schedule is looking good; work is proceeding on the sauna and ceiling tile. He felt it could be done in 30 days or less. Additional items such as chairs and scales can be ordered as needed. John addressed the negative coverage in the press and alternative financing methods; he felt that the Town is meeting its obligations.

Eileen inquired about other plans for the park. John noted that purchase orders for three backstops have been issued; the site has been staked out. Grading and balancing is continuing for another 7-10 days. In-field work needs to be done, and arrangements need to be settled for the 40' x 1100' in the park around ANR pipeline as a "low density use" for an indefinite period. Four 300' radius ballfields are envisioned for the park.

Eileen inquired whether the Park Board could receive the money prior to the deeding of the health center. John is waiting on information on the procedure. He indicated he was also waiting on drawings for two more ballfields to show the relationship with ANR; these can be finished, seeded, and fenced after the paving is done. Joan estimated the cost of the seed and fertilizer at \$4500. Pathways have been designed and staked out. These have been designed to tie in with the Town's master plan for walking paths. Switchgear is available out in the field to run the portable concession stand.

Eileen inquired whether the seeding cost should be approved at this meeting, since the Park Board is not scheduled to meet again until late in November. Joan noted that some seed was left over from Prairie West; Eileen inquired whether some herbicide should be added. John Taylor offered to donate some posts for the fields; Pam Zych has asked for additional volleyball courts, possibly lighted, since she had to turn away teams this year. Soccer fields are planned between the Babe Ruth and softball fields, next to the retention pond after some leveling of the land. The pond will be resized and shifted about 20' west in the new plan. There was some discussion whether there would be one or two concession stands; sewer service would need to be added or porta-potties utilized.

- Motion by Mary Anne Koke, seconded by Joan Millis, to approve up to \$6,000.00 for seeding and labor for Heartland Park when the weather conditions are favorable. Passed unanimously on voice vote.

There will be more parking, in addition to the paved lot around the ice arena. A storm basin for drainage at a cost of \$24,000.00 was installed which also solves water problems on the east side of White Oak.

John Taylor suggested that the Park Board prepare a capital budget for the remaining items at the park.

John announced that the Town will be fixing the Civic Park tennis and basketball courts. Courts in Homestead, Larimer, and Lancer also need attention. John will get costs to the Park Board and take under consideration a request for Town assistance with the park courts next year. A lot will depend on the success of the health club.

Sun Meadows

Eileen reviewed the Park Board visit to Sun Meadows where they found about 20 encroachment situations. D. Wickland suggested that K. Kraus be asked to do a basic land survey to determine the ends of the properties and the fence at the entrance on Snowberry. At the Schillton entrance, there is a question regarding the side yard garden and shed. Eileen felt that all the properties should be surveyed, as only seven appear to be in compliance. Joan offered to fax the list to Kenn to get an estimate of the cost to survey the end boundaries of the homes, especially the five noted by an asterisk on the list. This should be simplified by the fact that all the lots are the same size. He will be asked to provide a list of the properties showing compliance and non-compliance. Following the survey, D. Wickland will be asked to write a letter to the appropriate homeowners asking them to remove the offending items.

- Motion by Joan Millis, seconded by Mary Anne Koke, to have Kenn Kraus survey all around the park plus the three entrances. Passed unanimously on voice vote.

Lawn Care

No bids have been received yet. Bids will be reviewed at the November meeting. Mary Anne reiterated that very few complaints have been received regarding Touch of Grass. Sun Meadows will be added to next year's list of parks to be cut. Herman will be asked to trim back some bushes near the ditch after the survey is completed.

Fountain Removal

This was completed last weekend. Some damaged conductors will be replaced with waterproof ones.

Edgewood Park

Joan reported that she has not received a bill from Greg Cowser for the \$750.00 sidewalk. When the Park Board accepts the park, it comes off the developer's tax

records. Joan felt the part is completed and “acceptable.” Joan asked for some time to check into the White Oak 200’ of sidewalk missing along the retention pond in Patnoe.

- Motion by Mary Anne Koke, seconded by Joan Millis, to accept Edgewood Park. Passed unanimously by voice vote.
- Motion by Joan Millis, seconded by Mary Anne Koke, to accept White Oak Park for grading, seeding, swales, contingent upon the clarification of the responsibility for the sidewalk along W105th to the tower (about 150’ from White Oak Ave.).

St. John Web Site

Eileen researched prices from other local towns on fees charged for park use, services, and cleanup, depending on group sizes. She reported a great variety of fees, security deposits, etc. Mary Anne noted that St. John has never specified group sizes, although most other towns do (e.g., Dyer), however Crown Point charges a flat fee for no additional services, and Cedar Lake charges by the hour or by permit fee for a shelter. St. John records show that eleven permits were issued this summer for special park use, all but one being local users.

Joan expressed a preference for distinguishing resident vs. non-resident, with a \$50 refundable fee if the park is cleaned up, although it was noted that someone (Public Works?) would have to check on the park prior to refunding the fee. Joan also wanted a legal signed form, stating the renting party is taking responsibility for damage and cleanup. Each park should have rules posted. The Park Board’s recommendation will go the Town Council for final approval for listing on the web set. D. Wickland will be asked to prepare a release form stating the stipulations on the return of the deposit.

Motion by Mary Anne Koke, seconded by Joan Millis, that the residents’ rental fee should be \$25.00, with a \$50.00 refundable cleanup fee to be returned within 45 days following the rental, and a non-residents’ fee of \$50 + \$50 for cleanup, for implementation in 1999. Passed unanimously on voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was presented for discussion.

PROGRAM REPORTS

No reports were presented for discussion. Joan felt the sessions were not as full as last year.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

2543	Norma Yaeger	\$600.00
2544	Quality Auto Parts	\$199.69
2545	Nipsco	\$42.62
2546	St. John Municipal Utilities	\$27.40
2547	United Horticultural Supply	\$1,700.00 (seed)

2548	Herman Monix	\$250.00 (Heartland Park)
2549	Bruce's Septic Service	\$25.00 (1-day rental)

Motion by Joan Millis, seconded by Mary Anne Koke, to approve all bills as presented. Passed unanimously on voice vote.

Mary Anne Koke expressed disagreement over allowing a resident to rent the park for \$20.00, then having the Park Board pick up the \$25.00 expense for the porta-potty.

ANY AND ALL

Resolution PK 981019A, a transfer of \$400 in appropriations from Park Machinery and Equipment to Park Secretary to cover the minutes for extra meetings.

Motion by Mary Anne Koke, seconded by Joan Millis, to approve Resolution PK981019A for transfer of funds. Passed unanimously on voice vote.

Joan announced that all the water fountains in the parks have been turned off, except in East Park.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mary Anne Koke, seconded by Joan Millis, to adjourn the meeting. Passed unanimously on voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Norma R. Yaeger
Recording Secretary