

**PARK BOARD**  
**ST. JOHN, INDIANA**  
**January 25, 1999**

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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, Mary Anne Koke
Attendee 2, Joan Millis	Attendee 5,
Attendee 3, Paul Haller	Attendee 6,

The following members absent:

Absent 1, Fred Kish, Council Liaison	Absent 4
Absent 2, David Wickland, Attorney	Absent 5
Absent 3,	Absent 6

CALL TO ORDER

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

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- Motion by Mary Anne Koke, seconded by Paul Haller, to nominate Eileen Butcher as President. Passed unanimously on voice vote.
- Motion by Paul Haller, seconded by Joan Millis, to nominate Mary Anne Koke as Vice President. Passed unanimously on voice vote.

Joan Millis has agreed to serve another year on the Board. It is unclear who will serve as liaison from the Town Council.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Joan Millis, seconded by Paul Haller, to approve the minutes of December 28 as presented. Passed unanimously on voice vote.

## OLD BUSINESS

### **St. John Heartland Park**

Eileen Butcher noted that “things are quiet” for now. Mary Anne Koke inquired whether the Park Board Commissioners could be of assistance to the Friends of the Ice Arena. Eileen Butcher briefly discussed management changes that are being talked about which will be made more clear next Thursday. She noted that Skate Nation, the current management, has been purchased by Family Golf, which prefers to own what they manage. Three other people have expressed interest in managing the arena. Eileen expressed a preference for having the facility “on our own”, to run the programs, etc. She expressed support for Pam Zych’s staff, their work, and the enrollment which has steadily increased to about 200 memberships of various kinds. Day care is being provided with 24 hours’ notice. She noted that St. John Board members are entitled to half-price memberships.

### **Basketball Courts, Homestead Acres & Lancer Estates**

This item will remain on the agenda until funds are identified to improve the courts. The Town has indicated a willingness to help out, possibly this summer.

### **Sun Meadows Easement Encroachment**

David Wickland is still researching the options for the next step. Mary Anne Koke inquired whether “the letter” had gone out. Eileen felt it may have gone out but wasn’t sure.

### **Lawn Care**

Eileen Butcher noted that Touch of Grass has submitted a contract which is about \$1,300.00/mo higher than last year; everyone was pleased with their work last summer but questioned the increase. It includes Edgewood and the detention area along the cement canal, along with the same acreage as last year (pond acreage should not count). There was some discussion whether Touch of Grass actually cut all they were supposed to.

More proposals must be “invited” for consideration, per the July 1998 ruling by the State Board of Accounts. Eileen noted that two other people are interested, including Redbud, Dean, and the Schillings. Joan Millis will review previous bids. Mary Anne Koke inquired whether the bid solicitation could be done through newspaper ads; Joan explained that this was not necessary since the expected cost is under \$25,000.00.

Paul Haller inquired whether an arrangement could be made with the Town for the additional grounds; Joan explained that the Park Board would still incur the expense and that the Public Works people are already pretty busy. Eileen asked for verification whether the higher bid from Touch of Grass included Heartland Park, which probably will not need cutting this summer. Eileen reiterated that the proposals should be received and reviewed prior to April 1.

### **East Park Complex Wind Damage**

Eileen Butcher noted that the Park Board had approved the expense for repairs. D.C. Fence is working on it.

NEW BUSINESS

Although no new business was listed on the agenda, Joan noted that applications for the NIPSCO grants are due again soon. Eileen will call to see what types of activities they are supporting this year.

PROGRAM REPORTS

Joan Millis noted that only basketball and volleyball will be submitting reports, as the Fit for Kids and Aerobics programs have moved to the Ice Arena Fitness Center. She noted that she was able to get one more night at the school for basketball, beginning on March 24. Kolling has been notified of the reduction in rental for the facility. Joan will try to get three days for volleyball and basketball again next year.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

109	Quality Auto	\$12.94
110	Carl Decker	\$30.00
111	Nipsco	\$60.16
112	Herman Monix	\$350.00 (seeding, Fall 1998)
113	Lawson Fisher Associates	\$5,326.88 * (Layout of ball fields)

\*from the Park Department Fund.

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

ANY AND ALL

Paul Haller noted that he would continue to try to reach Ken Gembala regarding the surveys.

Mr. Tom Busch, 10178 Walsh, spoke from the audience, inquiring whether the Park Board had looked into Community Development Grants. Joan Millis responded that the Town of St. John does not meet the income level to be eligible, even for handicapped projects. Joan noted that these funds, when available, have been used for sidewalks and curb cuts. The funds are diluted by the number of towns applying for them.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Paul Haller, seconded by Joan Millis, to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 PM. Passed unanimously on voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Norma R. Yaeger  
Recording Secretary