

# REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS ANDERSON TOWNSHIP PARK DISTRICT

**August 13, 2013**

Angie Stocker, President, called the regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Anderson Township Park District (“ATPD”) to order at 6:30 pm at Park District Headquarters, 8249 Clough Pike, Cincinnati, OH 45244. Present were Board Members: Nadine Gelter, Josh Gerth, Tom Turchiano, and Dale Bartholomew.

Also present were: Ken Kushner, Executive Director; Emily Armstrong, Assistant Director/Board Clerk; Brian Jordan, Financial Officer; and Jessica Fall, Recreation Manager.

**GUESTS:** Thomas Merz, resident.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**AGENDA:** Mr. Bartholomew moved the Board approve the Agenda as presented. Mrs. Gelter seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mrs. Gelter, Mr. Gerth, Mrs. Stocker, Mr. Turchiano, and Mr. Bartholomew (5); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

**Public to Address the Board:** Mr. Merz said he continues to obtain costs for potential improvements to the ATPD property at State and Nagel Roads. He is currently looking into costs and estimates for trees, an asphalt parking lot, and fencing.

Mr. Bartholomew suggested Mr. Merz ask for asphalt estimates in terms of “per parking space”.

The Board thanked Mr. Merz for his interest in the ATPD and for taking the time to attend the meeting.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Anderson Township ~ 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade:** Mr. Kushner reported the ATPD’s 2013 parade entry won “Best Float”. He said the ATPD has taken home this honor four of the last five years. He presented a picture of this year’s award winning float and character crew. Despite the pouring down rain, the parade was well-attended and it moved very efficiently.

**Greater Anderson Days:** Mr. Kushner reported the Greater Anderson Days celebration took place July 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup> at Beech Acres Park. He thanked the Board for the time they dedicated to the event. The attendance was significant as a result of gorgeous, unseasonably cool weather all three nights. The ATPD shared a booth with the Anderson Foundation for Parks and Recreation, featuring information about the Juilfs Park Playground; ATPD marketing materials; the Public Input Surveys; and a children’s game. The event partners were comprised of the Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce, Anderson Township Government, and American Legion Post 318, with the ATPD serving as the event coordinator. Wellington Orthopedics was the year’s Presenting Sponsor, with the Beechmont Automotive Group sponsoring the fireworks display for the 15<sup>th</sup> straight year. Anderson’s Got Talent, sponsored by the Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce, received positive reviews. Next year’s event will be July 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Bartholomew asked if the rides were the same as the week before at the Immaculate Heart of Mary festival.

Mr. Kushner said it is the same rides company which brings many of the same rides, plus a few others. Because the quality of the rides company is unparalleled, staff plans to continue to work with the current company for 2014. He further stated there were really no incidents or issues of any type this year. A couple of lost parents were reunited with their children right away. In 2014, staff plans to start the Sunday night fireworks at 9:45 p.m. instead of 10 p.m.

Mrs. Gelter said the additional biergarten tables were a nice addition to the event.

Juilfs Park Playground Project: Mr. Kushner reported Phase I of the Juilfs Park Playground project is complete and that the community is enjoying it. Work continues on Phase II, which includes swings and additional play units for two to five-year-olds. The Apple Tree dedication will take place in the next couple of months. Mr. Kushner presented a newspaper article on the newly opened playground.

Future Park Improvements: Mr. Kushner presented a summary of the public input surveys which were collected this past May through Greater Anderson Days. The survey was featured in the summer Park Guide which was distributed to 17,000 homes in Anderson Township. The survey was also promoted online and included at ATPD events and programs. An article also ran in the newspaper regarding the public input effort.

Mr. Kushner said staff was not surprised by the results. People visit the parks for various reasons, and therefore the suggestions cover a large range across many uses and facility types. He referenced the following various survey items, for which 260 people responded:

- 65% of the respondents visit the parks at least weekly, if not daily;
- Beech Acres and Juilfs Parks are the most highly visited parks;
- Exercise/walking/running, trails, playgrounds, events and programs, and playing/watching sports were the top five reasons why people visit the Anderson Parks;
- 70% of the respondents indicated their opinion of the ATPD as “excellent”; 95% of the respondents indicated their overall opinion of the ATPD as “good” or “excellent”.
- 84% of the respondents said the Anderson Parks are “very important” to the community; 98% said the Anderson Parks are “important” or “very important” to the community.

The respondents had many additional ideas and/or suggestions about the parks in general and specifically, regarding a wide array of subjects, parks, facilities, and uses.

Mr. Kushner stated people want the next progression for the parks. He said the next step in the Future Park Improvements planning is to meet with the committee of people who responded that they were interested in being part of the process so as to establish the details and how to get where the community wants us to go.

Mr. Gerth stated he was glad to see the surveys reflect “land acquisition” as an item of importance since it is the general practice of the Board to acquire properties adjacent or near existing properties.

Mrs. Stocker said the committee of interested folks will help the ATPD find out what the community may be willing to pay for.

Leases on Existing Towers: Mr. Kushner stated at a previous meeting the Board authorized him to negotiate on a lease extension for the Clear Creek Park cell tower. Staff continues to evaluate the current rates for the cell tower market. The cell tower was built on the driving range property by the previous owner in the early 1990's. The cell tower company is interested in extending the lease another thirty (30) years. This is the second cell tower in the park system, the first being the monopole at Beech Acres Park.

Additionally, the ATPD was recently approached by two companies interested in buying out the leases on the cell towers at Clear Creek Park and Beech Acres Park. He said staff continues to evaluate the current rates for the cell tower market.

Kellogg Park ~ Dog Field: Mr. Kushner reported the Kellogg Park Dog Field fencing construction is complete. Clean-up continues on the west portion of the land transferred to the ATPD. He said Cargill drive recently had a gate installed to limit the public's travel to Cargill's barge loading business.

Mr. Kushner stated staff is currently reviewing the procedures and policies of the Dog Field in an effort to reduce the administrative efforts required to manage the facility.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding what policies and procedures have been in effect, and what changes could yield a good end result for the Dog Field members and the ATPD.

Mrs. Stocker suggested Staff review the facility and make a recommendation as to how the ATPD could best manage the facility.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Board Meeting Schedule: Mrs. Stocker stated the Board previously discussed changing the Regular Meeting Schedule to better meet the schedule challenges of the Board Members with jobs that require travel.

The group identified Mondays as a better meeting day option.

Mrs. Stocker suggested Mr. Kushner find out if Mondays work for the ATPD staff by the next meeting. Should the Board vote to change the meeting schedule, the change would possibly go into effect for the October meeting.

Calendar of Events: Mr. Kushner provided a Calendar of Events for the Board's review of upcoming programs and events.

#### **FUNDRAISING AND GRANT ACTIVITY:**

Juilfs Park Playground Fundraising: Mr. Kushner reported the Juilfs Park Playground fundraising continues with the Apple Tree project.

The Jim Grabowski Memorial Scholarship Fund: Mr. Kushner stated the Jim Grabowski Memorial Volleyball Tournament was Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at Setters in Cherry Grove. It was a perfect day for the event and they had another great turnout. The event raised over \$4,500 for scholarships for youth to participate in ATPD sports programs.

**REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL:**

**Staff Changes:** Mrs. Stocker moved the Board approve staff's recommendation for the following people on their actual dates of hire:

- Operations I, Assignable Staff: **Michael Latham**
- Administrative Assistant, Assignable Staff: **Shannon Roesgen**

Mr. Gerth seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mrs. Gelter, Mr. Gerth, Mrs. Stocker, Mr. Turchiano, and Mr. Bartholomew. (5); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

**Monthly Purchase Order Approval:** Mr. Bartholomew moved the Board approve the following between-meeting Purchase Orders:

Arnold Printing	Fall Park Guide	\$ 6,484.00
Strawser Construction, Inc.	Veterans Park Re-surfacing	\$ 24,023.90

Mr. Turchiano seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mrs. Gelter, Mr. Gerth, Mrs. Stocker, Mr. Turchiano, and Mr. Bartholomew. (5); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS AND AUTHORIZATION OF EXPENDITURES:**

Mr. Bartholomew moved the Board approve the **June and July, 2013 Financial Reports and Authorize the Expenditures** as presented by Mr. Jordan.

Mr. Gerth seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mrs. Gelter, Mr. Gerth, Mrs. Stocker, Mr. Turchiano, and Mr. Bartholomew. (5); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mrs. Gelter moved the Board approve the minutes from the **June 25, 2013 Regular Meeting** as written. Mr. Turchiano seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mrs. Gelter, Mr. Gerth, Mrs. Stocker, and Mr. Turchiano. (4); No: None. Abstain: Mr. Bartholomew. (1); The motion carried.

**PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:** No one from the public wished to address the Board at this time.

At 7:38 pm, Mrs. Stocker moved the Board adjourn into Executive Session to discuss land acquisition and to discuss the employment of an employee. Mr. Gerth seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mrs. Gelter, Mr. Gerth, Mrs. Stocker, Mr. Turchiano, and Mr. Bartholomew. (5); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

At 7:55 pm, Mrs. Stocker moved the Board adjourn the Executive Session and re-open the Regular Meeting. Mrs. Gelter seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mrs. Gelter, Mr. Gerth, Mrs. Stocker, Mr. Turchiano, and Mr. Bartholomew. (5); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

No decision was made by the Board at this time.

At 7:56 pm, there being no further business to be brought before this Board, Mrs. Stocker moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bartholomew seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mrs. Gelter, Mr. Gerth, Mrs. Stocker, Mr. Turchiano, and Mr. Bartholomew. (5); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

*I hereby certify that the foregoing are the minutes of the August 13, 2013 meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners, which minutes reflect the essence of the meeting and are not verbatim.*

*Emily Armstrong*  
*Board Clerk*

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Dale Bartholomew

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Nadine Gelter

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Josh Gerth

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Angie Stocker

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Tom Turchiano