

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

**June 25, 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, and Tom Turchiano.

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

**GUESTS:** Lisa Wakeland, Forest Hills Journal and Thomas Merz, resident.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**AGENDA:** Mrs. Gelter moved the Board approve the Agenda as presented. Mr. Gerth seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mrs. Gelter, Mr. Gerth, Mrs. Stocker, and Mr. Turchiano. (4); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

**Public to Address the Board:** Mr. Merz said he obtained more information about Anderson Township Government’s Bauer Preserve property. The property is two acres which were donated and the rest is Greenspace. They have put about \$10,000 into it over the years for maintenance. Mr. Merz stated he walked the property and saw parking access, some fencing, and various anomalies. He has a presentation he would like to share. He believes the ATPD’s property at State and Nagel Roads could be similarly developed, possibly including a small parking lot, a walking trail, trees, and a bench or two. He stated he was initially interested in the property because of a school project, but has since taken a personal interest in it.

Mrs. Stocker stated maintenance costs are on-going costs and asked Mr. Merz if he was able to find out about the Township’s initial capital investment in the Bauer Preserve. When people take a personal interest in a project which the ATPD does not have in the budget, the individuals or group often raises the money to accomplish the project. Currently, the Anderson Township Pickleball Club wants the ATPD to build courts so the Club is raising the money to build the courts. She asked that he follow up with the Township to find out what the approximate capital costs were in order to gauge the amount of funds required for Mr. Merz’ idea. She also asked Mr. Merz to provide Mrs. Armstrong with the presentation.

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

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Juilfs Park Playground Renovation:** Mr. Kushner invited the Board and attendees to go outdoors for a tour of the Juilfs Park Playground project. The group was guided through the construction area to assess the project. Mr. Kushner discussed the progress on the current phase of construction, including: the shelter renovation; new walkways and trail extensions; shade structures; surfaces and play equipment selected; landscaping plans; the Sponsor Apple Tree structure; and challenges staff

has worked through during the process. The current phase will be opened to the public upon completion, while the swings and tot play area will be constructed this fall. Additional future playground phases include a water play area and additional pour-in-place surfacing and shade structures.

Future Park Improvements Plan: Mr. Kushner reported staff will continue to promote and accept the public input surveys through Greater Anderson Days. Currently, comments continue to cover a broad range of topics, interests, and requests throughout all of the parks. The surveys continue to indicate the community is pleased with the growth of the park system over the past thirty years. He thanked Ms. Wakeland for the recent article in the Forest Hills Journal, which he provided for the Board.

Greater Anderson Days: Mr. Kushner reported the Greater Anderson Days celebration is just around the corner. The ATPD will share 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. He said sponsorship is close to what it has been in years past. Basically, everyone in the Township is after the same people for sponsorship. He presented the Board with a draft of the event poster and the entertainment schedule.

Leases on Existing Towers: Mr. Kushner stated at the last meeting, the Board authorized him to negotiate on a lease extension for the Clear Creek Park cell tower. 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 while the money looks good up front, at this point he does not see an advantage to selling the leases for the long term. 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 area will undergo another change some time in the near future. Recently the land transfer was finalized with the Township for the property known as the Fire Training Center, which includes the Dog Field. The total acreage added to Kellogg Park amounts to 8.4 acres, bringing the total acreage of the Park to 21.7 acres. Cargill AG Horizons, the neighboring business between Kellogg Park and the Ohio River, purchased five acres of property from the Township, after which the property lines were redrawn. Cargill intends to reconfigure the parking and driveways for the semi-trucks which access their barge loading facility. Currently, Cargill technically owns property inside the Dog Field as a result of the new property lines. Cargill's construction project will include moving the Dog Field fencing twenty feet back to the new property line. As part of the land transfer deal, Cargill is moving the fence at their expense, to the ATPD's specifications. Tentatively, the project is slated for this summer. Our Dog Field members will be notified about the project as the Dog Field will be closed for approximately three days for construction, pending weather conditions. The west portion of the land transferred to the ATPD, including the cement buildings, is currently being cleaned up. Eventually, the Dog Field could expand into the newly cleaned up area. Mr. Kushner presented a map of the Dog Field and project area.

Mr. Gerth stated this is a great example of the public and private sector working together.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Calendar of Events: Mr. Kushner provided a Calendar of Events for the Board's review of upcoming programs and events. Mr. Turchiano is serving as a judge for the upcoming Anderson Township Independence Day Parade. He said staff and volunteers are working on this year's float entry at the warehouse at Beech Acres Park and that the parade starts an hour earlier this year. The ATPD will also participate in the Mt. Washington parade on the evening of July 3<sup>rd</sup>. The third Grilled Cheese Wednesday is tomorrow, June 26<sup>th</sup>.

Board Meeting Schedule: Mrs. Stocker stated the Board should consider scheduling Board Meetings on a different day since several of the Board members travel for work. She asked the Board members to think about the matter for next month's meeting. She asked Mrs. Armstrong to include the subject on the August meeting agenda.

Mr. Gerth stated evening meetings are probably better for members of the public who may want to attend a meeting.

## **FUNDRAISING AND GRANT ACTIVITY:**

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

Pickleball: Mr. Kushner stated members of the Anderson Pickleball Club ran a tournament on June 8<sup>th</sup> at the Juilfs Park Tennis Courts. He presented the article that ran following their fundraising event. They raised approximately \$600 with the tournament which they donated to help build Pickle Courts at Clear Creek Park. Staff will find out later this year about the NatureWorks grant application submitted with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to construct pickleball courts. The ATPD would provide a match of land, labor, and construction equipment.

## **REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL:**

Staff Changes: Mrs. Armstrong stated Dominique Gossett is the daughter of Dave Gossett, an Operations II employee since March of 2011.

Mrs. Stocker moved the Board approve staff's recommendation for the following people on their actual dates of hire/promotion/resignation:

**Hire:** Recreation I, Assignable Staff: **Dominique Gossett and Alexandra Day.**

**Promotion:** **Jarrett Martinez,** from Recreation I to Recreation II.

**Resignation:** **Brian Meyer,** Full Time Recreation Supervisor, effective June 22, 2013.

Mr. Gerth seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mrs. Gelter, Mr. Gerth, Mrs. Stocker, and Mr. Turchiano. (4); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

**July Budget:** Mr. Jordan reported the presented July Budget contains actual figures for fiscal years 2011-2012, an estimate with an educated guess for 2013, and a complete estimate for 2014.

Mr. Turchiano moved the Board approve the July Budget for submission to the Hamilton County Auditor. Mr. Gerth seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mrs. Gelter, Mr. Gerth, Mrs. Stocker, and Mr. Turchiano. (4); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

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

|                           |                                  |             |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Advanced Turf Solutions   | Fertilizer                       | \$ 7,810.00 |
| Spectra Contract Flooring | Pour-in-place, Juilfs Playground | \$ 8,000.00 |

Mrs. Gelter seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mrs. Gelter, Mr. Gerth, Mrs. Stocker, and Mr. Turchiano. (4); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS AND AUTHORIZATION OF EXPENDITURES:**

Mrs. Gelter moved the Board approve the **May, 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, and Mr. Turchiano. (4); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mrs. Gelter suggested staff include on the website where the minutes are posted the line from the minutes, referencing that ATPD minutes are not verbatim and are intended to capture the essence of the meeting.

Mr. Gerth moved the Board approve the minutes from the **May 14, 2013 Regular Meeting** as written. Mrs. Gelter seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mrs. Gelter, Mr. Gerth, and Mrs. Stocker. (3); No: None. Abstain: Mr. Turchiano. (1); The motion carried.

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

At 7:10 pm, Mrs. Stocker moved the Board adjourn into Executive Session to discuss land acquisition. Mr. Gerth seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mrs. Gelter, Mr. Gerth, Mrs. Stocker, and Mr. Turchiano. (4); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

At 7:27 pm, Mr. Turchiano 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, and Mr. Turchiano. (4); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

No decision was made by the Board at this time.

At 7:28 pm, there being no further business to be brought before this Board, Mr. Gerth moved to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Gelter seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mrs. Gelter, Mr. Gerth, Mrs. Stocker, and Mr. Turchiano. (4); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

*I hereby certify that the foregoing are the minutes of the June 25, 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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Nadine Gelter

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Josh Gerth

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Angie Stocker

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Tom Turchiano