

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

**February 11, 2014**

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: Tom Turchiano, Dale Bartholomew, and Rob Herking.

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

**GUESTS:** Josh Gerth, resident; Dave Rudolph, resident.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**OATH OF OFFICE:** Rob Herking read his Oath of Office, which was witnessed by Brian Jordan and notarized by Emily Armstrong. Mr. Herking’s term will expire on the first Monday in May, 2016.

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

**Public to Address the Board:** Mr. Gerth said he plans to attend as many ATPD Board meetings as possible and to continue his participation with the Anderson Foundation for Parks and Recreation. His new position at the Township level has been eye opening and much of the emphasis is quality of life oriented. The ATPD is enhancing the quality of life in Anderson Township with its parks, facilities, and programs. Facilities and collaboration are essential to the effort. He said the mission of the ATPD has been discussed at the Township. The Township is aware the ATPD plans to make a formal request of the Township for funding.

Mr. Gerth said he misses being on the Park Board, and while the Township is very different, both entities are working towards improving the community. He welcomed Mr. Herking to the Board and said his legal background and community mindedness will be good for the Board. The last attorney to serve on the Board was Mark Bissinger in 2009. He said he looks forward to continuing to serve on the Foundation and to all that the ATPD continues to do in the community. He invited Mr. Kushner to make a presentation to the Trustees in the near future.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Future Park Improvements Plan:** Mr. Kushner reported the next Focus Group session will take place February 26<sup>th</sup> at the Juilfs Park Office from 7-8 pm. This meeting will be about the homework assignment given to the committee members at the last session in October: features they like in any or all of the Anderson Parks; ideas for improvements to any or all of the parks; examples they like from other parks and facilities.

Mrs. Armstrong said the meeting has been posted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

Mr. Bartholomew said his schedule would not allow him to attend the Focus Group session. Mrs. Stocker and Mr. Turchiano both said they planned to attend the Focus Group session if their schedules allow.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Calendar of Events: Mr. Kushner presented a Calendar of Events of upcoming activities for review by the Board. He highlighted the Daddy Daughter Dance on February 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> at the Northern Kentucky University Ball Room. The three dances were well attended and a lot of fun was had by all.

Mr. Bartholomew said he appreciated Mr. Kushner's Guest Column in the Forest Hills Journal about the Daddy Daughter Dance and the economic impact it has on the community.

Mr. Kushner encouraged the Board to stop by the RecPlex any time. Parking is usually scarce as the facility is typically packed on evenings and weekends with youth basketball, volleyball, and various programs for all ages. The number of people coming and going from the RecPlex is extensive. Many staff members in the Board meeting coach teams in our leagues including Mr. Jordan, Mrs. Fall, and Mrs. Armstrong. Mrs. Armstrong is coaching a team that doesn't include any of her own children. Mr. Gerth and Mr. Kushner currently have children playing in the leagues. People are excited about the volleyball leagues. The Recreation Department is constantly trying to figure out how to offer more despite a maxed out facility.

Board Member Terms List and Organization Chart: Mr. Kushner presented a Board member Terms List and Organization Chart for the Board's review, revised to include Mr. Herking.

Hamilton County Sheriff's Office Contract: Mr. Kushner reported the ATPD's contract with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office is due for renewal in April of 2014. He said he is working through the details with Lieutenant Guy. Until a new contract is signed, the existing contract will continue on a month-to-month basis. He said he plans to ask Mr. Herking to review the contract.

Recreation Department Financial Summary ~ 2013: Mr. Kushner presented the Recreation Department Financial Summary for 2013.

Mr. Bartholomew asked about the arrangement for golf lesson instructors.

Mrs. Fall said the ATPD has been working with the Hamilton County Park District ("HCPD") to get the lessons off the ground. She will be meeting with her contact at the HCPD soon to discuss options for offering youth and adult lessons.

**FUNDRAISING AND GRANT ACTIVITY:**

Pickleball Fundraising: Mr. Kushner said in December the ATPD was awarded the NatureWorks grant to construct pickleball courts at Clear Creek Park. The grant is administered by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The grant amount is \$66,816; the ATPD will provide a match of land, labor, and construction equipment. All necessary paperwork and contracts must be in line before construction can begin. The funding has not yet been approved by the State of Ohio Controlling Board.

Mr. Kushner reminded the Board the ATPD was awarded a Section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act grant for the Clear Creek Park parking lot project. Staff will begin the Clear Creek Park parking lot project first, followed by the pickleball court project in the early fall.

Mrs. Stocker asked if there was a particular season for pickleball.

Mr. Kushner said the participants play the sport year-round when they can secure indoor facilities. Otherwise, they have been using Turpin High School's outdoor tennis courts through October.

#### **REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL:**

**Monthly Purchase Order Approval:** There were no between-meeting Purchase Orders to present for the Board's approval.

#### **FINANCIAL REPORTS AND AUTHORIZATION OF EXPENDITURES:**

Mr. Bartholomew moved the Board approve the **January, 2014 Financial Reports and Authorize the Expenditures** as presented by Mr. Jordan.

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

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mr. Turchiano moved the Board approve the minutes from the **January 14, 2014 Regular Meeting** as written. Mr. Bartholomew seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mr. Turchiano, Mrs. Stocker, Mr. Bartholomew. (3); No: None; Abstain: Mr. Herking. (1). The motion carried.

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

Mr. Kushner said it has been the policy of the Board that staff seek the approval of the Board to participate on community or professional committees. He said Forest Hills School District ("FHSD") Superintendent, Dallas Jackson, invited Mr. Kushner to participate on a facilities committee.

Mr. Stocker said she wholeheartedly supported Mr. Kushner's participation on the FHSD committee and believes there is good information to be gained from partaking in the process. She said Mr. Kushner should use his discretion and remove himself if at any point he determines his involvement to be detrimental to the ATPD.

Mr. Bartholomew said he supports Mr. Kushner's participation on the committee as a community member, but that he does not want the negative attitude some people have towards the FHSD to reflect poorly on the ATPD.

Mr. Kushner said he understands the concern and that his ultimate obligation is to the parks. The ATPD got its start as a result of a partnership with the FHSD, allowing the ATPD to get its start with Nagel Park. The partnership continues today with facility use and activities. The ATPD has always relied on others for their facilities. He believes as members of the community, we should be improving the community through the parks and the schools. He said none of the entities that make

up a community should exist in a vacuum and if the community is going to move forward, we need to be willing to see what our neighbors have to say.

Mr. Turchiano said he thinks Mr. Kushner's participation on the committee is a good thing for the community and agreed that he should remove himself if at any point he determines his involvement becomes an issue for the ATPD.

At 6:54 pm, there being no further business to be brought before this Board, Mr. Turchiano moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Herking seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mr. Turchiano, Mrs. Stocker, Mr. Bartholomew, and Mr. Herking. (4); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

*I hereby certify that the foregoing are the minutes of the February 11, 2014 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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Rob Herking

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Angie Stocker

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Tom Turchiano