

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

September 9, 2014

Dale Bartholomew, 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, Rob Herking and Tom Turchiano.

Also present were: Ken Kushner, Executive Director; Brian Jordan, Financial Officer; and Sheila Fehn, Office Manager.

GUESTS: Mr. Bob Drake, Anderson Township resident.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Public to Address the Board: Anderson Township resident Mr. Bob Drake requested to address the board. He stated he had visited the August 21, 2014 Anderson Township Trustee meeting and expressed similar concerns. He gave kudos for the park staff and ranked the ATPD high in his opinion. He met with Mr. Kushner, Executive Director, and has spoken to Mr. Smith, Operations Director and said he was impressed with their professionalism. He is concerned about the future park plans for W. M. Johnson Hills Park (“Johnson Hills Park”) and feels the plans are not in alignment with what the public wants. He has spoken to about 100 people at Johnson Hills Park and is interested in becoming more involved with its planning. He requested the ATPD conduct a formal survey of the community.

Mr. Bartholomew asked Mr. Drake if he was the citizen who recently emailed Mr. Jackson, Anderson Township Trustee. Mr. Drake responded that he did not write the Trustees the email. Mr. Bartholomew stated there are no restrictions to the property deed except that the property exist as a park in perpetuity. The ATPD is limited by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (“OEPA”) regarding the construction of a pond/lake. He has heard from residents that they would like to be able to fish without leaving the township, particularly from parents of children with mobility issues.

Mr. Bartholomew stated the board welcomes volunteers with talent. He believes the ATPD did its due diligence before creating the plans for Johnson Hills Park, including public surveys and open meetings with a committee of Anderson Township residents. He may not see all of the planned improvements in his lifetime as a board member. The plans for Johnson Hills Park were designed to add amenities to Anderson Township that are not currently available, such as a pond/lake and a large shelter. There are no plans for new Johnson Hills Park planning in the near future. Basic infrastructure needs must be addressed before anything can be built. Such infrastructure needs include: new roadways/entrances, water, sewers, and electric.

Mr. Kushner stated the Johnson Hills Park plans were created to complement and enhance the gifts of the property and what is offered throughout the ATPD parks.

Mrs. Gelter said she believes Anderson Township needs more passive recreation areas for activities such as fishing and disc golf. Much money and time has been spent on the planning of Johnson Hills Park over the last 15 years. The ATPD has no plans to spend additional money for major plan changes at this time. She stated the Board is appointed to represent all Anderson Township residents and not just a few. The ATPD would not build a park that is of interest to only 100 people.

Mr. Bartholomew said the ATPD will not build a community park for only 100 people at Johnson Hills Park. More visitors will come when the park's amenities are installed.

Mr. Kushner said the loss of local government funding amounting to about \$300,000 per year would have been used to fund improvements at Johnson Hills Park and other park properties. This loss significantly changed the ATPD's 10-year plan.

Mr. Drake said what he heard was encouraging. He understands the economics and that the ATPD should not create something for only 100 people. His concerns are for the flora and fauna at Johnson Hills Park that can't be found in other area parks. He is concerned that some of the plans may disturb some of the animals and plants. He sees people of all ages when he visits the park. He understands he does not represent all of Anderson Township. He would not like the property disturbed with an amphitheater and frisbee golf.

Mr. Kushner said the amphitheater represented on the plan is small in scale. It is intended to hold 30-50 people for the ATPD's ongoing plan to host nature programs and small plays. Sidewalks will eventually link the surrounding neighborhoods to the park, providing residents with safe and easy access the park.

Mr. Kushner stated the Board of Park Commissioners has been making decisions on behalf of the community for the past 40 years. The Board has always been conscientious not to restrict future boards with decisions that would limit what can and cannot be accomplished in any park.

Mrs. Gelter stated the ATPD has received complaints from Johnson Hills Park neighbors because of the deer. The board will not make decisions that will impact the ability of future boards to meet the community's needs. Plans are subject to change and some things may not be feasible. We create plans so we can set a direction and work toward the end result. The plans for Johnson Hills Park at this time have evolved over 15 years. Quite a bit of money needs to be spent on Johnson Hills Park infrastructure. Mrs. Gelter further stated she appreciated Mr. Drake's interest.

Mr. Kushner said Johnson Hills Park opened in 2007 and thousands of hours from volunteers have contributed to get the property to its present state. Significant money and time has been invested in the plans for Johnson Hills Park and hundreds of community members were involved in the planning efforts.

Mr. Bartholomew stated the park district has been operating and making park improvements on the same millage since 1992.

Mr. Drake said he does not think disc golf is a passive activity. He will not drop his interest in Johnson Hills Park. He respects what the staff and Board do for the ATPD. He requested a copy of the 2015 ATPD budget after it is approved at the January 2015 Board meeting.

The Board thanked Mr. Drake for attending the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Lost and Found Procedure: Staff continues to work on the draft resolution to present to the Board at a future meeting.

Beech Acres Park ~ Cell Tower Request: Mr. Kushner reported Crown Castle International (“CCI”) continues to explore the possibility to expand the footprint for additional cell tower equipment at Beech Acres Park. As reported at the August 12, 2014 meeting, CCI requested to construct an additional 170 foot stealth tower. The existing stealth tower is 150 feet tall.

Clear Creek Park Projects ~ Pickleball Courts and Parking Lot: Mr. Kushner reported staff completed the parking lot project. The additional parking is working really well. The parking lot project was made possible by an Ohio Section 319(h) grant of the Clean Water Act, administered by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

The pickleball court project was made possible by a NatureWorks grant, administered by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Smith continues to finalize the plans with Duke Energy due to the location of the courts under the high tension power lines.

Mr. Bartholomew asked if any permits are required.

Mr. Kushner responded no permits were required.

NEW BUSINESS:

Calendar of Events: Mr. Kushner presented a Calendar of Events of upcoming activities for review by the Board.

FUNDRAISING AND GRANT ACTIVITY:

Juilfs Park Water Play Project ~ NatureWorks Grant: Mr. Kushner reported the ATPD applied for a NatureWorks Grant for the Juilfs Park Playground Water Play Area. The amount applied for is \$63,520 and the total project cost is \$123,058. The ATPD’s match will be labor and construction equipment. If the grant is awarded, the water play area would be constructed in 2016.

REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL:

Staff Changes: Mrs. Gelter moved the Board approve staff’s recommendation to **hire** Marissa Papania, Marketing Intern, Assignable Staff I.

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

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

<i>Wendling Printing Co.</i>	<i>Fall Park Guide</i>	<i>\$ 5,710.00</i>
<i>Kay Park Recreation</i>	<i>20 picnic tables</i>	<i>\$ 6,872.00</i>
<i>Rack Seven Paving Co.</i>	<i>Repave front entrance Juilfs Park</i>	<i>\$34,739.00</i>
<i>Automotive Service Equipment</i>	<i>18,000 lb. four post lift for shop</i>	<i>\$13,043.50</i>

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

FINANCIAL REPORTS AND AUTHORIZATION OF EXPENDITURES:

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Turchiano moved the Board approve the minutes from the **August 12, 2014 Meeting** as written. Mr. Bartholomew seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mr. Bartholomew, and Mr. Turchiano. (2); No: None Abstain: Mr. Herking and Mrs. Gelter (2). The motion carried unanimously.

At 7:13 pm, there being no further business to be brought before this Board, Mrs. Gelter moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bartholomew seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mr. Bartholomew, Mrs. Gelter, Mr. Herking and Mr. Turchiano. (4); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

I hereby certify that the foregoing are the minutes of the September 9, 2014 meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners, which minutes reflect the essence of the meeting and are not verbatim.

*Sheila Fehn
Office Manager*

Dale Bartholomew

Nadine Gelter

Rob Herking

Tom Turchiano