

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

**December 15, 2015**

Nadine Gelter, 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: Angie Stocker, Rob Herking, Dale Bartholomew, and Tom Turchiano.

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

**GUESTS:** Residents: Lois Key and Jean Wakefield.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

Beech Acres Property Purchase and Levy: Mr. Kushner reported as of today’s meeting, no contract has been signed by Anderson Township government to purchase the property from Beech Acres Parenting Center. He said his understanding is that Anderson Township government intends to buy the property and enable the ATPD to purchase the portion in the City of Cincinnati. There continues to be much confusion in the community surrounding the Beech Acres property, the future of the RecPlex and Beech Acres Park, and the Anderson High School relocation/economic development plan. He said the entities have all gone silent, except for the developers who continue to promote their concept. Staff has taken the position that ATPD summer programming will take place at the RecPlex and have moved forward with our planning, accordingly.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Calendar of Events: Mr. Kushner presented a calendar of upcoming activities for the Board’s review. He said the ATPD’s registration numbers for winter programs and leagues are very strong and continue to support the demand for more gyms in the community. The Recreation Department is sending our participants to gyms all over the community, and continues to search for additional time and facilities.

## **REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL:**

Staff Changes: Mr. Kushner said Don Green decided to retire from his retirement job at the conclusion of the season, and that he has been taking care of Riverside Park since 2001.

Mrs. Stocker moved the Board approve staff’s recommendation to accept the resignations from the following assignable staff:

*Don Green, Operations II, effective November 9, 2015.*

*Susan Newell, Concessions I, effective December 1, 2015.*

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

**Resolution 2015-21 ~ 2015 Amended Certificate All Resources:**

Mr. Bartholomew moved the **Board approve Resolution 2015-21, approving the final revenues and final summary budget appropriations** for 2015 as presented.

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

**Resolution 2015-22 ~ 2016 Auditor's Tax Advance Request:**

Mr. Herking moved the Board approve **Resolution 2015-22, requesting an Advance Payment of Taxes** to be drawn on the undivided real estate tax fund.

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

**2016 Budget:**

Following review and discussion of the revenue and appropriations proposal, Mrs. Stocker moved to:

- 1.) **Approve the 2016 budget receipts and appropriations**, with the understanding that the carryover balance is currently a projection which is finalized when the books are closed for 2015. When the actual carry-over is determined at the close of the year, the difference shall be added or deleted from appropriations and receipts as necessary.
- 2.) **Authorize the Financial Officer** to make the necessary adjustments and set up the 2016 appropriations, receipts, and purchase orders to pay invoices accordingly prior to the January meeting.

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

**Monthly Purchase Order Approval:**

Mr. Herking moved the Board approve the following between-meeting Purchase Orders, as presented by Mr. Jordan:

Irvine Wood Recovery, Inc.	Playground Mulch Riverside	\$ 5,800.00
Anderson Township Government	Bobcat Toolcat & Attachments	\$ 12,000.00
Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP	2015 Legal Services	\$ 9,128.73
Humana	Health Care	\$ 13,000.00
ACBO Pavement Services	Additional Crack Sealing in all parks	\$ 6,500.00

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

**FINANCIAL REPORTS AND AUTHORIZATION OF EXPENDITURES:**

Mr. Bartholomew moved the Board approve the **November, 2015 Financial Reports and Authorize the Expenditures** as presented by Mr. Jordan. Mrs. Stocker seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mrs. Stocker, Mr. Herking, Mrs. Gelter, Mr. Bartholomew, and Mr. Turchiano. (5); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mrs. Gelter moved the Board approve the minutes from the **November 10, 2015 Regular Meeting** as written. Mr. Herking seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mr. Herking, Mrs. Gelter, and Mr. Bartholomew. (3); No: None. Abstain: Mrs. Stocker and Mr. Turchiano. (2). The motion carried.

Mr. Kushner said he wanted to recognize the passing of two of the ATPD's long-standing friends of the parks. Dick Combs was buried today and was another person who worked at the ATPD in his retirement. Mr. Combs served in many capacities throughout the years within Operations, Recreation special events, and Administration. Staff often comes across research and materials that Mr. Combs had a hand in creating such as land acquisition information and history. He was a special and especially funny person and everyone enjoyed working with him.

Mrs. Gelter said Mr. Combs was a long-time park supporter and resident of Anderson Township and that he volunteered for the ATPD before he worked at the ATPD. She stated another person who contributed greatly to the ATPD for many years was Natalie McClure, who also passed away this year. Mrs. McClure was a fixture of the ATPD's volunteer crew for decades, beginning in the early years of the ATPD. Mrs. Gelter said both Mr. Combs and Mrs. McClure deserved to be recognized for their significant service to the ATPD.

**Public to Address the Board:**

Ms. Key asked what will happen to the RecPlex and the Beech Acres property. She said the only time the matter seems to get talked about is behind closed doors so she is unable to figure out what is really going on. She wants the land to be a park. She does not think the school should go there and in her opinion, it should stay where it is. She thought the Beech Acres property was determined not to be big enough for the school and she does not understand why it is still being considered. The traffic would be a big problem if the school goes on the Beech Acres property. She lives across the street from Wilson Elementary School and the school traffic is bad. The high school has all the student drivers in addition to the traffic she experiences from the elementary school. She stated the Park Board got undermined by the other two entities and she asked for direction about whom she should contact to express her opinion.

Mrs. Wakefield said they (Ms. Key and herself) should be at the other entities' meetings to ask their questions. She asked if there is something they can do to help make sure the land becomes a park.

Mr. Kushner said the arrangement is that Anderson Township government is supposed to purchase the property to see if the school relocation works. If the school can go there, the ATPD would get the existing RecPlex. If the school does not go there, the land will be a park with the RecPlex. As of yet, Anderson Township government has not signed a contract with Beech Acres Parenting Center to buy their property.

Mrs. Gelter said residents need to hold the Trustees accountable to their word that the property would either be a school and a RecPlex, or a park and a RecPlex. She said the traffic is bad at Forest Road and Beechmont Avenue as well, and she has not heard anything about the effects the new hotel and high-density businesses are expected to have on traffic there. She suggested the guests at the meeting address their concerns to the Township Administrator, who would then forward their comments to the Trustees. Mrs. Gelter stated it is important that people know what is going on in the community.

Mr. Bartholomew said the ATPD continues to work through things with the Forest Hills School District and Anderson Township government. All three entities agreed that the six acres in the City of Cincinnati would be placed in the ATPD's name. No meeting has taken place to change this direction. He further stated that any future meeting of the boards are supposed to take place in open session, so there should be no more behind closed door meetings.

Mr. Herking said the school board is who the public should ask questions of regarding the status of the school relocation plan.

Mr. Kushner said the ATPD's intention for twenty years has been to purchase the Beech Acres Parenting Center property to make it a park and build a community indoor recreation facility.

At 6:48 pm Mr. Bartholomew moved the Board adjourn into Executive Session to discuss employee compensation, the status of an employee, and land acquisition. Mrs. Stocker seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mrs. Stocker, Mr. Herking, Mrs. Gelter, Mr. Bartholomew, and Mr. Turchiano. (5); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Gelter asked Mr. Kushner and Mrs. Armstrong to re-join the meeting after the Board had a lengthy discussion about employee compensation.

At 8:18 pm Mrs. Stocker moved the Board adjourn the Executive Session and re-open the regular meeting. Mr. Turchiano seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mrs. Stocker, Mr. Herking, Mrs. Gelter, Mr. Bartholomew, and Mr. Turchiano. (5); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bartholomew moved the Board approve \$55,514.31 to be used for salary increases and performance awards, based on the performance evaluations of the employees at the discretion of the Executive Director and furthermore, to approve a 2% increase for Mr. Kushner and a \$5,000 performance award. Mr. Turchiano seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mrs. Stocker, Mr. Herking, Mrs. Gelter, Mr. Bartholomew, and Mr. Turchiano. (5); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bartholomew moved the Board approve each full-time employee receive an additional half-day holiday to be used by January 1, 2016 as a reward for a job well done in 2015. Mr. Turchiano seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mrs. Stocker, Mr. Herking, Mrs. Gelter, Mr. Bartholomew, and Mr. Turchiano. (5); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bartholomew moved the Board approve the salary ranges with a 5% increase at the end range for each full time position. Mr. Turchiano seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mrs. Stocker, Mr. Herking, Mrs. Gelter, Mr. Bartholomew, and Mr. Turchiano. (5); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

At 8:21 pm, there being no further business to be brought before this Board, Mr. Herking moved to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Stocker seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mrs. Stocker, Mr. Herking, Mrs. Gelter, Mr. Bartholomew, and Mr. Turchiano. (5); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

*I hereby certify that the foregoing are the minutes of the December 15, 2015 regular 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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Rob Herking

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Angie Stocker

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Tom Turchiano