

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

**June 23, 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; Jessica Fall, Recreation Manager; Mike Smith, Operations Manager; Marshal Carpenter, Recreation Supervisor; and Sheila Fehn, Office Manager.

**GUESTS:** Sheila Vilvens, Forest Hills Journal; Josh Gerth, Anderson Township Trustee; Randy Smith, Forest Hills School District; Residents: Jay and Venita Hyson, Ed and Sarah Donohoe, Mark Schmits, Brett Lebar, Marianne Schmits, Bob Drake, Beverly Robinson, and Jean Wakefield.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mrs. Gelter said the Board’s Executive Session land acquisition discussion pertained in part to the item in Old Business. Therefore, she suggested the Agenda be revised so that the Executive Session is earlier in the meeting, following the first Public to Address the Board line item.

**AGENDA:** Mr. Herking moved the Board approve the Agenda as amended. 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.

**Chip Rosser Coaches Award Presentation:** Mr. Carpenter introduced Ed Donohoe as one of two recipients of the 2014-2015 Chip Rosser Coaches Award. He stated the award was established in 2001, in honor of the late Chip (Alan) Rosser, who coached in the ATPD’s leagues from 1993 to 1999. Coach Rosser’s coaching style exemplified caring, passion, and knowledge of basketball. He saw the big picture regarding the life-lessons learned from sports. Like Coach Rosser, Coach Donohoe has a genuine passion for coaching youth sports and a desire for his players to be successful on and off the court.

Mr. Carpenter presented Coach Donohoe with a certificate. Mr. Donohoe has coached his five children in the ATPD leagues the past six years: Eddie, Joseph, Clare, Sarah and Nick. His commitment to his players, philosophy of youth sports, and enthusiasm for teaching children, are what make him stand out as a great coach in our leagues.

Mr. Donohoe thanked Mr. Carpenter, the ATPD staff, and the referees for all they do for the participants and coaches.

The staff and the Board congratulated Coach Donohoe and took photos.

**Public to Address the Board:** Marianne Schmits said she is a frequent park visitor. In her opinion, the ATPD’s survey about Beech Acres and park improvements lumped two separate issues together. She believes Johnson Hills Park (“JHP”) should be left wild and does not want sidewalks or paving. She asked what the plans are for JHP after the first phase.

Mark Schmits said he believes most people were in favor of a tax increase to buy Beech Acres and the RecPlex. He is against the proposed plans at JHP. In his opinion, the survey should have been two separate surveys. The ATPD has great parks and he thinks maybe there are too many parks. The ATPD is over-improving JHP and it should be left in a natural and passive state.

Mrs. Gelter said people with mobility issues deserve to be able to enjoy the passive and natural JHP, too. The adopted Phase I Plan emphasizes passive features and is on the ATPD's website for the public to review and stay informed about the ATPD's progress. There is currently no money for significant improvements to JHP.

Mrs. Stocker said a small portion of the JHP trail system would be paved which would amount to approximately a half mile. The plan represents what the ATPD can realistically accomplish over the next ten years. The next phase will be decided by the community in the future. No one can say today what the community will want 10 years from now and no one has any way of knowing what money there will be to work with 10 years from now.

Mr. Herking said there is no guarantee the ATPD will be in existence 10 years from now. There is no funding for major projects at JHP in the near future. The ATPD has had several public forums about JHP, including a public Open House on a Saturday in April at JHP. He said Mr. Kushner has made it a priority to be available to listen to what the community wants for JHP and he relays what he gathers to the Board. The JHP Phase I Plan has been regularly discussed at a majority of the Board's meetings over the past year. The adopted plan is what the Board believes is best for the entire Township, weighing everyone's demands.

Mr. Kushner said the ATPD has improved JHP every year since 2000 when it officially became an Anderson Park. The ATPD has removed several structures and buildings, cleared fencing, honeysuckle, dead trees, built bridges and enhanced the trail system, and planted thousands of trees. He encouraged the visitors to look at the ATPD's plan for JHP on the website. He said the plan includes basic features that people generally expect in a public park, including a parking lot, restrooms, and a safe entrance driveway with two lanes so cars can pass each other. Eventually, sidewalks are going to connect the community with the park; a sidewalk along the driveway will allow the neighbors in the surrounding neighborhoods to safely walk into the park.

No one else wished to address the Board at this time.

At 6:44 pm Mrs. Stocker moved the Board adjourn into Executive Session to discuss land acquisition. 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.

Mr. Bartholomew invited Josh Gerth, Anderson Township Trustee and Randy Smith, Forest Hills School District to join the Board for the Executive Session. The Board moved to another space in the office for the Executive Session portion of the meeting.

At 7:33 pm Mrs. Stocker moved the Board adjourn the Executive Session and re-open the regular 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.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Park Improvements and Funding:** Mrs. Gelter said the Board has been entertaining two options for a possible levy to accomplish the following components: purchase the Beech Acres property and RecPlex, renovate the RecPlex and prepare the property as a public park; build a new recreation center; and/or improve all the Anderson Parks. She said following thorough evaluation over the past several months, she believes the priority for the Board is to acquire the property, renovate the RecPlex, and prepare the property as a public park. She said since a new recreation center could be possible through partnerships and the general park improvements can happen over time, she believes the ATPD should move forward with the 0.7 mill 15-year levy, versus the 1.0 mill 20 year levy.

There was no additional discussion.

### **Rescind Resolution 2015-11 ~ 1.0 mill levy for 20 years:**

Mr. Herking moved the Board **rescind Resolution 2015-11** approved on April 8, 2015, representing a 1.0 mill levy for 20 years. 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.

### **Move forward with Resolution 2015-15 ~ 0.7 mill levy for 15 years:**

Mr. Herking moved the Board **move forward with Resolution 2015-15** approved on April 14, 2015, that pursuant to the provisions of Section 511.27 of the Ohio Revised Code, it is necessary to levy an additional tax in excess of such ten-mill limitation for the purpose of purchasing, appropriating, operating, maintaining and improving lands for parks and recreational purposes, including the payment of debt service on bonds issued pursuant to Section 511.29 of the Ohio Revised Code, at a rate not exceeding seven tenths (0.70) mills for each one dollar (\$1.00) of valuation, which amounts to seven cents (\$0.07) for each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of valuation, for a fifteen (15) year period of time, to be on the November 3, 2015 election ballot. Mrs. Gelter seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mrs. Stocker, Mr. Herking, and Mrs. Gelter. (3); No: None. Abstain: Mr. Bartholomew and Mr. Turchiano. (2). The motion carried.

### **Land Acquisition:**

Mrs. Stocker moved the Board authorize Mr. Kushner to negotiate for the agreed to parcel of land adjacent to a park. 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.

Mrs. Stocker left the meeting at 7:36 pm.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Policy ~ Use of Drones in the Parks:** Mr. Kushner said technology has outpaced the ATPD's Rules and Regulations regarding the use of drones in the parks. As quadcopters and drones have become cheaper and more accessible to consumers, staff has seen a significant increase in their prevalence in the parks. While most drone operators have been respectful of our visitor's safety, some are well-aware there is no rule in place that prevents them from flying over our patrons. He said the time has come for the Board to formally adopt a rule to protect the ATPD's visitors and presented the following rule for the Board's consideration:

*No person shall use or operate any radio controlled aircraft, including drones and other unmanned aerial vehicles, or any other similar device in any park or facility without specific written permission from the Executive Director.*

Mrs. Gelter said she believes the rule needs to be adopted now for the safety of all park patrons, but that she would like staff to consider issuing permits for drone use in the future.

Mr. Bartholomew asked if staff has considered a permit process similar to the ATPD's model rocket permit.

Mr. Kushner said staff understands the attraction of drones to hobbyists. He said staff will continue to carefully evaluate this new form of recreation and possible options to provide space for the activity in the future.

Mr. Herking said some people are responsible and some are not. He is in support of the new rule in order to keep the parks safe.

Mr. Turchiano said he is in favor of protecting the public with this simple rule.

Mr. Kushner said the new rule will be presented as Resolution 2015-17 in the Approvals section of the meeting. Should the Board approve the new rule, the ATPD Rules and Regulations would be revised, accordingly, and a legal posting requirement would follow. The rule should be in effect in time for Greater Anderson Days.

Calendar of Events: Mr. Kushner presented a calendar of upcoming activities for the Board's review.

Mrs. Gelter highlighted that four more free Concerts in the Park are planned for Beech Acres Park on Thursday nights and Greater Anderson Days will take place July 24, 25, and 26 at Beech Acres Park.

Mr. Bartholomew highlighted the Anderson Township 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade.

Mr. Kushner said the parade will take place on Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup> at 10 am on Beechmont Avenue.

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

Pickleball Courts: Mr. Kushner stated the pickleball courts project has begun. The six courts are being constructed in the area by the driving range and are expected to be open for play this fall. The ATPD received a NatureWorks grant, administered by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The grant amount is \$66,816 and the ATPD will provide a match of land, labor, and construction equipment.

Mr. Kushner stated the ATPD also has two playground projects scheduled for this year. The Kellogg Park playground grant project will result in Kellogg Park getting its first playground. The Riverside Park playground will also get replaced. Some of the Riverside Park playground equipment is originally from Nagel Park.

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

Staff Changes: Mr. Herking moved the Board approve staff's recommendation to hire the following person on their actual date of hire: **Allison Gormley**, Recreation I Assignable Staff.

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

**Resolution 2015-17 ~ New Section of the Rules and Regulations, 17a Drones and Other Aircraft:**

Mrs. Gelter moved the Board approve **Resolution 2015-17, Adding Section 17a (Drones and Other Aircraft) of the Rules and Regulations**, authorizing the new rule as such: **No person shall use or operate any radio controlled aircraft, including drones and other unmanned aerial vehicles, or any other similar device in any park or facility without specific written permission from the Executive Director.** Mr. Herking seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mr. Herking, Mrs. Gelter, Mr. Bartholomew, 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 2013-2014, an estimate with an educated guess for 2015, and an estimate for 2016.

Mrs. Gelter asked if anyone had any questions about Mr. Jordan's presented information.

Mr. Bartholomew thanked Mr. Jordan for his thorough work on the July budget.

**Monthly Purchase Order Approval:** Mr. Kushner confirmed for Mr. Herking that the pickleball court fencing is part of the grant acquired by the ATPD for the project at Clear Creek Park.

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

|                             |  |              |
|-----------------------------|--|--------------|
| David Williams & Associates | Pour-n-Play Beech Acres Playground Replacement | \$ 5,700.00  |
| Fifth Third Bank            | 2015 Equipment Lease                           | \$ 67,918.73 |
| Advanced Turf Solutions     | 440 Bags of Fertilizer                         | \$ 7,590.00  |
| Mills Fence Company         | Pickleball Court Fence                         | \$ 34,370.00 |
| Rack Seven Paving Co.       | Pickleball Courts Pavement                     | \$ 37,000.00 |
| ABCO Athletic Surfaces      | Pickleball Court Surfacing                     | \$ 10,800.00 |
| Game Time                   | Playground Equipment Kellogg                   | \$128,041.07 |
|                             | Playground Equipment Riverside                 |              |

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

**FINANCIAL REPORTS AND AUTHORIZATION OF EXPENDITURES:**

Mr. Herking moved the Board approve the **May, 2015 Financial Reports and Authorize the Expenditures** as presented by Mr. Jordan.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mrs. Gelter moved the Board approve the minutes from the **May 12, 2015 Regular Meeting** as written. Mr. Herking seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mr. Herking, Mrs. Gelter, and Mr. Turchiano. (3); No: None. Abstain: Mr. Bartholomew. (1). The motion carried.

Mrs. Gelter moved the Board approve the minutes from the **June 17, 2015 Special Meeting** as written. Mr. Bartholomew seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mrs. Gelter, Mr. Bartholomew, and Mr. Turchiano. (3); No: None. Abstain: Mr. Herking. (1). The motion carried.

**Public to Address the Board:**

Mrs. Wakefield asked what pickleball is.

Mr. Kushner explained pickleball is a sport played on a reduced sized tennis court with a waffle ball and wooden paddles. He said the game is fast growing with people who can't cover a tennis court anymore. The game is named after the inventor's dog, Pickles, because it chased the ball for them. The new courts will be the first in the county actually built for pickleball. The courts are being constructed at Clear Creek Park.

Mrs. Gelter added that the sport is very popular, especially with the senior population.

Mr. Drake asked what the length of the levy would be.

Mrs. Gelter said it would be a 15 year levy.

Mr. Lebhar asked how much the levy would generate.

Mr. Kushner said according to the estimate from the Hamilton County Auditor, the levy would raise approximately \$12,860,055.

At 7:49 pm, there being no further business to be brought before this Board, Mr. Herking moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Turchiano seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mr. Herking, Mrs. Gelter, Mr. Bartholomew, and Mr. Turchiano. (4); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

*I hereby certify that the foregoing are the minutes of the June 23, 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