



ANDERSON TOWNSHIP PARK DISTRICT

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July 24, 2015

An Update from Your Board of Park Commissioners: Beech Acres Property ~ A Community Decision, November 3, 2015

This message is intended to provide the community with an update regarding the potential Beech Acres Property purchase and various proposed plans for the property.

The park district learned about a proposed Anderson 2020 plan a couple of days ago. While we were aware of a potential high school concept, we had no idea it had progressed to the point as indicated in the news article from 7/23/2015 (FHJ “*Anderson High School Faces Multiple Obstacles*”). Much information has come to light regarding this effort and we are doing our best to find out what we can.

While we are sure additional information will be made available for the community, it is important the residents know how the park district got to this point. After working towards this goal for over 25 years, we entered into negotiations with the landowner in September of 2014. In March of 2015 the park district was approached by the Forest Hills School District and Anderson Township Trustees to explore a collaborative concept for this property. Despite many executive sessions with the Forest Hills School District and the Township Trustees, the concept had significant red flags from the park board’s perspective. Additionally, the park district was not included financially in the concept – it did not include a tax-free, new recreation building for the community as was being implied.

The park board determined at its 6/23/2015 meeting there was no viable plan that warranted the park district to pass on the opportunity to purchase the property for the community. For this reason, and due to the June 24th deadline imposed by the landowner, the park board decided to move forward with a levy to purchase the property which includes Anderson’s only public recreation facility. The information that surfaced on 7/23/2015 was not available to the park district at the time the Board was making their levy decision.

We are for what the community wants. The park district took the steps to bring this matter before the residents to be decided upon by the community on November 3rd. Our information is online at AndersonParks.com regarding the park district’s plans for the property should it become community parkland. We believe the community is fortunate the residents will have a choice on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Your Board of Park Commissioners,

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