

Porter Park Board

April 18, 2006

Call to order: 7:03 pm

Roll Call: Park Board Members: President - Zathoe Sexton, Vice President - Patty Raffin, Member - Rondi Wightman. Also present: Park Superintendent Jim Miller and Park Administrator Stephanie Miller.

Minutes: A motion to approve March 21, 2006 minutes was made by Patty Raffin and seconded by Rondi Wightman. All were in favor.

Claims: A motion to approve the claims was made by Rondi Wightman and seconded by Patty Raffin. All were in favor.

Public Input: Becky Meranto, representing Girl Scout Troop #344 from Yost Elementary School asked the Park Board to use the Hall and Kitchen of the Community Center free of charge (\$150.00 savings) for their Teddy Bear Parade. It will be held on Monday, May 15, 2006 from approximately 1:30pm to 5pm. There will be four stations set up for the girls. A craft station to decorate t-shirts with fabric paint, snack station serving Teddy grahams, Teddy Bear game station and a Teddy Bear song station. Afterwards the girls will have a Teddy Bear Parade. After a short discussion Patty Raffin made a motion to allow girl scout troop 344 to use the Hall and Kitchen of the Community Center free of charge on May 15, 2006, but asked them to pay a \$100 refundable security deposit and sign a rental agreement. Rondi Wightman seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Don Seller representing the Duneland Diamond Group asked the Park Board to use the Hawthorne Park Ball field for their 2006 baseball season. Jim Miller asked the group for a contact person who will return his phone calls when he has a question. Don Seller said he would be that person. The group was asked to work with Jim Miller during the season and to make sure that the waivers and contract are signed. Zathoe Sexton said it would be a good idea to have the Town Attorney draw up an agreement between the Park Department and the Duneland Diamond Group for its use of the ball field at Hawthorne Park. Patty Raffin made a motion to allow the Duneland Diamond Group to use the Hawthorne Park Ball Field for the 2006 season contingent upon Jim Miller getting the information he needs from them. Rondi Wightman seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Superintendent's Report: Routine building and park property checks have been made. No problems to report.

The wooden floor in the front room of the Community Center has been renovated. The Park Board approved encumbering \$430.00 last December of 2005, but that was never done by the Clerk Treasurer. Carol Pomeroy said that the amount isn't great

enough to go through the procedures it takes to process it. This expenditure will have to be paid from this year's budget.

All three furnaces have been precision tuned by Doler Plumbing.

The grounds at all the Parks have been cleaned as needed.

The brush at Lake Charles has been chipped. We will continue trimming and chipping because this is an on going project.

The Community Center landscaping around the new front porch is in progress. Two Dwarf Alberta Spruce's that were donated by Wade and Rita Newman have been planted. Sodding and seeding was done to repair the construction area. Also the Junipers that were planted in the foreground of the plant beds had to be removed because of damage from the renovation process. Two Yews had to be removed because of damage as well. I would like to purchase 20 new Junipers to replace the damaged ones. Estimated cost will be less than \$450. Also ten yards of mulch will be needed to dress out the plant beds. The estimated cost of mulch is less than \$300. Replacement of the two yews will have to be planned out. After a short discussion Rondi Whightman made a motion to approve the purchase of 20 Junipers at the cost of \$450. and 10 yards of mulch at the cost of less than \$300. for placement around the new front porch. Patty Raffin seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Three Ornamental Callery Pear trees, variety Chanticleer, have been purchased and one has been planted so far in honor of three past park board members, Bud Tilden, Juan Magana, and Nancy Whisler. The location of the planting for all three trees is just east of the Gazebo walkway and just off Ackerman Drive. The trees will be planted in a triangular pattern. The white flowers in the spring will compliment the other three pear trees that are planted closer to the Gazebo. I'm investigating the size and cost of one plaque for that honorarium.

The handicap water fountain in Hawthorne Park has been repaired and is working fine. The water fountain near the ball field in Hawthorne Park is in the process of being repaired.

The Willow Tree at the east end of Hawthorne Park has been removed. Edmonds tree service did a good job.

Three porta-toilets will be ordered for delivery the last Friday of April. The fourth one will be ordered later for the east end of Hawthorne Park when the East Shelter gets rented. Costs

I advertised in the Chesterton Tribune for the P/T laborer position. I received 6 applications. Four applicants were interviewed. I've narrowed it down to one. However, he wasn't interested in sharing the time allocated. In the meantime other developments took place. Paul Casco, my current employee, gave me his two weeks notice and two days later he called and said he couldn't work at all. His reason was that he needed more time to devote to his tree trimming business. Now I'm going to call the one applicant and offer him the entire job of building and grounds laborer. This is what he was interested in from the start.

I checked with the Parks and Recreation Department and found out that the Porter Park Department does indeed have its current 5 year plan on file.

Administrative Report: Stephanie told the Park Board that the Porter Park Department's annual Easter Egg hunt which was held on Saturday, April 8, 2006 at

Hawthorne Park went very well. Zathoe Sexton said that she thought it was a very nice event also and complimented Stephanie for her hard work planning and organizing the successful event. Stephanie brought thank you cards written out to all the groups and businesses that donated their time and merchandise to the event. After the meeting all the Park Board members will sign them before they are sent out.

Old Business: The large refrigerator that is to be donated by Tom Leisure has not been delivered yet. Jim Miller explained that Tom Leisure has been on vacation for three weeks and he now plans on fixing the broken compressor in the refrigerator and delivering it soon. Food Pantry will be having Christmas in April paint and clean the Food Pantry area downstairs. This will take place on Saturday, April 29, 2006. Jim said that Christmas in April might possibly send an Electrical Inspector over to do some work in Food Pantry free of charge. Jim said that he will follow up on this.

Jim Miller said that the second setback thermostat has been installed in the Lounge area of the Community Center and that it is working fine.

Jim Miller said that he talked to Carl from the Street Department about the drainage problem near the Memorial. After this is fixed some paving will be needed, possibly next year. This money might possibly come out of the Toll Road fund. Jim was told to bring this up at the next Town Council Meeting to get this project for the Park on the list.

The last letter from the Council on Aging was received. In this letter they expressed their sincere apology for what has transpired the last few months. They also sent a check which brings them up to date with their payments for the use of the Community Center as a Senior Citizen Center during the week. Zathoe Sexton said that she sent a letter to the Council on Aging explaining that the \$100 payment that the Council pays for the use of the Community Center is not rent but is money to offset the monthly utility costs that the Senior Citizens use while in the building.

Jim Miller and Zathoe Sexton want to get together to discuss what is needed for the Grant Application for the Park Department. The Park has to pay for everything that is done up front. Where will the money come from? It was decided that they would go to a Redevelopment Meeting and ask them to finance the playground project so that the Park can apply for a matching grant. Approximately \$20,000 will be needed for the project.

Jim Miller told the Park Board that he was informed by the Porter Town Council to now cut \$15,000. from the Park's budget.

At the last Park Board Meeting in March of 2006, the Park Board adopted the Town of Porter's Noise Ordinance. This is Resolution #2006-01 which is a resolution by the Town of Porter Park Board setting forth addressing general nuisances. There was a question about the Resolution number being the same as the Towns. It was discovered that it is acceptable to be the same number as the Town's and everything will stay the same.

New Business: Jim Miller informed the Park Board that McDaniels Fire Systems has a new way of doing their fire system checks. Jim was asked to bring the board members copies of the contract and give the original to the Town Lawyer. He was also asked to invite the Town Lawyer to the next Park Board Meeting in May.

Meeting Adjourned: A motion to adjourn the Park Board Meeting at 7:48pm was made by Patty Raffin. The motion was seconded by Rondi Wightman. All were in favor. The next Park Board Meeting will be on Tuesday, May 16, 2006 at 7:00pm in the Hawthorne Park Community Center.

President

Vice President

Member

Member

Minutes taken and report` prepared by: Park Secretary – Stephanie Miller