

Porter Park Board

May 30, 2007

Call to order: 7:02 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approval of Minutes: Becky Maranto made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2007 Park Board Workshop as written. Rondi Wightman seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Patty Raffin made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2007 Park Board Meeting as written. Rondi Wightman seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Consideration of Claims: Patty Raffin made a motion to approve the budget expenditure report from April 20, 2007 to May 15, 2007 as written. Rondi Wightman seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Petition and Comments from the Floor: Lynn Retson co-chair of the Chesterton Art Fair asked the Park Board to use Hawthorne Park for their 49th annual Art Fair held this year (2007) on Saturday and Sunday (August 4th and 5th). Becky Maranto made a motion to allow the Chesterton Art Fair to utilize the Hawthorne Park grounds on August 4th and 5th for an \$800 fee plus a \$100 electric fee and a \$100 refundable security deposit as long as all the necessary permits are filed with the town. Rondi Wightman seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Kevin, Jeff, and Anita representing Narcotics Anonymous (NA) asked the Park Board to use the Community Center for their meetings every Tuesday night from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. The group follows the 12 step program for recovery and has approximately 10 to 20 people at the present time attend every meeting. The group agreed to follow all the rules of the Community Center Rental Contract. The Park Board meets on the third Tuesday of every month in the Front Lounge of the Community Center but there is room in the Back Hall of the Community Center for this meeting. NA said that they can afford to pay \$25.00 a month for the use of the Center because they are self supporting. Kevin who owns his own Print Shop also offered large banners printed free of charge to advertise events for the Park when needed. Rondi Wightman made a motion to allow NA to use the Back Hall of the Community Center every Tuesday night from 6:30pm to 8:30pm at the cost of \$25.00 a month plus a \$25.00 refundable security deposit for a probationary period of 6 months and the signing of the Community Center Rental Contract. Becky Maranto seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Park Superintendent's Report: Jim Miller reported that during a routine Park Property and Grounds check he found a couple of problems. There is graffiti on the east side of the Community Center which we tried to scrub off but it won't come off so we will have to paint over it. On the Arts and Crafts building there is graffiti that we will paint over. At Porter Cove Park the skate boarders are back at using the Park picnic tables for skating on the seats. One was moved to the basketball court and the edges are getting torn up a little. I haven't been able to catch who is doing this.

The mowing and trimming of all Porter Parks is being done once a week.

Jim said that he has been extremely busy with projects this month at Hawthorne Park.

I revamped the Horseshoe Pits in the back of the Community Center.

A new roof has been put on the concession building free of charge. Jim Miller donated nine bundles of shingles that were left over from his own home's roofing project. The shingles are high quality with a 20 year warranty and are worth \$150.00. The labor was done by a PACT worker who is a roofer by trade.

The front of the Arts and Craft building has been painted along with the three directional signs that are on the building.

We did a general clean up of the ball field and completed a field prep. The ball field grassy areas have all been fertilized. The irrigation system at the ball field is now complete and the system is working very good.

Twelve Pink Stella Dor'o Lilies have been planted around the Gazebo. We did this because the Lilly bulb is planted deeper and would not need as much watering as an annual flower. They will come up by themselves every year which will save money over time.

All the picnic tables have been painted including the ones at Porter Cove Park and Indian Springs.

A new plant bed has been installed at the west end of the deck behind the Community Center. Sherrill Newman donated the Miscanthus Ornamental Grasses. They will grow up and will hide the Air Conditioner unit.

Another new plant bed has been installed free of charge at the east end of Hawthorne Park. A PACT worker donated approximately 800 Tiger Lilies. This PACT worker also planted and fertilized all the Lilies.

At Dune Meadows Park, the grounds have been repaired and seeded. That lawn has been fertilized and weed control completed.

At Porter Cove Park, repairs were made, the picnic tables were all delivered out there and painted. We put new sand in the play box. We are working on the volleyball court. We had to roto till the volleyball court to get it back into shape because the rains flooded the court and ruined it. We will have a volleyball net out there soon.

Three new Sweet Gum Trees have been donated to Hawthorne Park and planted. Two were donated by Rondi Wightman and one by Lori Rossetti. Lori would also like a plaque installed at the base of her tree in memory of Ed and Millie Pratt. That is a total of 41 trees planted in the last 15 years in Hawthorne Park, 9 of which were planted this year alone.

Memorial Day Services were held at Hawthorne Park last Monday (May 28, 2007). It was a wonderful service and I hate to see that this is the last service held by the American Legion Post 503 since they are dissolving their organization.

We have 2 refrigerators now for the Summer Park Program. Scott Reed owner of Val's Restaurant donated one but needs some repair. The other came from the concession building and needed some repair. I had both refrigerators checked out and repaired free of charge by a PACT worker who does this type of work for a living. There are still some problems with one of the refrigerators but I will keep an eye on it and see which one will work the best for the Summer Park Program.

Ruddy Sutton has donated a triaxle load of sandy clay for the Hawthorne Park Ball Field. He is one of the coaches this year. He said he will donate another load if needed so we can build up the volume of the field.

Andrew Bailly who is working on his Eagle Scout Badge built and donated 12 picnic tables, 2 of which are handicap accessible, to the Porter Park Department. They are all now in place at the East and West Shelters in Hawthorne Park. The best of what was in those shelters has been painted and moved to Porter Cover Park.

Jim Miller asked the Park Board for permission to advertise for a second part time Park employee to work as a ground person. Patty Raffin made a motion to allow Jim Miller to

advertise for a grounds person who would share hours with the other Park Employee. Becky Maranto seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Jim Miller gave the Park Board all the details about the upcoming six week Summer Park Program for children. It will cost \$1,485.27 for the Arts and Craft Director and \$1,337.00 for the 2 part time helpers. The Park Board wants the Park Program to take place even though the Park Department is in a budget crunch and decided to seek donations themselves for the supplies needed for the program to save \$700. Stephanie will ask Kevin Brown who owns a Print Shop if he will print up 1,000 flyers needed to advertise the program free of charge.

Park Administrator's Report: Stephanie Miller gave the Park Board the minutes of the April Workshop and Park Board Meeting 2007 along with the April 2007 income statement.

Stephanie reported that on Wednesday, June 20, 2007 the Valparaiso University Concert Band will be performing in the Hawthorne Park Gazebo at 7:00pm. This is a Library sponsored event.

Old Business: Dune Meadows Park: Zathoe Sexton said that the Park really looks good. She suggested that the Park Department ask for signs to be installed in that area reminding drivers that there are children playing. The Park Board still wants to get together for a ribbon cutting ceremony to officially open Dune Meadows Park.

Dune Meadows Pond: Jim Miller is talking with Harvey Nix from the Soil and Water Conservation Department in Valparaiso. Harvey is having a hard time getting people to get back to him. People that actually do this work are few. Harvey will keep pursuing this and hopefully we will get to a point where we can put something together.

Food Pantry Refrigerator: Rondi Wightman talked to Tom Leisure who offered to donate the refrigerator. He has 3 refrigerators in his shop that he is looking over to see which one would be best to donate for our needs. Rondi will follow up with him this week or next to see what he has decided to do.

Paving: Zathoe Sexton will write a letter (a formal request) and give it to the Town Council.

Festival Permit: Zathoe Sexton asked the Park Board to review the Festival Rental Form and bring it back next month with their ideas.

5 Year Plan: Zathoe Sexton said that she talked to John Sheppard and he is not interested in doing this any longer. The Park Board decided to do this themselves. There will be a special meeting on Saturday, September 8, 2007 at 9am at Porter Town Hall.

Girl Scout Troup: Jim spoke with the leader of the Girl Scout Troup (Donna). This group found another project at the Animal Shelter that they felt was better for their group. They will not be helping us at Hawthorne Park.

Taylor & Bartholomew Surety Bond: Jim Miller reported that he had four contractors look at the front porch of the Community Center. None of them were interested in fixing and guaranteeing someone else's work. Jim will continue to look for someone. The bond is being executed at this time. Jim will present pictures and quotes and a decision will be made.

Duneland Diamond: Jim Miller reported that he has received everything needed from this group to allow the baseball season to proceed. Duneland Diamond hosted a spruce up day last weekend to get the baseball field ready for the season. Jim has not heard anything from the Flyers Baseball Team and there have not been any conflicts.

New Business: Water at Porter Cover Park: Jim Miller said that the water standing in Porter Cove Park on the north side of the Duneland Prairie Trail belongs to Chesterton. Jim will call the Chesterton Park Superintendent and bring this problem to his attention.

American Legion Post 503: Zathoe Sexton said that the Memorial Day Services were wonderful. American Legion Post 503 is dis-banning. They will be donating their speaker system to the Porter Park Department. The Park Board unanimously agreed that they hate to see this wonderful group of helpful men close their organization. They have been extremely helpful to the Community and Porter Park Department for many years and we thank them for all they have done. They will be truly missed.

Orchard Pedestrian Walkway: Zathoe Sexton told the Park Board that due to the high cost of a bridge, the walkway will have to be placed in a different path through Hawthorne Park. A discussion followed.

Halloween Party: The Porter Park Department will host a Halloween Party for children on Friday, October 19, 2007, from 6pm to 8pm at the Hawthorne Park Community Center.

Porter Park Department Picnic: The Porter Park Department will host a “Picnic in Porter” for the Community on August 19, 2007 from 2 to 4 pm at Hawthorne Park. The Park Board discussed entertainment for this event.

Next Meeting: The next scheduled Park Board meeting will be on June 19, 2007 at 7pm in the Hawthorne Park Community Center.

Meeting Adjourned: A motion to adjourn the Park Board Meeting at 8:35 pm was made by Patty Raffin. Becky Maranto seconded the motion. All were in favor.

President

Vice President

Member

Member

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