

## Porter Park Board

July 18, 2006

**Call to order:** 7:05 pm

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

**Minutes:** A motion to approve the June 20, 2006 minutes was made by Becky Maranto and seconded by Rondi Wightman. All were in favor.

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

**Public Input:** April Wahl representing Chesterton Pop Warner asked the Park Board to use the Community Center's back Hall at no charge (\$175 savings) on Tuesday, July 25, 2006 to conduct CPR classes for their Coaches. They would need it from 6pm to 10pm. There will not be any food or drink served. After a short discussion Becky Maranto made a motion to allow Chesterton Pop Warner to use the room on July 25<sup>th</sup> at no charge but would require April Wahl to sign a rental contract and pay the \$100 refundable security deposit. Rondi Wightman seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**Superintendent's Report:** Routine building and park property checks have been made. The Porta toilets at Hawthorne Park have been tipped over. One was tipped at the East end and one in the main playground. Both were close to a service date so I waited rather than calling for a tip over service. The Park also received credit for the other 2 tip overs in June ( \$180) that were serviced by Service Sanitation because the units were not properly staked down as requested.

The grass was mowed and the trimming was done in all parks.

The grounds were cleaned as needed and the trash barrels were dumped.

The graffiti has been sanded off the Glider at Porter Cove Park.

**Administrative Report:** The two concerts that were held in Hawthorne Park recently were very successful. Approximately 100 people attended the Valparaiso University Band Concert on Tuesday, June 27, 2006. This Concert is sponsored by the Westchester Public Library every year. It was held in the Gazebo and even though it started to sprinkle, the audience stayed. The second concert on Sunday, July 2, 2006 by guitarist Peter Aglinskis was sponsored by the Porter Park Department. It was moved inside the Community Center because of a rain threat. Approximately 120 people attended. Rondi Wightman arranged a donation of ice tea and coffee from Starbucks of Valparaiso. The response to this concert was so positive that the Park Board would like to arrange another one in the future.

The Porter Park's Summer Program has only a few days left. The last day is Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup>. Wednesday morning the kids will get soaked by the hoses of the Porter Fire Department. On Friday the kids will be entertained by a magician who will do a magic show and face painting. The magician was made possible by a donation of \$300 this year and \$300 last year from the Chesterton-Duneland Kiwanis. This donation also paid for a field trip recently to the Westchester Bowling Alley where 48 children enjoyed themselves.

I have a Community Center renter for Aug. 27, 2006 who also expressed a desire to rent the West Shelter. She decided to rent the shelter a week or so after we sat down and took care of the Community Center Contract last February, 2006. She never called to actually take care of the contract and told me she thought I would just send it in the mail. When I did contact her to ask her if she wants the shelter, the prices had gone up and the rules have changed. At the time she was planning her party, pig roasts were allowed on park property and the price of the shelter was lower. She was upset at the changes and asked if she could still have her pig roast near the West Shelter and pay a lower price than the current one. After a short discussion about the miscommunication, Becky Maranto made a motion to allow this renter to have her pig roast near the West Shelter under strict guidelines by the Park Department. Rondi Wightman seconded the motion. All were in favor. After further discussion about the rental price, Rondi Wightman made a motion to charge the renter \$35 as the rental fee for the West Shelter which she felt was fair because it is somewhat in the middle of the old fee of \$25 and the new fee of \$50. Becky Maranto seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**Old Business:** Jim Miller told the Park Board that the Army Corp of Engineers has given the Park Department approval to dredge Dune Meadows Pond. There will be strict guidelines as to how this is accomplished. IDEM was given all the information that I received so they are currently informed. Marty Maupin from IDEM said that we may need to fill out a two page notification form. Jim said that we can now start searching for companies that do this type of work.

The Westchester Neighbors Food Pantry has not yet received the donated refrigerator. Rondi Wightman had no update on that.

The drainage work that needs to be done around the Memorial in Hawthorne Park has been presented to the Town Council by the Public Works Director Karl Baur. The work was approved. Karl said he would coordinate with the Park Department when he is ready to do the work. The Public Works Department will be responsible for the cost and the completion of the work.

Jim Miller will bring up the paving of the parking lot at Hawthorne Park at the next Town Council Meeting.

Jim Miller told the Park Board that he will have something this week from Patrick the Town Lawyer concerning the Duneland Diamond Group Agreement. The Duneland Diamond Group is done for this season but will be starting their Fall Ball at the end of August. Jim said he will have the agreement in place before Fall Ball begins.

Jim Miller told the Park Board that he checked with Chicago Backflow Prevention Systems and they proposed a charge of \$755.00 for one annual inspection of the fire protection system and two semi annual inspections of the backflows. This price is compared to Mc Daniels proposed price of \$1,273 for the same work. It was decided by the Park Board to table their decision until the next meeting.

The new Rental Contracts for the Community Center, Gazebo, and Shelters were reviewed by the Park Board and small changes were made in some areas. Becky Maranto made a motion to approve the new rental forms with the changes made this evening. Rondi Wightman seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Questions were brought up again by the Park Board about the legality of the Taste of Porter Festival holding their 50/50 raffle on Park Property. The Park Board thought it would be a good idea to have a separate contract specifically for festival use. All of these issues will be addressed in the new contract. Patty Raffin asked Stephanie to invite the Taste of Porter to the next Park Board Meeting to answer some questions.

The Park Board is working on a Christmas Party for children which will be held on Saturday, December 2, 2006 from 1 to 3pm. The theme for the party this year will be "The Polar Express".

Jim Miller informed the Park Board that the Town Council approved a 3% increase over last year's budget. Carol Pomeroy told Jim she was meeting with Carl Sender the next day and needed a Park budget to present at that time. Jim revised the budget to add increases where they were most needed with a 3% overall increase. There will be more discussion about the budget at the next meeting.

**New Business:** Jim Miller told the Park Board that the six burner stove being used in the Community Center is obsolete and somewhat dangerous. It is a 1987 model (gas) with pilot lights and has some safety issues. The stove handle is hot to the touch and the spring that helps the oven door close safely is broken and not replaceable. He asked the park board if he can look into a new stove with 6 burners, an electronic ignition, with the oven knobs on top instead of on the front where they can easily be reached by small children. After a discussion, the Park Board agreed and advised Jim to look into some models and prices.

**Park Board Members Comments:** None

**Meeting Adjourned:** A motion to adjourn the Park Board Meeting at 8:35pm was made by Becky Maranto. Rondi Wightman seconded the motion. All were in favor. The next Park Board Meeting will be on Tuesday, August 15, 2006 at 7:00pm in the Hawthorne Park Community Center.

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President

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Vice President

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Member

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Member

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