

## Porter Park Board

October 16, 2007

**Call to order:** 7:03 pm

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion to approve the minutes as written for the September 18, 2007 Porter Park Board Meeting was made by Patty Raffin. Rondi Wightman seconded the motion. The vote was 3 to 0 in favor. Motion carried.

**Consideration of Claims:** Rondi Wightman made a motion to approve the budget expenditure report from Sept. 19, 2007 to Oct. 16, 2007 for \$1,460.41 as written. Patty Raffin seconded the motion. The vote was 3 to 0 in favor. Motion carried.

**Petition and Comments from the Floor:** None

**Park Superintendent's Report:** Routine Park Property and grounds have been checked. There was approximately 1,030 feet of ground damage (grass) at the east end of Hawthorne Park between Franklin and Lincoln Streets from a vehicle spinning around. The incident happened Saturday, Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>. The Porter Police have a few suspects.

The Park Property grounds have been cleaned and the trash dumped as needed. Mowing and trimming was done as needed.

At Porter Cove Park, the upright poles, backboards, and rims were painted on the basketball court. The royal blue peaks on the Satire Theatre and Clatter Bridge Tower were painted in Kids Cove. Repairs were made to the Space Trolley and Tarzan Vine in Kids Cove. Inspection of all equipment is being done to make sure conditions are safe. Hangers on the Tire Swings are showing wear so they will be changed ASAP.

Swing Set Poles are being painted and Playground Equipment is being inspected at Hawthorne Park. Some hangers on the swings will need to be replaced.

We edged the base lines and the infield at the Hawthorne Baseball Field. We also pruned from Porter Ave. and Beam St. eastward along the ball field home run fence to behind the West Shelter. That took four of us about four hours. I used two PACT workers. The Public Works Dept. helped with chipping up all the brush. A big thank you goes to Brenda Brueckheimer for working with the Porter Park Dept.

I talked to Carter Lumber about donating lumber for our trailer and they declined. I also checked with Lowes and we don't qualify for a donation. I wrote a letter to Menard's corporate about the donation and I'm waiting for a response.

Gazebo roof has been water proofed.

The Food Pantry entrance security light has been repaired which is located behind the Community Center on the lower level. The lamp and photo eye was replaced. Also the Food Pantry entrance door has been painted and a gutter leak over that door was fixed.

Mums have been planted at the Memorial and in front of the Community Center. I wanted to create more spring color in Hawthorne Park so I asked Sheryl Newman, a master gardener, about getting some daffodils. Nancy Hokanson then called me and offered to donate \$100 to the Park Department for the purchase of daffodils. Nancy Hokanson's \$100 donation will go directly into

Park Donations earmarked for flowers. Jim will then purchase 200 daffodils and plant them this fall in the tiger lily garden at the east end of Hawthorne Park. The daffodils will come up first then the lilies will bloom the rest of the summer in the same space.

Jim said he met with Schem from Haas and Associates at Porter Cove Park to discuss the drainage problem at that park. They will provide engineering costs for a drainage plan as well as costs to correct the problem.

Jim has four bids to remove one declining tree from the West end of Hawthorne Park and grind the stump. They will also deadwood and relieve the pressure by removing some limbs on the north side of a second tree that is hanging dangerously over the bleachers at the Ball Field. The bids are: Lumberjack Tree Service - \$1, 500, Spalding Tree Service - \$3,100, Edmonds Tree Service - \$2,350, Final Cut - \$3,375. If approved, the job should be done in a couple of weeks and the bill will be paid out of Contracted Services. Patty Raffin made a motion to approve the expenditure for Lumberjack Tree Service to remove one tree, grind the stump, and deadwood and relieve the pressure of a second tree in Hawthorne Park for \$1,500. Rondi Wightman seconded the motion. The vote was 3 to 0 in favor. Motion carried.

Jim reported that he is still researching the basketball court renovation at Hawthorne Park. The last time the court was renovated was 2003 which is less than five years ago. The price has gone up \$1,500 and the number of cracks in the court has increased by 25%. Jim said that maybe repairing is not the best way to go because we will have to repair every five or six years. Jim thinks that concrete would be better. The Porter Cove Basketball Court which is concrete was installed in 1997 and only has a few hairline cracks but still in good shape. The initial cost will be more for concrete but it will last 15 to 20 years and end up being a large savings to the Park. Jim plans to get more information on this for the Park Board.

Jim reported that the Neighborhood Picnic held in Dune Meadow's Park on October 13, 2007 went well. Jim drew up an agreement which included a \$100 refundable security deposit for the residents to use six picnic tables from Hawthorne Park. The co organizer of the picnic signed the agreement, then picked up and returned six picnic tables on the same day in good condition.

**Park Administrator's Report:** Stephanie Miller gave the Park Board the Minutes of the September 18, 2007 meeting along with the Income Statement for September 2007. Stephanie said that the income total at the end of September has exceeded last year's total income and the Park still has three months to go. Rentals are starting to slow down a bit in the cold weather months. Not every weekend day is rented. This is typical for this time of year.

**Old Business:** Porter Cove Park: Three residents from the Porter Cove Homeowners Association attended the Park Board Meeting to discuss Porter Cove Park. Nancy Hiatt, President of the Porter Cove Board of Directors said she was given 7 or 8 pages of Police activity taking place in Porter Cove Park by the Porter Police Department since the beginning of the year. Jim Miller explained in detail the extensive vandalism taking place in the park. This includes paint ball damage on much of the playground equipment, shelter, and basketball backboards, the dumping of home furniture and carpeting, a burn pit in the woods, gang and bike club graffiti spray painted on concrete, playground equipment and structures. Volleyball support posts were bent over numerous times and the net pulled down, the portable toilet knocked over and the garbage receptacles pushed over several times. A lengthy discussion followed about the pros and cons of Porter Cove Park which was built in 1997. The Homeowners Association would like to work with the Porter Park Department to find a solution to the vandalism problem. Lights, surveillance cameras, additional police patrol, and homeowner watchdogs were all discussed. Nancy Hiatt said she would be willing to go house to house to all the residents in the Porter Cove Subdivision with a survey to inform and question the homeowners about the Park. Town Council President Bill Sexton said that he would spearhead talks with the Chesterton Town Council about the problems that stem from the Chesterton Bike Trail running directly past Porter Cove Park.

Zathoe Sexton invited the Homeowners Association back to the next meeting with their information to discuss this further. Meanwhile the Park Department will gather additional information about lighting and surveillance cameras. Nancy Hiatt said she will be back for the November meeting.

Food Pantry Refrigerator: Rondi Wightman reported that the large freezer being donated to Food Pantry by Tom Leisure of TSL Refrigeration is ready to be picked up. Jim Miller will contact Tom for pick up. Thank you to Rondi for coordinating this large donation.

Festival Rental Form: The Park Board will discuss the Festival Rental Form further at their Workshop scheduled for October 20, 2007.

Taylor & Bartholomew Surety Bond: Jim Miller reported that Illinois Adhesive Bonding has completed all the repair work to the Front Porch of the Community Center. The Park Board can now endorse the check for payment of work. Jim said he plans to water seal the front porch and paint the hand rails very soon.

Five Year Plan: The Porter Park Board will discuss their five year plan at a workshop scheduled for Saturday, October 20, 2007 at Porter Town Hall.

Halloween Party: The Porter Park Department will host their first Halloween Party in many years for children ages 1 through 10 at the Community Center in Hawthorne Park on Friday, October 19, 2007 from 6pm to 8pm. Zathoe Sexton is spearheading this event.

**New Business:** None

**Items to Keep in Mind:** Christmas Party: The Porter Park Dept. will host a Christmas Party named "The Porter Express" for children ages 1 through 10 on Saturday, Dec. 1, 2007 from 1pm to 3pm at the Hawthorne Park Community Center. Becky Maranto is spearheading this event.

**Park Board Members Comments:** None

**Park Board Workshop:** Saturday, October 20, 2007 at 2:30pm in Porter Town Hall.

**Next Meeting:** The next scheduled Park Board meeting will be on Tuesday, November 20, 2007 at 7pm in the Hawthorne Park Community Center.

**Meeting Adjourned:** A motion to adjourn the Park Board Meeting at 8:08pm was made by Patty Raffin. Rondi Wightman seconded the motion. The vote was 3 to 0 in favor. Motion carried.

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President

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Vice President

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Member

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Member

Minutes taken and prepared by the Porter Park Board's Secretary Stephanie Miller.