

## **BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP PARK BOARD MINUTES MARCH 19, 2014**

Members Present: Henri Preuss, Vice Chairman; Mitch Fakadej; Hillary Henry; Lorrie Benza, Township Trustee; Jim Stanek, Service Director and Dave Mitchell, Property Superintendent

Guest: Ted Seliga and Kathy Mitchell

Secretary's Note: A meeting was not held in February 2014.

Mr. Preuss, Vice Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M. at the Bainbridge Town Hall.

Mr. Preuss called for a moment of silence for Mr. Dennis Martin, Park Board Member who recently passed away.

### **MINUTES**

The board was in agreement to postpone adopting the minutes until the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held in April.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Park Board Membership (State of the Board)**

The board discussed the current membership of the board regarding the fact that it lost two members and one has not been attending. Mr. Preuss made the recommendation to acquire four new people. Mrs. Benza said that she has possibly two lined up for the Park Board and will relay the information to get her colleagues to work on two more as well. Mr. Preuss noted that the board is in a critical state and in order for it to benefit the Park Superintendent it has to have the proper number of people to spread the workload out and to provide fresh ideas with all of the things that need to be done.

#### **Parks - 2013 Expense Report**

Mr. Preuss reported that the board received the stats for last year's expenses and asked why the KCE contribution of \$13,500 falls under Parks because his understanding was that the agreement was between the Board of Trustees and KCE and if it was removed from the Parks budget, the Parks would have more money to spend in other areas.

Mr. Mitchell explained that KCE is the township's recreation representative and they are attached to Parks more than the township so he would still like to account for that in the Parks budget and added that the township parks department and KCE share equipment and labor tasks.

Mrs. Benza said the Board of Trustees did reduce that payment to be in line with the census population data which is \$1 person and since that kind of payment has to come out of the general fund the most likely department that is impacted is Parks and Recreation.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Park Issues**

Mr. Preuss reported that he had met with Mr. Stanek and Mr. Mitchell at Centerville Mills Park and the board needs a plan for the entire park system and suggested that some things can be done in-house to save money.

Mrs. Benza said she contacted the Geauga County Park District to see if they have any consulting guidance to help make a determination in terms of rehabbing some of the structures versus mothballing or demolition at Centerville Mills Park and will let the board know when she has a contact name.

Mr. Preuss stated that Mr. Mitchell has suggested that the board create a five year plan and has agreed to help Mr. Mitchell with the budget.

The board discussed the evaluation of the buildings and the proposed capital improvements such as replacing the playground at Settlers Park and a new playground at Heritage Park.

Mr. Mitchell noted that KCE is helping with the drainage at Settlers Park by paying for half of it.

Mrs. Benza reported that the Board of Trustees has a draft contract in place for KCE and it is at the Prosecutor's Office and on the trustee meeting agenda for discussion of March 31<sup>st</sup>.

The board discussed future improvements such as painting the pavilion at River Road Park, building a pavilion at Centerville Mills Park, replacing the playground at Settlers Park and the addition of seating and bases at Heritage Park and was in agreement that all of the projects need to be prioritized. The board was in agreement that the Settlers Park playground is more important than the Heritage Park playground at this time and talked about fundraisers for the playground.

Mrs. Benza suggested looking into used playgrounds from schools that are closing and added that grant money is available because Kenston received grant money to equip each school with state of the art exercise equipment so research could be done on what kind of grants would be available for municipalities.

Mr. Seliga stated that swing sets are used all of the time and are assets to the parks compared to renting out buildings to a few groups of people. He said the township should look at needs not wants.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Chagrin River Watershed Partners – Centerville Mills Park

Mr. Stanek reported that the Chagrin River Watershed Partners would like to do a stormwater project at Centerville Mills Park that would involve creating a parking lot and would encompass the main drive to the backside of the dining hall with a \$100,000 grant and we would have a much better likelihood of getting those dollars if we do the matching grant which would involve the township paving the middle portion of the parking lot which would be necessary to have a weight bearing driveway to the middle. They are putting the concept forward to the EPA to see if it is something that they would prefer that we do and then we have to make a decision if we want to commit to it.

### Erosion at Centerville Mills Park Lake

Mr. Stanek explained that there is an erosion problem on the back side of the dam at the lake at Centerville Mills Park.

### Education for Public

Mrs. Benza explained that the residents need to be educated about the parks to get them more involved.

### Park Board Thoughts

Mr. Preuss stated that he would like the board members to express what their thoughts might be for Centerville Mills Park and if they have any questions regarding their thoughts they are to contact Mr. Dave Mitchell and discuss things with him so when the board puts together a plan we are all working at the same level.

Since there was no further business, Mr. Fakadej made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Henry seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda L. Zimmerman  
Secretary to Park Board

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING: April 16, 2014 – 7:00 P.M. – Town Hall**