

BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP PARK BOARD MINUTES APRIL 16, 2014

Members Present: Marty Sfiligoj, Chairman; Henri Preuss, Vice Chairman; Sue Curran; Mitch Fakadej; Hillary Henry; Lorrie Benza, Township Trustee and Jim Stanek, Service Director

Guests: Mr. Kevin Byrnes, KCE Treasurer and Ms. Jennifer Holzheimer, KCE Executive Director
Mr. Ted Seliga

Mr. Sfiligoj, Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. at the Bainbridge Town Hall.

The Park Board welcomed its newest member Ms. Sue Curran.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kenston Community Education

Mr. Kevin Byrnes and Ms. Jennifer Holzheimer of KCE met with the Park Board for a general discussion. The Heritage Park fields were discussed and it was noted that they will not be ready for ballgames until 2015. Ms. Holzheimer explained the new software (Max Galaxy), which is an upgrade from Max Solutions that KCE is using and it allows residents to request classes and fields online and she hopes to have an all paperless system. It was discussed that there is a potential for the park buildings to be scheduled through this software as well and there is no fee for additional users. Ms. Holzheimer noted that KCE started an archery program at Centerville Mills Park. The board discussed the drainage problems at Settlers Park. Ms. Holzheimer said they will try to get a recreational league for the Frisbee golf at CVM and noted the scout projects at CVM. She said they have a community page on their website and have a pretty good reach to the community regarding community events. The board thanked Mr. Byrnes and Ms. Holzheimer for attending the meeting.

PARK BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The board discussed the current membership and Mrs. Benza noted that she has another candidate for the park board that is interested and suggested appointing Mr. Dave Mitchell to the Park Board as well and noted that Mr. Greg Marous who is the Cemetery Sexton also sits on and is a voting member of the Cemetery Board.

MINUTES

Mr. Sfiligoj made a motion to approve the meeting minutes dated January 15, 2014 and March 19, 2014 as written.

Mr. Fakadej seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Park Board Role and Mission Statement

Mr. Sfiligoj explained the role of the Park Board, its mission statement and its role between the Service Director, the Parks Department and the Board of Trustees and stated that the board offers recommendations to the Parks Department and Board of trustees and with more input from new members it will come from a variety of different angles. The board was in agreement to seek input from the Board of Trustees regarding the role and mission statement. Mrs. Benza noted that she has asked Mr. Mitchell to work on the mission statement with the Park Board to have it crafted for the next Park Board meeting.

Project List

Mr. Sfiligoj referred to the list he compiled that contains past Park Board recommendations and motions for Settlers, River Road, Centerville, Heritage and other properties and stated that some of the projects have dragged out for so long that the whole complexion of the project has changed over time and the ideas that the board had a few years ago for something has morphed into a different scenario at this point based on a number of items such as availability of money etc. and how it ties into the general project list that also existed years back. He said a good task for the Park Board is to prioritize the projects to see what is viable for this year and next year and a five year plan as well and this will help guide the board as to where it has been and what the members have asked to have happened and what was approved for projects that have happened and have not and are they to be resurrected and in what order. The board discussed the budget and the projects should be prioritized based on available money from the general fund and was in agreement to work with Mr. Mitchell.

Mr. Stanek referred to the drainage at Settlers Park and the painting at River Road Park and explained the grant that has been applied for, the township will have to match it but it is an opportunity. He also explained the work that needs to be done at Heritage Park such as benches and dugouts but a plan will be developed and they will try to be creative. He also mentioned that a pavilion could be built at the Nature Center and the Lakeside Center could be redesigned.

Mrs. Benza reiterated that schools are closing and suggested looking into obtaining used playgrounds through govedeals.com etc.

Centerville Mills Park Walkthrough with Geauga County Park District

Mrs. Benza reported that a walkthrough was held at Centerville Mills Park with Mr. Matt McCue, Director of Strategic Planning for the Geauga Park District. Those in attendance were Mrs. Lorrie Benza, Mr. Jim Stanek, Mr. Dave Mitchell, Mr. Henri Preuss, Mr. Mitch Fakadej and Mr. Ted Seliga. The purpose of the walkthrough was to obtain building assessments of the Dining Hall, Blue Room, Lodge, Lakeside Center, Daycare building and White House. Mr. McCue was asked if these grounds belonged to the park district what kind of decisions would be made relative to the structures that remained. Mrs. Benza reiterated that last year the buildings were designated as A, B or C with the A buildings staying, the C buildings were to be demolished and the B buildings had to be revisited or re-assigned and noted that the C buildings have almost all been demolished. Heery International Inc. was obtained to perform a Park Assessment Overview at Centerville Mills Park to give an evaluation of all of the structures and what steps would need to be taken to bring those buildings up to code to make them usable, assessable and safe for the public. Mrs. Benza said the question is now to examine those dollars that will be needed and the dollars that are available with regards to the usage numbers from last year and the recent historical past and added that we don't need to duplicate facilities where there is not a high use. Mrs. Benza noted that Mr. Markley also has some people to perform a walkthrough and asked everybody who was involved in those walkthroughs to compile a summary and submit it to Mr. Stanek. Mrs. Benza said the Board of Trustees is asking for input from the Park Board at the May meeting for the future of the remaining structures, either demolition, rehabilitation or improvement. The public will also be asked for input and comments and the goal is to have all of the stats and figures in place by the end of June so by the end of the calendar year the Board of Trustees will have a working calendar in place identifying the buildings that are going to be demolished with a stated date of demolition and the buildings that are going to be rehabilitated with a stated time-frame for rehabilitation and the buildings slated for improvement and how much money will be required for those improvements. She said the goal is to have everything in place so it can be transitioned to a passive park. She noted that the Board of Trustees is soliciting input from everyone who is involved such as the Park Board, Property Superintendent, Service Director and consultants who are in the business and would like to have all the comments and summaries in by the end of April.

Mrs. Benza stated that according to Mr. McCue there are other available parks along the western tier of the county such as Bear Town Lakes, Frohring Meadows, Westwood Park and Orchard Hills and the one most frequently booked is Westwoods and on average it is about 50 per year.

The board discussed that if the property does not fit in the Geauga Park District program, they don't purchase it but in the case of Centerville Mills Park, the property was purchased and it has to be retrofitted to make it what the township wants instead of having options of acquiring the property with no buildings and deciding what is needed to be built to meet the resident's needs and demands in Bainbridge Township. It was suggested that flea markets could be held on Sundays like the old Aurora Farms. Also discussed was the costs to bring the buildings up to standard including operational costs that should break even in five to ten years but rental fees may need to increase and it could drive people away from renting the buildings. The board also talked about the many communities within Bainbridge Township that have their own swimming pools and common areas and the technology era now that has led to less people using the parks.

Auburn Career Center – Service Project

Mr. Stanek reported that students from Auburn Career Center will be providing landscaping at the Fire Station and Police Station including planting two memorial trees at Heritage Park for Mr. Clyde Whaley and Mr. Dennis Martin with a formal dedication at a later date. Mr. John Wheeler wanted to give back to the community so he initiated the project.

Commendation

Mr. Preuss said he is extremely proud of the Service Department with the work they have done at Centerville Mills Park and the park board is grateful for the Service Department and the Parks Department for what they have done in helping with the process the board is going through at this park.

Mrs. Benza commended Mr. Stanek and his crew for taking down some of the structures and stated that the Park Board needs to make a difficult analysis and present its recommendation.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Due to out of town conflicts the board was in agreement to hold the next meeting on May 28, 2014 instead of the regularly scheduled date of May 21, 2014 at Centerville Mills Park (Lakeside Center) at 7:00 P.M.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda L. Zimmerman
Secretary to Park Board

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING: May 28, 2014 – 7:00 P.M. – Centerville Mills Park
(Lakeside Center)**