

April 18, 2017 Special Park Commission Meeting Minutes

Present- Scott Warner (President), Alex Hintz (Vice-President), Kathy Burton (Secretary), Ed Willing (Trustee), Liz Kocjan (Commissioner), Craig McAteer (Commissioner), and Melody Schmitz (Commissioner)

also present- Tom Christensen (Village Administrator), Randall Solberg (Supervisor), and Chris Geary (Village Attorney)

1) Call to Order- The meeting was called to order at 7:01 P.M..

2) Public Comments-

Ray Scherbel of 2500 Marigold Court., (President of Senior Club), expressed concerns that the sale of the Community Center will result in seniors not having a place to gather.

Pete Heller of 4143 Goleys Lane, also expressed concerns of not having a Community Center.

Martha Hutsick of 4502 Harvest Lane, (liaison to the Douglas Avenue Business Association), expressed concerns of the loss of parkland and the pace of the sale. She also wondered if the purchaser would be an improvement to Douglas Avenue?

Linda Miller of 2715 5 1/2 Mile Road, echoed concerns for a senior gathering place and was not excited about the Franksville building.

Wendy McCalvy of 4825 Richmond Drive, would like the Park Commission to delay the sale and gather more information to preserve the parkland. She also expressed frustration in the loss of the Community Center.

Bill Streeter of 4835 Ruby Avenue, (member of the Community Development Authority), wondered if there was an urgent need to sell this parcel? He would like to see more information and studies done as to the pros and cons of this parcel.

3) **Resolution P&R 2017-01** - Resolution Of The Parks And Recreation Commission For The Village Of Caledonia Recommending The Sale By The Village Of A Parcel Of Land With Parcel No. 104-04-23-18-300-190, 6156 Douglas Avenue Known As The East Side Community Center, And A Parcel Of Land Adjacent Thereto Known As Woodland Park With Parcel No. 104-04-23-18-122-010 - President Warner read aloud the resolution in it's entirety and explained it. He recognized citizen input and also acknowledged the letters that the Park Commission, Village Board, and Administration received. Tom Christensen addressed the Commission and the audience. He reiterated that no one is being "kicked out" or displaced by the sale of the Community Center as space at the new Village Hall and the Franksville Park building will be available. He confirmed that Finishing Touch Auto Body (an existing business on Douglas Avenue) will be expanding to this location. He also clarified that the sale has not been rushed as it has been in motion since February 2016. He stated that the building has outlived it's useful life for the Village and the park is unbuildable wetland that is extremely underutilized. He informed everyone that a deed restriction has been placed on the property to prevent development and to keep the habitat intact. Secretary Burton asked if a Conditional Use could also be placed on the property to prevent dumping? Tom agreed that it could be done. Trustee Willing stated that this item has already gone through the Public Works Committee, the

Plan Commission, and the Village Board and that he is comfortable with the process. He talked about a Community Center at Crawford Park and would like the Commission to have a fundraiser to plant new trees in Crawford Park. President Warner also talked about the state of the building and the state of Woodland Park and it's inaccessibility. He agreed that Crawford Park is a much better location. He went on to remind the Commission that the sale is not inconsistent with the Park Plan and where the needs are in the Village. He stated that addressing future meeting space is in the resolution. Commissioner Schmitz expressed her concern that the seniors should have a place to gather. Tom restated that Franksville Park and the new Village Hall would be available. Someone asked why a meeting space was not considered when building the new Village Hall? Trustee Willing explained that the uncertainty of finances at the time of building did not allow for the expansion. Since then, finances have improved. Therefore, a new Community Center is not out of the realm. Secretary Burton confirmed that the Village Board has asked the Park Commission for input regarding Crawford Park and that a new Community Center is definitely part of that conversation. Wendy McCalvy was worried about how a new Community Center would be administered? President Warner informed her that currently the parks are administered by Randall and Village staff. He noted that the administration of the parks would not change with a new Community Center at Crawford Park, and that the close proximity of the Village Hall and the Community Center would be a benefit. Melissa Warner liked the idea of a new Community Center at Crawford Park. She wondered if the kids at St. Rita's School could still do the work in Woodland Park under private ownership? She also expressed that planting new trees is not a "trade" for mature trees. Jay Benkowski asked if the proceeds from the sale of the property could go into a separate fund to go towards the new Community Center? Trustee Willing and President Warner echoed that the sale and any fund allocations were a matter for the Village Board as they are the ones selling the property. Trustee Willing asked the Park Commission to be prepared to discuss expansion to Crawford Park. Commissioner McAteer talked about his experience building the Oak Creek Community Center and getting businesses to sponsor it. Vice- President Hintz made a motion to approve the resolution set forth in this special meeting. Seconded by Trustee Willing. Motion carried unanimously.

4) Joint Parks Commission Appointment- Commissioner Kocjan went over the meeting schedule at Joint Park. Trustee Willing went over how the meetings are conducted. Commissioner McAteer volunteered to serve on the Joint Park Commission.

5) Adjournment- Trustee Willing made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Kocjan. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:09 P.M..

Respectfully Submitted By: Kathy Burton