

## October 8, 2019 Park Commission Minutes

Present: Patrick Flynn (President), Earl Bednar (Vice-President), Kathy Burton (Secretary), Mike Lambrecht (Commissioner), Sara Kierzek (Commissioner), Jim Arehart (Commissioner) and Tom Weatherston (Trustee Liaison)

Also present: Randall Solberg (Supervisor), Tom Lazcano (Caledonia Public Works Director), Jim Dobbs (Caledonia Village President), Suzi Zierten (Caledonia Conservancy Executive Director), Jill Baranowski (Caledonia Conservancy President), and Wendy McCalvy (Caledonia Conservancy)

1) Call to Order- Vice-President Bednar called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

2) Public Comments- none

\*\* President Flynn arrived

3) Approval of Minutes- \*\* Commissioner Arehart made a motion to approve the September 2019 Minutes. Seconded by Vice-President Bednar. Motion carried unanimously.

4) Introduction of Jim Dobbs, Village President (His roll and expectations of the Parks) – After introductions, President Dobbs talked about the state of the Joint Park.

He also asked the Commission to put together a slideshow presentation of all the parks in the Village and present it to the Village Board.

Trustee Weatherston stressed the need for the Commission to put together a five-year Capital Improvement Plan. Capital Improvements were defined as: equipment, brick and mortar (buildings), and bigger purchases that last a long time such as pavement.

President Dobbs notified the Commission that with the recent purchase of additional land in Crawford Park, the Village will be looking to develop a Safety Plan. The plan will evaluate the needs of the Police and Fire Departments and may require new facilities. He advised the Commission to wait for the completion of this plan before we commence any further planning for the development of Crawford Park.

Supervisor Solberg reminded the Commission that the Needs Assessment within the Park Plan identified deficiencies in the western end of the Village. Ideally there should be a 25-acre park developed in that area. He asked everyone at the table to keep that in mind as we move forward.

5) Introduction of Suzi Zierten, Caledonia Conservancy – Suzi Zierten is the Executive Director of the Caledonia Conservancy. She announced that the Conservancy is celebrating their 25-year Anniversary. She informed the Commission that the Conservancy owns and manages over 300 acres of land that are open to the public (walkers/hikers and dogs on leashes), and they would like more collaboration with the Village.

Jill Baranowski (Caledonia Conservancy President) talked about the Conservancy programs for school children. The programs are run by volunteers and average one volunteer per 5 children.

Wendy McCalvy (Founding Member of the Caledonia Conservancy) talked about King's Corner (southwest corner of 5 Mile Rd. and Hwy 31) and its future development.

Trustee Weatherston stated that the Conservancy lands being, "Open to the public" is not advertised very well. President Flynn would like the Parks to help advertise the Conservancy with the Village. President Dobbs would recommend that the CDA (Community Development Authority) address advertising for the Parks and the Conservancy.

There was discussion regarding the Conservancy trail system. Wendy McCalvy wondered if the Parks/Village could help the Conservancy to connect and expand their trails? President Flynn asked if their trail system connected to the Oak Leaf Trail? It was stated that it does. Supervisor Solberg asked if the trails would be accessible to bikes? Wendy McCalvy informed the Commission that they would not be open to bikes because the bikes would scare the horses. Secretary Burton cautioned the Commission about using tax dollars to purchase property for a private entity. Tom Lazcano inserted that any trails purchased by the Village would be open to everyone and would need to be ADA compliant. President Flynn encouraged them to bring forward any opportunities.

6) DNR- Possibility that they may attend to discuss grant options- n/a

7) Donation of Land to Parks from St. Mesrob Armenian Church – President Dobbs stated that he had received an email from someone wanting to donate land from St. Mesrob Church to the Parks. There was discussion regarding the need for another park on the eastside of the Village. It was emphasized that the true need for park expansion is on the west end of the Village. President Dobbs agreed to contact the donors and decline the offer for the time being.

8) Reports/Updates

\* Staff - none

\* Supervisor- Due to high winds the pier at Gorney Park has floated up and lodged on top of a pole. There were attempts to free it, but all were unsuccessful. Supervisor Solberg will call Aqua-Doc (the company that installed it) to come and repair it.

Supervisor Solberg told the Commission about a letter he wrote to a company in San Francisco regarding equipment at the Shane Rawley Ballpark that is scheduled to be demolished. The company agreed to donate the equipment to our Parks.

Supervisor Solberg talked about a quote for \$158,000.00 he received to remove and reinstall the lights from the Shane Rawley Ballpark to Crawford and Gorney Park. The cost to install new lights would fall between \$500,000.00 - \$600,000.00. Supervisor Solberg is waiting for other quotes. He also mentioned a Pepsi refrigerator, bleachers, and fencing that he received from the ballpark. President Dobbs asked Supervisor Solberg to make sure that everything we are receiving is up to code and not obsolete.

Supervisor Solberg continues to clean and paint at the Joint Park. He also installed changing stations there. He felt that changing stations were also needed at Crawford and Gorney Park. The stations are \$150.00 per unit and would be installed in the shelters and concession stand bathrooms (6 total).

\*\*Vice-President Bednar made a motion to approve spending up to \$900.00 to purchase and install changing stations at Crawford and Gorney Park. Seconded by Commissioner Arehart. Motion carried unanimously.

\* Commission Members – Trustee Weatherston expressed concern for staff time at the meetings and the length of the meetings. He asked the Commission to consider moving the time of the meeting to an earlier time. There was a brief discussion and an agreement to put it on the next agenda.

President Flynn and Commissioner Kierzek met with the DNR. They learned that the DNR is willing to help with locating wetlands, permitting, and grants. They also learned that grants must be applied for in May and are only available if the project is ADA compliant.

President Flynn sited a company (Edgerton) that did canoe, and kayak launches in Oak Creek and would like to get estimates from them.

9) Communications and Announcements – none

10) Adjournment – \*\*Trustee Weatherston made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Lambrecht. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted By; Kathy Burton