



**Parks & Recreation - Minutes
Wednesday, September 04, 2013**

Park Board
Meeting Minutes
September 4, 2013
City Administration Building

Terry Leasure called meeting to order at 4:00 P.M.

Present were Terry Leasure, Steve Tobin, John Ankrom, Larry Olson, LeaDawn Scott, Beth Mason, Josh Ford, Becky Staesina and guest Chris Caudill

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made to approve the minutes of the June 2013 meeting by Steve Tobin. It was seconded by Terry Leasure. The motion carried.

Beth Mason: The scoreboard is done. They are waiting for the high school to find the controller. They will provide the controller from the basketball scoreboard if they can't find it. Painting work was donated. The painting volunteers worked for 3 days. Youth baseball intends to sell sponsorships on the blank part of the black painted surface.

The fields are being worked on. Massie will spray diamond five. Work will be done on diamond 4 during a spring project.

Their concession area is closed down. Water can be shut down after this weekend's MRDD game.

Mason said soccer woman told them she thought baseball season was done. Mason said there is one team that practices on Tuesdays and Thursdays until the first week of October. That team plays 12 games in Columbus.

John Ankrom asked if the advertising banners were removed and Mason said yes. She said Chuck Boltenhouse agreed to paint the Diamond numbers. Beth indicated that she is looking for someone to redo sign. Terry Leasure suggested checking with Orient prison. He said they use to do similar projects. He is not sure whom to contact, but suggested checking with Wayne Gray. (Chief Gray does not have a contact there.)

LeaDawn Scott: LeaDawn decided to resign from Presidency of Youth Baseball. She thanked everyone for welcoming her to the Board meetings. Terry Leasure and John Ankrom both expressed their appreciation to her for her contributions.

Josh Ford's Report: Nothing to report at this time.

Larry Olson's Report: The Dog Park fence is now up. There has been a disagreement about the rules, specifically about the size of dogs permitted in the large dog area. The original proposed rules allowed a dog 35lbs or larger into the large dog area. However, based on suggestions by experts (such as veterinarians) the suggestion is there should be more separation of large and small dogs. The suggested compromise, which is satisfactory to the FOTCP committee chairing the Dog Park, is that dogs less than 25 pounds are not allowed in the large dog area. A dog must be 26 pounds or greater to be permitted in the large dog area. A medium sized dog is considered 20-40 or 25-45 pounds, depending on the source per Olson's research.

Dog owners must be with their dog in the play area. Scott added that if your dogs aren't social, you should not take them to the dog park. Pet owners will have to police themselves since there will not be a scale at the park. It is unlikely that the police will respond to calls such as this. The hope is the rule will minimize issues arising between small and large dogs. Some people will be upset that they will have to separate their dogs when using the dog park. It was asked what happens if a dog owner brings dogs of different sizes to the Dog Park. Beth Mason and LeaDawn Scott voiced their dislike of the proposed rule.

The anticipated opening date is October 1, 2013. Terry Leasure voted to adopt the revised rules and Steve Tobin seconded. The motion passed. The Board agreed that they could revisit the rules once the Park opens and they get feedback. Olson will take the decision to his committee.

John Ankrom's Report: The Splash Pad closed after Labor Day. The reduced hours resulted in water savings this year compared to last.

Signage has been ordered to erect around the perimeter of the adult exercise equipment warning that the equipment is not for use of children under the age of 14. It will take 2 weeks for the signs to be produced and shipped. We hope this discourages children from using the equipment. If not, the next step may be a fence around the perimeter of the exercise area.

The pool at Ted Lewis Park is closed for the season. We have bids due this Friday, which include the paving of Picnic Avenue at Ted Lewis Park.

The chains on the swings at Smith Park were replaced. Olson asked if MVCH Park had been inspected this year. We need to check into the last inspection date.

**Olson added that the Biologist from Pheasants Forever said the area in the Grassland Management should not be bush hogged this year.

Larry Logan has 32 large stones available for sale like those that are surrounding the Dog Park parking lot at MVCH Park.

Becky Staresina's Report: Staresina prepared and distributed the 2013 Youth Organization Pumpkin Show Parking Schedule and had Terry Leasure, Chris Caudill and Beth Mason sign it for their leagues. Girls Softball will have Tuesday and Saturday; Pee Wee Football will have Wednesday and Thursday and Youth Baseball will have Friday. Shared Gator's Jons quotes with the League representatives and they elected to go with the 4 units from

October 15-20, with 2 cleanings for \$300.00.

Staresina to contact Gator's Jons to make the arrangements.

Several children stopped by the Mayor's house to discuss the Skate Park. They asked the Mayor to repave and clean up the skate park and said they can get donations to help. The Mayor asked that I share their ideas with the Park Board during our next meeting. Leasure suggested that Staresina ask the boys to attend a Park Board Meeting and make a presentation. He thought getting the kids to take an ownership role in the park might prevent some vandalism. A good place to start would be with the kids proposing the improvements.

Staresina shared some Neighborhood Watch cards that the Board and park volunteers might want to use to report suspicious activities. Josh Ford took a stack since he tries to keep an eye on Ted Lewis Park.

Staresina passed out cards to the Lest We Forget event at OCU on September 11, 2013.

Kevin Keaton's Report: Absent

Steve Tobin's Report: Steve Tobin said he saw an advertisement for a wheelchair swing that he thought would be good for MVCH Park. He mentioned it to Beth Starkey-Hill and she said the Foundation might be interested in funding it if he could find more information. Beth Mason said she has a catalog with one in it at Good Hands. Tobin said the entire wheelchair rolls into swing and is secured which makes the playground even more accessible. It requires a good amount of space, but not sure of exact dimensions.

Beth Mason added that the Brooks Yates playground was destroyed so more kids may use the equipment at MVCH Park now.

Terry Leasure's Report: Terry Leasure asked if anyone had received any complaints about the walking and biking trail at MVCH Park. He said he had received one and that we may want to consider adding a rule that you need to use a bell or horn if biking on the trail to make pedestrians aware a bike was oncoming. He heard a biker shout coming left to the walkers ahead of him. However, the complainant to Leasure indicated that they were almost hit by a passing bicyclist and had no idea they were approaching.

Pee Wee Football started last night. They have no games on Friday or Sunday. They are using the concession stand, field and lights. They are aware that they need to use the lights sparingly. Games start at 6:30PM. Leasure informed their clock person to turn lights on only when needed and off as soon as they are through.

During Pumpkin Show, the lights will stay on until midnight so folks can get back to their parked cars safely.

The restrooms will be closed during Pumpkin Show, but will need reopened for their Super Bowl at end of October.

Guest Chris Caudill: Girl's Softball would like to redo the big diamond after football is over, weather permitting. A grass company will oversee. They may knock off crown from big diamond since softball fields are generally flat.

Last year, the State Patrol wouldn't let anyone down Court Street on Saturday. During previous years, they would stop traffic and funnel cars down Court Street. Ankrom

suggested contacting Chief Gray for details. Perhaps he could provide the name of the person at the State Patrol who could help with this.

Logan Elm Girls Softball will hold a tournament next May 9 and 10, 2014. They will use some of Barthelmas Park and Ted Lewis Park for their tournament. They hope to have 16 teams, which are Division 1 and Division 2 teams. TOSRV is that weekend so they need to stay away from Ted Lewis Park.

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS: Terry Leasure motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:05PM.