

**MEETING MINUTES
PARK BOARD
CITY OF PECULIAR, MISSOURI
September 17, 2013**

A regular meeting of the Park Board of the City of Peculiar, Missouri was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on Tuesday, September 17, 2013, beginning at 6:33 P.M. Park Board President Doug Stark called the meeting to order.

Members Responding to Roll Call

Members present for the roll call include: President Doug Stark, Alderman Homer Dunsworth, Member Andrew Boston, Member Michael Hedrick, Member Kelsie McCrea, and Member Kacey King. Director Musteen was also present.

Consideration of Agenda and Minutes

President Stark made a motion to accept the agenda with flexibility so that the presentation for the Charlie's 6.6 could proceed first on the agenda. Member Boston seconded the motion and the motion carried with a 6-0 voice vote.

Member Hedrick made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of August 2013. Board Liaison Dunsworth seconded the motion and the motion carried with a 6-0 voice vote.

Officer Elections

Director Musteen reported that pursuant to the City Ordinance, September is the month to elect new officials and we should elect three seats to represent the President/Chairman, Vice-President/Vice-Chairman, and a Secretary.

Alderman Dunsworth recommended that Member McCrea continue to provide the minutes for the group. Member McCrea agreed to continue to take the minutes for the meeting.

Member McCrea began the discussion regarding elections by indicating that she believes it is important to have the historical knowledge that President Stark brings to the Board as we continue through the transition of integrating the Parks & Recreation Director into the Peculiar community. Alderman Dunsworth commented that he believes that President Stark has been very successful during his tenure as the Park Board President but it is time to implement change at the helm and he would like to see Andrew Boston become the Park Board President. Member Kacey King commented that he believes we need to get stable with the addition of the new Parks & Recreation Director and then make changes and, therefore, believes that President Stark should remain President.

Member King made a motion to re-elect President Doug Stark as Park Board President. Member McCrea seconded the motion. Further discussion ensued.

Member Dunsworth reiterated his belief that we need a complete change because President Stark has always been Park Board President and since we have an activity director, Director Musteen is the guy that runs the show now and the Park Board needs to get with the realignment.

President Stark commented that he does not believe as if he has stepped on Director Musteen's toes and while he is very passionate about his position he will do whatever the Board decides and it will not affect him if he is asked to sit in another seat. He does believe that with the Raisbeck project coming up, we are going to need someone who is very construction oriented to help Director Musteen navigate that project.

Director Musteen relayed to the group that the President is someone who runs the meetings and, if requested by the Alderman, be the presence or voice of the Park Board at the Board of Alderman meetings; however, since Director Musteen is available, he will likely serve as the voice of the Park Board so the President is really just the person that runs the meetings. Director Musteen also reiterated that no one on the Park Board, even the President, has a larger say or presence over any other member of the Park Board.

The Board held a voice vote by show of hands as to whether Andrew Boston should be elected as Park Board President/Chairman vs. Doug Stark as Park Board President/Chairman. Alderman Dunsworth and Member Hedrick voted for Member Boston, and Members King and McCrea voted for President Stark. Due to the tie, elections were tabled until October 2013.

Subcommittee Reports

A. Special Events

Director Musteen indicated that since the Board has elected to focus resources on recreation programs over special events, there is no need to meet at this time.

President Stark inquired with Alderman Dunsworth about his desire to bring back Bushwacker Days. Alderman Dunsworth indicated that based upon his discussions with the Mayor, several citizens are looking for an event that doesn't cost them money, possibly around the 4th of July, and is curious whether Bushwacker Days could be combined with the Tractor Pull. President Stark agreed to check with the Tractor Pull Association on what days may be available to hold a tractor pull closer to the 4th of July holiday.

Discussion ensued about whether the City will help pay for a fireworks show out of the general fund since we are focusing our funds on the Raisbeck Park project. Director Musteen explained the need to round up volunteers to help with these events, including business members so that the Parks Department is not holding the entire burden for these events. Alderman Dunsworth agreed to check on dates to reserve the carnival.

Member Hedrick and Member McCrea both voiced a concern and would like to see us remain focused on recreation programs over special events, although are open and excited about the idea of incorporating a carnival or Bushwacker days with the tractor pull at some point down the road.

B. Community Outreach

Director Musteen provided an overview of this committee and how its purpose is to obtain funds to support the various projects, including recreation, of the Parks & Recreation department.

Member McCrea volunteered for the Community Outreach subcommittee. Director Musteen indicated that we need to get started sooner rather than later to obtain team and league sponsorships for the

upcoming league activities the Parks & Recreation department will be offering. The subcommittee agreed to meet on Thursday, September 26th. Director Musteen will send a calendar invite confirming same.

Old Business

A. Tree Board

Director Musteen reported that volunteers have been selected for the Tree Board and a meeting needs to be set. The Tree Board will need to meet quarterly and will function through the Park Board because any of their expenditures will come through the Park Board budget. Director Musteen also reported that due to the timing of meetings and the requirements for the Tree City USA application process, Peculiar will not apply for Tree City USA until December 2014.

B. 2013-2014 Budget

Director Musteen explained the memo provided in the Park Board packet. Discussion ensued about the possibility of getting additional funds from the general fund that were originally allocated to the police department. Director Musteen, Alderman Dunsworth, and Alderman Turner all explained that any offset money has already been reallocated to other capital improvement projects throughout the City. Director Musteen continues to discuss other options with the Police Chief for how any additional funds can be spent to support the Parks & Recreation initiatives, including the addition of additional security cameras at the parks.

New Business

A. Charlie's Battle 6.6

Rick Clausing, the Director of H.E.R.T.T., owner of Integrity Defense, LLC, and a City of Peculiar police officer, presented to the Park Board regarding Charlie's Battle 6.6k run through the City of Peculiar ending at 66-acre park. The 6.6k run is a benefit run for City of Peculiar police officer Chuck Wallace who is fighting against esophageal cancer. Charlie's Battle organization is also proposing to add and leave behind a 1.5 nature walking trail at 66-acre park following the event for the citizens of Peculiar to enjoy. All Park Board members are pleased to have the opportunity to partner with such a great organization and for such a great cause.

President Stark inquired as to how the nature trail fits in with the Master Plan for the 66-acre park. Director Musteen indicated that it has been reviewed and when it comes time to implement the Master Plan the nature trail will need to be altered some, but in the meantime it gives the citizens of Peculiar a great amenity that we currently do not have. Director Musteen also indicated that the addition of the nature walking trail will have very low impact on the budget as there will be very low maintenance to mow the trail and provide limited signage.

The Park Board agrees to support this event and is excited and grateful for the addition of the nature walking trail at 66-Acre Park.

Director's Report

Director Musteen relayed that the October and November meetings fall on city holidays and he would like to move the meetings to the following Tuesday. He will send an email reminding of dates and asking for availability. President Stark will compare against his schedule and the Board agreed that if President Stark is not available on Tuesday, we are also available on Thursdays for the meetings.

Director Musteen also reported on the Watershed Water Alliance event held at Raisbeck Park on September 7th. Director Musteen will meet with the Department of Conservation on September 19, 2013, as they have agreed to buy and install a rain garden for Raisbeck Park that fits into the Master Plan of the fields. President Stark, Member McCrea and Member Boston all requested an invite to any events that occur at city parks so we can attend and support any initiatives at those parks. Director Musteen agreed to keep the Park Board informed.

Director Musteen reported that the City of Peculiar has one volleyball team this year and the schedule of events is posted on the Parks & Recreation department website. Discussion ensued regarding our partnership with Raymore and the school district for use of facilities.

Director Musteen also reported that basketball will be advertised in the next week or two, once the credit card payment option has been finalized on the website. Discussion ensued on how the Park Board can support the efforts to raise additional funds to support the basketball league.

As it relates to the Raisbeck Park project, Director Musteen reported there is currently a delay in the project due to federal permitting issues. After the topological survey was completed, the City applied for the appropriate permits and the state permit was forwarded to FEMA because the park falls in a federal flood plain which requires permission from FEMA for a land disturbance permit.

President Stark asked for clarification on whether the design of the park is completed and whether we can move forward with bidding out our plans for the project while waiting on the permit. Director Musteen believes that to save money, we should not move forward with bids because we are not sure of the exact specifications that will be required due to the land disturbance permit. Once we have that back, we will move forward as quickly as possible to bid out the project. Discussion ensued about the possibility of the Park Board reaching out the federal representatives to help move the permit through the process faster at the federal level. Director Musteen will inquire with the City Administrator on the best process to inquire with federal representatives.

Member McCrea inquired as to the timeline for spring soccer due to the permit delays. Director Musteen and Alderman Dunsworth acknowledged that our chances for playing spring soccer will diminish as time passes waiting on the permit; however, Director Musteen indicated that we will continue to work towards other action items so that we are ready to proceed as soon as we can based upon the timing of the permits. Director Musteen will follow-up with Land3 to relay that the Park Board would like them to continue to work on creative ideas for bringing irrigation to Raisbeck Park, and also put together a proposal for how the different phases can be implemented at different times to ensure timely use of Raisbeck Park in the spring, or when the fields are available. President Stark reiterated that he believes we should still work towards our goal of having spring soccer and if we do not we should expect vocal concerns from the citizens of Peculiar.

Member McCrea asked Director Musteen to inquire with Land3 to provide an advertising picture of the plan for Raisbeck Park so that the Board can work on soliciting funds and donations from

businesses and community members. Director Musteen also suggested that the advertising pictures would be an informative addition to the sign at Raisbeck Park indicating that the park is closed for renovations so the community is aware of what is to come at the park.

As we work through the timing issues with Raisbeck Park, Director Musteen will continue to implement city recreation programs such as the basketball league that will be offered in the winter and another volleyball league in the spring. He is also researching options for tiny sport options and contracted camps in the spring/summer 2014.

Member Boston requested that we research an option for adding a baseball diamond in Peculiar with the baseball backstops and equipment that we already have. Discussion ensued about the best park for this addition with the Board agreeing that Shari Drive Park appears to be the best option at this time. Director Musteen will look into what it will take to add a baseball diamond and also looking into whether we have time to apply for the Royal's charity grant.

Member Boston relayed that the playground at McKernan Park needs sprayed again for weeds. Director Musteen agreed to address with Excalibur.

President Stark inquired as to the timing on the mowing contract. Director Musteen relayed that both the mowing and maintenance contracts need to be rebid, and we will start that process at the end of the year so that we can have the new contract in place in March.

Public Comments

None.

Board Member Comments

None.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Member Boston, seconded by Member Hedrick, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with a 6-0 voice vote at 8:20 p.m.

These minutes were taken and transcribed by Member McCrea.

Approved: