



## PARKS MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

September 8, 2021

### Attendees:

Matthew Weyer  
Mike Steffe  
Natalie Howard  
Jill Schipp  
Tom Lueken

Katherine LeBlanc  
Dan LeBlanc

The meeting started at 4:33 pm.

The meeting started by reading over the minutes from August. Jill made a motion to approve the minutes, Mike seconded. All were in favor. We read over the finances. Matt made a motion to approve the finances, Mike seconded. All were in favor.

Matt stated that we have a pretty high fair budget balance. We have an outstanding project; the resurfacing of the basketball court at 18th street park. Natalie said she would talk to Ronnie about it and ask him to get in touch with Matt.

We need to look at some things before the end of the year. Tom mentioned that he needs to order a door for the concession stand. It will probably cost around \$1000. He also needs to paint some doors around the parks.

### **COVID-19 items**

Is there a person/quantity limit on shelter house park rentals? We are losing money because we are losing rent. People are cancelling and just showing up.

### **Food Truck**

The Council did pass a revised food truck ordinance. If they are renting on park grounds they need to contact the park. Matt didn't have any objections. Some funding will come to the park board. Trucks will have to have a permit for 1 day, 1 week, 1 month or 1 year. Trash has to be disposed of separately.

### **Upcoming events**



## PARKS MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Kiwanis soccer is starting Sunday at 5<sup>th</sup> Street. Tom emailed about the cones that were still out in the parking lot. They should be removed soon. They were doing wastewater training.

Football has not turned in their lease year or paid.

Folk fest has not turned in a lease. Mike has followed up with Chris James twice. Folk Fest is still on; Tom said Chris James confirmed this.

### **5th Street**

Mike met with Andy from Tenbarga. All lips on the field need to be cut back. The price is \$20,000. Tom said he could cut some of it back. All the girls fields need to be cute down the side.

Andy asked about putting 60 foot pegs on the boy's big field. They are wanting to get rid of a metal cover and get a box. Tom said they got a controller that was waterproof. Work would take place starting November. Mike should have numbers on September 9. Andy said he would leave the grass. Little League is talking about moving to Cal Ripken.

It would be nice to get a grilling area for the girls. We could extend the roof over the girls' concession stand. Tom would like to take some measurements to see if this would be possible.

The sprinklers are working well. They have been running on the ball fields on Wednesday night. They run for 3 nights on the soccer and football fields.

Jarod Kerber said they are putting trees on 5th street. Soccer could buy or plant them. They are looking for shade and wind barriers. Would plant where bleachers are and maybe between the fields.

The fields are bumpy, we will need to know the cost if they want to fix anything.

Matt is getting pricing for a 3x3 aluminum sign on 5th street girls softball area. Hoosier laser said it would be \$740 to refinish it. What is the cost for a new sign? Matt will take a picture of the sign and send it to Hank to look at to see what he thinks.

### **18th Street**

Following this spring's efforts to remove the gum trees on 20<sup>th</sup> street, the board elected to have the remaining six trees removed this winter.

Below is a summary of the history of the decisions made for the gum trees.

In fall of 2017 Mike Steffe met with a representative from Tree Pros to do a walk through and evaluate the health of several trees at 5th and 18th St Park. Specifically we looked at the row of gum trees that were planted on the south side of 20th St by 18th St park.



## PARKS MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

There were 25 gum trees along 20th St. Several were dead and many were too close together and growing into each other. The trees caused issues when they dropped their gum balls in the fall. The neighbors complained of them crossing the street into their yards and became a hazard on the walking trail. The board received numerous complaints from both residents using the walking/running trail and community residents in support of removing the trees.

The decision was made to begin removing those trees and replacing them with a similar line of trees that would be several more feet away from the walking trail. The gum tree roots have caused extensive damage to the walking path.





## PARKS MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES





On April 20, 2018, a group of MasterBrand employees purchased and provided labor to plant 10 Autumn blaze maple trees. Complete Lawn Care and Landscaping provided the equipment. The Park board purchased an additional 12 trees to complete the tree line. These trees are currently all in place and healthy. From the original 22 gum trees, 14 have already been removed. There are currently 6 original trees on the west side of the tree line and 2 toward the east end. The 6 on the west side need to be removed.

#### Issues with the original gum trees

- Dropped Gum balls were a nuisance and hazard
- Trees were planted too close together
- Several were dead and hindering growth from neighboring trees
- Improper trimming had led to "dead" areas in the trunks
- Root system was causing damage to the walking path

#### Concerns with remaining gum trees

- Dropped Gum balls are still a nuisance and hazard
- Existing gum trees have several branches hanging over trail causing safety concerns
- Existing gum trees are stunting growth of Autumn blaze maple trees
- The walking path is being further damaged due to root system.

In November 2020, the board unanimously voted to remove the final trees and half of them were removed in March of 2021.



## PARKS MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

### **Rosenvolk**

Dan and Katherine said that they would like to have the Rosenvolk October 15-17 and have a Dragons of Realm on May 14-15 2022.

Dragons of Realm is similar to Rosenvolk and would bring a large crowd. They would like to set up food Friday night. They no longer have volunteers so would need an entire day to set up and an entire day to tear down. Thursday nights the YMCA has T-ball in the spring. They could put the fence up on Friday. There is no jousting but they will have a unicorn or two. They will allow kids to take pictures. This is a fantasy festival so there will be music, Vikings, fairies, mermaids, and trolls. They are going to approach some nonprofit organizations such as the Boy Scouts, Travel Soccer Clubs and Forest Park Band Boosters and Jasper Band. They want to give them the opportunity to fundraise.

They would like for their people to be able to camp with their belongings. In 2019 they had to provide a list of people who were staying and they had to get a permit. Matt said they need to look at the town ordinance and that we have to have a plan with the local police. Dan asked if there was any way we could get an ATM or better Wi-Fi at the park. We suggested that he speak with Chris James about the Wi-Fi. Mike stated that parking is always an issue. He mentioned that they would talk to local businesses about paying to park in their lots. He asked about using the high school parking lot, Mike Steffe directed him to contact Jamie Pund. We reminded him that anything torn up is expected to be repaired. Any restrictions or signage needs to be run by Chris James. Katherine said she has called the office and they have penciled them in and they are also advertising on Facebook.

### **Old Town Lake**

We have allocated \$100,000 for the restroom project. We have received ½ of the needed amount thus far. Final submission will be in October. We have received a few more donations.

### **Other news**

Jill said she has been approached about a skate park. Local businesses have had to run kids off. Matt talked to Ken. We used to have one but it was only in use for a couple of years and it was abused. There are some liability concerns about it. We could call Paoli to see what their rules are. We could also do a survey to see who would use it.

Bethany Hopf did not show up to talk about the pollinator project.

Matt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:48 pm, Natalie seconded. Next meeting will be October 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm.



## PARKS MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Minutes submitted on 12 October 2021

Natalie Howard

*Natalie Howard*

