

# REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS ANDERSON PARK DISTRICT

**June 28, 2016**

Rob Herking, President, called the regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Anderson Park District ("APD") to order at 6:30 pm at Park District Headquarters, 8249 Clough Pike, Cincinnati, OH 45244. Present were Board Members: Tom Turchiano, Angie Stocker, Dominic Wolfer, and Colin Ramsey.

Also present were: Ken Kushner, Executive Director; Emily Armstrong, Board Clerk; Brian Jordan, Financial Officer; Mike Smith, Operations Manager; and Sheila Fehn, Office Manager.

**GUESTS:** Bob Drake, resident.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**AGENDA APPROVAL:** Mr. Turchiano moved the Board approve the Agenda as presented. Mr. Ramsey seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mr. Turchiano, Mr. Herking, Mr. Wolfer, and Mr. Ramsey. (4); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Stocker arrived during the agenda approval vote at 6:30 p.m.

**Public to Address the Board:** No one wished to address the Board.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Operating Levy:** Mr. Kushner presented a draft of the educational operating levy information for the November 8, 2016 election. He stated the following levy facts:

- Anderson Park levies expire. The November 8, 2016 1.9 mill Operating Levy will replace the Anderson Township Park District's existing 1.9 mill Operating Levy, due to expire in 2018. If this levy is approved, the 2008 Park Operating Levy will be rescinded.
- This 1.9 mill Levy will allow the Anderson Parks to continue to operate and maintain the parks for the next ten years.
- The Anderson Parks Operating Levy has remained at the 1.9 mill level since 1992.
- This Levy will cost the \$100,00 homeowner \$66.50 per year.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Calendar of Events:** Mr. Kushner presented a calendar of upcoming activities for the Board's review. He highlighted the June 23<sup>rd</sup> concert, which was canceled because of weather, and is re-scheduled for July 21<sup>st</sup>. He also highlighted Greater Anderson Days on July 29, 30, and 31 at Beech Acres Park.

## **REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL:**

**Staff Changes:** Mrs. Armstrong stated the following situations apply to the recommended staff changes:

**Brandon Cole**, recommended for a Staff I position in the Recreation Department, is the sibling of Morgan Cole, who has worked in the APD Operations Department as a part-time employee since

May of 2015. Neither Cole would supervise the other, nor would they be scheduled to work closely together.

**Megan Molloy**, recommended for a Staff I position in the Recreation Department, is the sibling of Katie (Rec II) and Sean Molloy (Rec I), who have worked in the APD Recreation Department since May of 2013 and January of 2014, respectively. None of the Molloy's would supervise each other, nor would they be scheduled to work closely together.

Mrs. Stocker moved the Board approve staff's recommendation to hire the following people on their actual dates of hire as part time Recreation Staff I: **Brandon Cole and Megan Molloy**.

Mr. Turchiano seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mr. Turchiano, Mrs. Stocker, Mr. Herking, Mr. Wolfer, and Mr. Ramsey. (5); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Monthly Purchase Order Approval:**

Mrs. Stocker moved the Board approve the following between-meeting Purchase Orders, as presented by Mr. Jordan:

<i>ABCO Pavement Services</i>	<i>Resurface Juilfs Park Tennis Courts</i>	<i>\$ 12,788.00</i>
<i>Disc Golf Association</i>	<i>Disc Golf Targets</i>	<i>\$ 9,470.69</i>
<i>Advance Turf Solutions</i>	<i>440 Bags of Fertilizer</i>	<i>\$ 5,896.00</i>
<i>Key Bank</i>	<i>Purchase of 8255 Clough Pike</i>	<i>\$ 40,457.47</i>
<i>Seterus</i>	<i>Purchase of 8255 Clough Pike</i>	<i>\$ 15,059.52</i>
<i>Bruce &amp; Margaret Clawson</i>	<i>Purchase of 8255 Clough Pike</i>	<i>\$137,382.11</i>

Mr. Turchiano seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mr. Turchiano, Mrs. Stocker, Mr. Herking, Mr. Wolfer, and Mr. Ramsey. (5); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

### **July Budget:**

Mr. Jordan stated the Hamilton County Auditor requires the Board approve and submit a July Budget. The July Budget represents actual figures for 2014-2015, an estimate with an educated guess for 2016, and a complete estimate for 2017. The report is to show the county auditor that the APD is still in need of the levy proceeds. He further stated the Board will receive the 2017 budget for their approval towards the end of 2016.

Mr. Turchiano moved the Board approve the July Budget for submission to the Hamilton County Auditor. Mr. Ramsey seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mr. Turchiano, Mrs. Stocker, Mr. Herking, Mr. Wolfer, and Mr. Ramsey. (5); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

### **FINANCIAL REPORTS AND AUTHORIZATION OF EXPENDITURES:**

Mr. Turchiano moved the Board approve the **May, 2016 Financial Reports** and authorize the **Expenditures** as presented by Mr. Jordan.

Mrs. Stocker seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mr. Turchiano, Mrs. Stocker, Mr. Herking, Mr. Wolfer, and Mr. Ramsey. (5); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mr. Ramsey moved the Board approve the minutes as written from the **May 10, 2016 Regular Meeting**. Mrs. Stocker seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mr. Turchiano, Mrs. Stocker, Mr. Herking, Mr. Wolfer, and Mr. Ramsey. (5); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

**Public to Address the Board:**

Mr. Drake asked about the APD operating levy and about the disc golf purchase and where the course will go.

Mr. Herking stated that APD levies expire. The APD's 1.9 mill operating levy will be on the ballot November 8, 2016. The APD has presented its levies to the community during presidential elections in order to keep the park district in business. Should the levy pass this November, the existing levy would be rescinded.

Mr. Kushner stated the APD has purchased targets/baskets for the disc golf course planned for Johnson Hills Park "JHP". The baskets should be installed by the end of the year. Disc golf has been part of the JHP conversation since 2000, and is represented in the recent 10-year Phase I plan which was distributed the last two years, as well as posted on the APD's website and in the bulletin board at JHP. Mr. Drake continues to exaggerate the cost of the JHP improvements. If the APD did everything on the Phase I plan, it would cost approximately \$7.5 million with most of it going towards the infrastructure improvements. Mr. Drake continues to sensationalize the APD's plans for JHP, has intimidated a JHP donor, and has said he would publicly campaign against the APD because he doesn't want the public to visit JHP.

Mr. Drake said the APD had a standing-room-only meeting at which many of the people objected to the APD's plan for JHP. The APD data says no one supports the APD's plans and the vast majority of people who attended the APD's open house at JHP did not want what the APD was proposing. The APD's plans are what friends and family of the APD employees want. The majority of people in the community do not want \$20 million spent on projects at JHP that ruin the natural habitat. He has no objection with the projects that address safety concerns. He believes the remaining \$18 million in projects at JHP is a waste of money and the property is too valuable to waste. The APD hand selected people to complete its surveys and the people representing disc golf were not all residents. He asked the new board members to look at the plans and review the costs to realize what a waste it is to spend that much money on JHP.

Mr. Herking stated Mr. Drake's standing-room-only meeting which included approximately 25 people does not represent all 44,000 Anderson Township residents. The majority of Mr. Drake's supporters were concerned for their homes near the park and the back entrance off Crooked Stick. People were not negative about disc golf. Many people throughout the public meetings expressed interest in JHP and for the Phase I plans with which the APD is moving forward. He said he is not sure why Mr. Drake is saying the APD's plans represent only what the APD employees' friends and family want. Mr. Herking believes disc golf is a neat idea for JHP and is confident it will be enjoyed by many families and individuals. The disc golf course is not going to ruin the aesthetics of JHP and from a distance, most people will not notice the goals. A safe entrance road and flushable toilets are necessities for JHP, as are the items listed in the Phase I plan including a playground, shelter, park benches, etc. Nothing included in the Phase I plan is out of the realm of what is considered normal in a public park. He said Mr. Drake has his own interpretations of the APD's data.

Mr. Herking said the APD park board wants people to visit the parks. Last year, the RecPlex dominated the park board's discussions and now the park board's priority is looking at alternatives to build the RecPlex the community needs.

Mrs. Stocker said the APD hired a reputable, professional firm to conduct a survey about the community's interest in purchasing the Beech Acres property and to identify what the community wants the APD to do with the property. The survey was expensive for the APD and the APD simply cannot afford to conduct professional surveys every time it seeks community feedback. There is no conspiracy regarding the APD's surveys. The APD does the best it can, as efficiently as possible to get basic information from residents. She understands Mr. Drake is against the APD putting amenities in JHP that attract people to the park, but there are a lot of people who are for the plans. She said the APD does not do anything for only one person. The disc golf group has been working with the APD for over 15 years to put an amenity in JHP which the entire community can enjoy. They have volunteered their time and expertise on course design and recommendations, much like the pickleball group did. Disc golf is a great feature for JHP and it is a unique amenity for the Anderson Parks. The APD cannot put in a cheaper amenity that will bring the number of people to the park as disc golf will.

Mr. Herking invited Mr. Drake to meet him for coffee to further discuss JHP.

At 6:59 pm Mrs. Stocker moved the Board adjourn into Executive Session to discuss the acquisition of land. Mr. Wolfer seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mr. Turchiano, Mrs. Stocker, Mr. Herking, Mr. Wolfer, and Mr. Ramsey. (5); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

At 7:10 pm Mrs. Stocker moved the Board adjourn the Executive Session and re-open the regular meeting. Mr. Turchiano seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mr. Turchiano, Mrs. Stocker, Mr. Herking, Mr. Wolfer, and Mr. Ramsey. (5); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

No decision was made by the Board at this time.

Mr. Kushner stated that Mr. Ramsey and Mr. Wolfer were appointed to the park board after the January 2016 meeting in which he presented the 2016 General Park and Facility Update to the Board. The update highlighted projects planned for each park and established priorities for future park improvements, including the Johnson Hills Park 10-year, Phase I plan. He encouraged the new board members to review the plan posted on the APD's website, and to contact Mr. Kushner with any questions.

At 7:15 pm, there being no further business to be brought before this Board, Mrs. Stocker moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Turchiano seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mr. Turchiano, Mrs. Stocker, Mr. Herking, Mr. Wolfer, and Mr. Ramsey. (5); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

*I hereby certify that the foregoing are the minutes of the June 28, 2016 regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners, which minutes reflect the essence of the meeting and are not verbatim.*

*Emily Armstrong  
Board Clerk*

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Rob Herking

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Colin Ramsey

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Angie Stocker

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Tom Turchiano

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Dominic Wolfer