

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

**February 14, 2017**

Rob Herking, President, called the regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Anderson Park District ("APD") to order at 6:30 p.m. at Park District Headquarters, 8249 Clough Pike, Cincinnati, OH 45244. Present were Board Members: Tom Turchiano, Dominic Wolfer and Colin Ramsey. Mrs. Stocker arrived from work shortly after the meeting began.

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

**GUESTS:** Residents: David Wesselman, Bob Drake.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**Public to Address the Board:** No guests wished to address the Board at this time.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

Mr. Kushner stated there was nothing to report regarding old business follow up.

Mrs. Stocker arrived at 6:33 p.m.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### Government Finance Officers Association ~ Award for Small Government Cash Basis Reports:

Mr. Kushner said the APD recently received an Award for Small Government Cash Basis Reports, for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2015. The Award Program is a professional recognition program for small governments that prepare their financial reports on a modified cash basis. The attainment of the Award is the highest form of recognition for modified cash basis reports in governmental accounting and financial reporting. It represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. Mr. Jordan applied for the award based on the APD's most recent audit years. He stated the award is a testament to the work Brian Jordan does every day as the APD Financial Officer. The APD believes in transparency, as demonstrated by being on Josh Mandel's OhioCheckBook.com and now this award.

Mr. Herking congratulated Mr. Jordan on the Award for Small Government Cash Basis Reports.

### General Park and Facility Improvements:

Mr. Kushner stated the APD's annual review and discussion of the APD parks and facilities includes an update on each park, projects planned in 2017, and the established priorities for the future. He presented a map of each park and a list of general improvements identified through the APD's 2013-2014 public input process. The plan continuously evolves and was last reviewed and revised by the

Board of Park Commissioners on January 12, 2016. The APD's ability to accomplish planned projects is often affected by the inevitable and unexpected projects resulting from weather, nature, and/or human actions. Additionally, maintenance is an important, constant, and major undertaking throughout the year in each APD park and facility.

Mr. Kushner stated that trails continue to be the most highly requested park amenity, both by residents of Anderson as well as across the country. People of all ages want to be active throughout the year. Amenities such as paved trails and all weather fields extend the APD's resources to better meet the community's demand.

**Beech Acres Park:** Beech Acres Park continues to be the APD's most highly visited park. The leased RecPlex continues to be the hub of APD indoor recreation. Additional space is rented from churches and schools throughout Anderson Township, Mt. Washington, and Northern Kentucky. In 2017, the Beech Acres park playground is scheduled for minor repairs to areas and pieces of equipment that have simply been worn out by the significant volume of use. Future priorities include: restrooms between the ball diamonds; all weather athletic fields; covered dug-outs; and an operations/maintenance support facility, pending the APD's ability to lease space.

**Clear Creek Park:** Clear Creek Park activity continues to grow with the additions of the popular pickleball courts and the regional Little Miami Trail connection. The grass athletic fields represent a significant volume of visitation for soccer, lacrosse, and football. In 2016, the driving range was connected to public water and the restrooms on the outside of the driving range building were renovated for pickleball and park visitors. In 2017, Clear Creek Park is scheduled for minor repairs to the building at the driving range. Future priorities include: parking lot enhancements; restrooms in quadrants; and an operations/maintenance support facility.

**Johnson Hills Park:** W. M. Johnson Hills Park serves as the primary location for APD nature programs and continues to be a popular hiking destination. The addition of the 9-hole disc golf course in late 2016 has increased regular visitation. The Phase I plan continues to be the APD's guide for the park. The plan represents a balance of amenities that promote activities in a passive, natural setting. A priority of the Park Board has been to accommodate various populations with park design and amenity options. The Phase I plan resides year-round on the APD website. Mr. Kushner provided a list of programs that took place at Johnson Hills Park in 2016 and the following projects list:

In 2017, major projects planned for Johnson Hills Park include:

- Create a new vehicular access/entrance and driveway to the park on Bridle Road to meet line of sight and safety recommendations by engineers (Hamilton County, etc.). (The existing gravel road will continue to serve the two private residences, per an easement agreement.)
- Development of an ADA accessible main parking area in the park core, with paved trails and sidewalks.

Minor projects planned for Johnson Hills Park in 2017-2018 include:

- Continue to promote the installation of sidewalks to connect the surrounding neighborhoods with the park.
- Abandon the trail by the homes along Crooked Stick and re-establish the trail further into the park.
- Install gravel beds for future paved trail connections.

- Continue to work with donors for the installation of an off-leash dog field area.
- Continue to work with the disc golf volunteer group on the design, installation, maintenance, and logistics of an 18-hole disc golf course. The first 9-hole portion was installed in 2016 with a soft opening; a grand opening will take place in 2017. The second 9-hole portion is on hold as some of the Major Improvements will be considered in the eventual course design.
- Continue to build upon programming offered, including, but not limited to: camping, events, programs, and rental opportunities.
- Continue to make improvements as park use dictates including, but not limited to: park benches; picnic tables; family swings; playscape features; trail enhancements; signage; plantings; restoration of the existing pond; removal of structures, debris, and invasive species.

Mr. Kushner presented the draft engineering plans of the new entrance, driveway, and the 35-space parking lot for the Board's review. The APD will do much of the work in-house to save the APD money. He said he will continue to work with the neighbors adjacent to the existing gravel road regarding the shared easement.

**Juilfs Park:** Juilfs Park continues to be a popular hotspot for year-round outdoor activity for all ages. Thanks to the Juilfs Foundation and a NatureWorks grant, both the water play area and the basketball court renovation were completed in 2016. In 2017, minor projects planned for Juilfs Park include:

- **Family swing.** The funding for this amenity was contributed by Robert Dorsey in honor of his late wife. Mr. Dorsey is a long-time resident of Anderson Township. As an Anderson Township Trustee, he was instrumental in the land acquisitions for Clear Creek and Riverside Parks. Additionally, he served on the 2013-2014 APD Park Improvement Planning Committee.
- **Picnic pods.** Juilfs Park will get additional places to picnic and/or hang out with family and friends. This improvement is made possible by another contribution from the Juilfs Foundation. Since 1978, the Juilfs Foundation has been very generous to the community through the funding of various amenities throughout Juilfs Park. Their contributions have made a significant, meaningful, and lasting impact on the quality of life for all Anderson Township residents.

Future priorities for Juilfs Park include: trail extension; parking lot expansions; restrooms by the south ball diamonds/tennis courts; and covered dugouts.

**Kellogg Park:** Kellogg Park has evolved into a very nice park over the past few years as a result of various improvement projects including a new playground and a shelter. Athletic field use attracts high visitation in the spring and fall. The dog field attracts regular visitation year-round from dawn to dusk, with spikes during nicer weather. No special projects are planned for Kellogg Park in 2017. Future priorities include: trail extensions in the park and through the Dog Field; and an operations/maintenance support facility.

**Laverty Park:** Laverty Park is a preferred location for baseball games because of the various amenities within eyesight of the ball field. This neighborhood park is regularly enjoyed by the surrounding neighborhood, as well. No special projects are planned for Laverty Park in 2017. Future priorities include: restrooms and parking enhancements (would require acquisition of an adjacent house); covered dugouts; and an operations/maintenance support facility.

Mr. Wolfer stated it is a real problem when a child has to go to the restroom at Lavery Park. He asked Mr. Kushner about the possibility of adding temporary restrooms.

Mr. Kushner stated the APD used to have port-o-lets at Lavery Park, but following repeated vandalism, the company refused to replace them anymore. Staff knows how important restrooms are to visitors. He said the restroom project at Lavery would cost approximately \$300,000.

**Riverside Park:** Riverside Park continues to be the hub for APD ball fields, featuring grass athletic fields and the popular All Weather Fields. The playground and the paved trail throughout the park are attractive amenities for park visitors. In 2017, the Riverside Park ball field fencing repair and painting project will continue. Future priorities include: restrooms between ball diamonds #1 and #2 and at the All Weather Fields; covered dugouts; parking lot improvement at fields #1 and #2; all weather ball diamonds; picnic shelter; operations/maintenance support facility.

**State & Nagel:** Staff will continue in 2017 to move through the process to turn the corner at State and Nagel into Anderson Park's first pocket park. While small in stature, this highly visible and active area of the township will be transformed into a walk-in mini park, with features including a paved trail, benches, plantings, and trees. One feature the two-acre project area will not include is public parking. Neighbors and the community at large will have an opportunity to provide input in 2017 about what they would like to see included in the design. The 2017 budget includes funding to accomplish the first phase of this project.

**Veterans Park:** Veterans Park has a little of everything that Juilfs and Beech Acres Parks have, yet is not as highly visited. Many minor improvements were made in 2016, including: playground repairs, shelter landscape renovations, extensive invasive honeysuckle removal, dead ash tree removal, and significant tree plantings. No special projects are planned for Veterans Park in 2017. Future priorities include: playground modifications and upgrades; covered dugouts; parking expansion; operations/maintenance support facility.

Mr. Kushner said the Riverside Park All Weather Fields are an example of an improvement staff presented to the Board because the amenity enabled the APD to: serve the community's demand for year-round sports; provide for activities that are simply destructive to natural grass fields, whether it be the nature of the sport or the time of the year the sport takes place. The All Weather Fields have significantly improved the overall quality of the APD's natural grass fields.

2016 Participation Numbers: Mr. Kushner presented the 2016 Participation Numbers, summarizing public participation at events, programs, and facility rentals throughout the year.

2016 Recreation Department Financial Summary: Mrs. Fall presented the 2016 Recreation Department Financial Summary for the Board's review.

2016 Field User Residency Report: Mr. Kushner presented the 2016 Field User Residency Report for the Board's review.

2016 Field Use Report: Mr. Kushner presented the 2016 Field Use Report for the Board's review.

2016 Facility Comparison Report: Mr. Kushner presented the 2016 Facility Comparison Report for the Board's review.

**Board Development Training:** Mr. Kushner reminded the Board about the upcoming board development training workshop on Friday, February 24, 2017 at 6 p.m. at the Juilfs Park Office.

**Calendar of Events:** Mr. Kushner presented a calendar of upcoming activities for the Board's review. He highlighted the upcoming Daddy Daughter Dance on February 17 and 18 at Northern Kentucky University's Student Union Ballroom. He also highlighted the April Youth and Adult Egg Hunts.

Mrs. Fall stated the registration numbers are good overall for the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Daddy Daughter Dance. Since the APD started running the program in 2001, many other groups and schools have started offering Daddy Daughter Dances. She said the APD will likely not offer the matinee in 2018.

### **REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL:**

**Staff Changes:** Mrs. Stocker moved the Board table the Staff Changes until after the Executive Session portion of the meeting. Mr. Ramsey seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mrs. Stocker, Mr. Turchiano, Mr. Herking, Mr. Wolfer, and Mr. Ramsey. (5); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

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

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

<i>Irvine Wood Recovery</i>	<i>Playground Mulch</i>	\$ 7,500.00
<i>Industrial Electronic Service</i>	<i>Scoreboards for RecPlex</i>	\$ 10,315.00
<i>Wendling Printing Co.</i>	<i>Spring Park Guide</i>	\$ 5,970.00

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

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

Mr. Herking moved the Board approve the **January, 2017 Financial Reports** and authorize the **Expenditures** as presented by Mr. Jordan. Mr. Ramsey seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mrs. Stocker, Mr. Turchiano, Mr. Herking, Mr. Wolfer, and Mr. Ramsey. (5); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mrs. Stocker moved the Board approve the minutes from the **January 10, 2017 Regular Meeting** as written. Mr. Ramsey seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mrs. Stocker, Mr. Turchiano, Mr. Herking, Mr. Wolfer, and Mr. Ramsey. (5); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ramsey moved the Board approve the minutes from the **January 16, 2017 Special Meeting** as written. Mr. Turchiano seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mr. Turchiano, Mr. Wolfer, and Mr. Ramsey. (3); No: None; Abstain: Mrs. Stocker and Mr. Herking. (2). The motion carried.

**Public to Address the Board:** Mr. Drake spoke at length about his disappointment in the APD Board's decision to continue to develop Johnson Hills Park ("JHP"). He said the Board is ignoring the community and their objections to the APD destroying the property. The APD has no evidence that anyone wants what the APD is proposing at JHP. No one wants a playground or disc golf and no one supervised the disc golf course project or the volunteers who used hatchets to cut down the trees. The APD's plans for JHP destroys the woods and habitat for rare animals. He is opposed to the

APD's plans for the park. He has no objections to the APD's plans for a driveway, toilets and pond rehabilitation. He is opposed to the Board putting \$20 million into JHP.

Mr. Herking said Mr. Drake takes exception to everything the APD says regarding JHP and continues to misunderstand or misrepresent the APD's actual plans for the park. The Phase I Plan for JHP is not \$20 million. The APD has corrected Mr. Drake multiple times that there is no plan to put \$20 million into JHP. The Board has explained the Phase I Plan repeatedly to Mr. Drake, yet he continues to state false information. The APD is managing JHP on behalf of the entire community, not solely for Mr. Drake. Board members have explained extensively and exhaustively the reasoning why a safe entrance drive and a parking lot are reasonable and necessary improvements for a public park. A nature playscape playground and disc golf are reasonable amenities for a public park and members of the community have said they want these amenities, regardless that Mr. Drake continues to deny this fact. Other residents also love JHP; a group has been interested in adding disc golf to JHP since 2001. They volunteered their time to help the APD design and build the course the whole community can use. People are using and enjoying the disc golf course and the playscape features that have been installed. While the Phase I plan represents a plan that is passive in nature, it is not a nature preserve. The APD has listened to Mr. Drake each time JHP comes up and they agree to disagree with Mr. Drake. The APD is an active parks and recreation agency and provides amenities for the community to enjoy.

Mrs. Stocker said the Board has heard Mr. Drake and understands he is opposed to the APD's plans for JHP, except for the things he is not opposed to. Other people in the community want what the Phase I Plan represents. She said many of the people at the meetings Mr. Drake has attended are supportive of the Phase I Plan yet Mr. Drake continues to say they are not.

Mr. Turchiano stated Mr. Drake is taking the \$20 million figure out of context from a previous public input process. During a JHP public input process several years ago, the public listed all of the activities and amenities they wanted to see at JHP. The extensive list included a working farm, dam, fishing lake and dock, mountain bike trails, and many other amenities. The Board acknowledged all of the amenities on the list were not possible and that even if they could all physically be squeezed in, the cost would be approximately \$20 million, which would be cost prohibitive. The APD never voted to put \$20 million into JHP.

Mr. Kushner stated he supervised the disc golf course project himself and that Mr. Drake is incorrect to say otherwise.

Mr. Drake stated Mr. Kushner did not supervise the disc golf course project.

Mr. Wesselman said he wanted to quickly introduce himself to the Board. He is a neighbor of JHP and he thinks JHP is great. He is appreciative of Mr. Kushner's willingness to keep him informed about the driveway changes and to work through any concerns with him.

At 7:30 pm, Mrs. Stocker moved the Board adjourn into Executive Session to consider the appointment of a public employee and land acquisition. Mr. Wolfer seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mrs. Stocker, Mr. Turchiano, Mr. Herking, Mr. Wolfer, and Mr. Ramsey. (5); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board took a short break before continuing the Executive Session portion of the meeting.

At 7:43 pm, Mr. Herking moved the Board adjourn the Executive Session and re-open the regular meeting. Mr. Ramsey seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mrs. Stocker, Mr. Turchiano, Mr. Herking, Mr. Wolfer, and Mr. Ramsey. (5); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

**Staff Changes:**

Mr. Wolfer moved the Board approve staff's recommendation to **hire Madeline Weitz** as part time Recreation Staff I on her actual date of hire and to **return Jeff Campbell** from Operations Staff IV **to his former part time position** as Operations Staff II on his actual date of return.

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

At 7:44 pm, there being no further business to be brought before this Board, Mrs. Stocker moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Herking seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mrs. Stocker, Mr. Turchiano, 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 February 14, 2017 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