

City of Evansville
Park and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2015

- 1) Call to Order: Brice, Courtier, Hels, Fuson, Fuchs, Merrick, Hamilton, in attendance Ray Anderson, Ian Rigg, Sandy Decker @ 6:01 pm
- 2) Motion to approve Agenda as printed: motion to amend agenda to strike the August minutes as they are not printed.
- 3) Motion to waive the reading of the September minutes and approve them as printed by Courtier, second by Hels. Approved
- 4) Citizen Appearances: Arleen Larson 126 N. 2nd Street, Evansville. Asked that consideration be given to close the road to Leonard Leota Park as has been done the last few years. She had been concerned about the number of ice fisherman before the road was gated. Supports the gating and plowing of the park during the winter months. Only drawback was that the porta potties had been tipped a few times. She is a member of the Saturday morning dog walking club and many in the club feel the same way. Doesn't mind that cars driving around during the summer but appreciates the lack of cars in winter.

Courtier added that Save Our Lake (SOL) passed a motion in favor of having the park closed in the winter.

Jon Frey, 13816 W Northridge Dr. representing the Evansville Jays to report about the season and concession stand progress. Had a great season with the special games. Concession stand is making progress and is at the last leg of the residing project, some minor trim left, ready for the stone along the bottom, and is trying to locate a mason to install the stone. After the stone is finished they will remove the old black top and lay new concrete.

Scott Brummond, 116 Garfield, President of the Evansville Soccer Club. Had talked to the City Administrator a few years ago about the need for soccer fields. The Club has grown over the last year to 400 kids. The Club holds games at Countryside Park, St. Johns Church, and West Side Park. Struggling to find enough space for practice during the week as well as play games. Emphasized the impact that the soccer team has on the town both economically and as ambassadors when they travel. Mike Nicholson emphasized how they share the fields for multiple practice sessions and using the outfield of the upper diamond. Mike feels they are getting very close to capacity. Scott would like to see two more fields at West Side Park with the new land available. Fields are 60 yards by 110 yards although one could be slightly smaller. They have alternated the last few years to help the fields recover in the goal areas. Additional fields would allow more flexibility to rotate and give them time to recover. Spring season is April through end of May. The Club has contributed to the

upkeep of the fields, purchasing of equipment including goals and nets, and lawn care and will continue that practice. Fuchs asked about the fee structure, Scott said it was based on a per participant fee. Madison Area Soccer Association (MASA) does the scheduling and part of the money goes to MASA and the rest goes to club to use for equipment and field upkeep. The Club can host tournaments without MASA, hosted two this year but they requires a lot of work.

Gilbert Wiedenhoft, 256 W. Main, also spoke in support of keeping the park gated.

5) Parks Report by Ray Anderson: Wind Prairie: Talked to Brian from DNR about seeding and getting estimates. Ray said he would confirm the budget for Brian so that he could get seeds ordered. Mayor Decker suggested \$2000 so that it can be done right and not have to revisit it and pay again later.

West Side Park Shelter: Still getting the siding on, will be done this fall. City may end up finishing the ceiling and some other small projects. Sidewalk from shelter to bathroom is in. West Side bathrooms will be closed after the soccer season is over (October 31.)

Leonard Leota Park: Creek wall rebuild continues and should be finished up by November. Trying to determine how to deal with the duck house, it can't be moved. Replacement would cost \$12,000 to \$16,000. Ray suggested to start considering started looking at repaving the roads over the long term budget (5 years). Leota Bathrooms will be closed the week before Halloween.

Lake Leota: Fish stocking occurred on October 3rd. 1500 walleyes, 25 Northern Pike, 25 Catfish and minnows for bait fish were stocked into the lake. The DNR has established an official 10 fish limit and minimum size limits and will continue to monitor to determine if it needs to be permanent. DNR hearing period extends through October 31, 2015.

6) Budget Update: Pool was painted in May 2013. Rigg visited the pool to look at the painting needs. The problems seem to be under the old surface and decided to get an expert in to review the issues and what can be done for repairs. Also need to look at a long term plan—increase budget to \$20,000. Needs a new computer for the pool office, cleaner robot, new solar cover (replace one every few years). High water bill during September indicating some issue which is unknown at this time.

The following items are in the budget:

- Additional seasonal helper
- Increased the maintenance budget,
- Fish stocking
- Fencing for basketball and tennis courts
- Consultant to review the use of the West Side park and look at designs. Ray pointed out the need for parking which overflows during events.
- Creek walls replacement

7. Discussion regarding park fees schedule. Rigg is looking into fees at other area parks for disc golf tournaments. What work needs to be done in preparation for tournaments, is there a cost for the City? PRB waives fees for the Jays due to their in kind work. How will this be equitably granted to organizations and groups that contribute services and additional money to improve the parks for their specific uses. Brice questioned why the City is still running a baseball program whereas all the other sports are running their own programs.

8) Old Business: ADA Swing discussion/update. Revised budget of \$12,500 of which 70% is for fall protection. To cut budget to use rubber mat on top of fine gravel for the approach and use a mulch to surround the rest of the swing. The fall protection is the same for the ADA swing as it is for a swing set. The budget also includes money for curb cuts and sidewalk.

9) New Business: Discussion on park road closures for winter weather. Most input has been favorable for gating the park road. Will add it as a motion item to the November agenda.

10) Motion to adjourn by Merrick, 2nd by Hels. 7:40 pm.

Next meeting will be Monday, November 9th, 2015 at 6:00 pm at the Evansville City Hall.