

CITY OF BURTON
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
AUGUST 11, 1999/4:00 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The Meeting is called to order by Paula Zelenko at 4:00 P.M.

Members Present: Zelenko, Roach, Walls, Blundell, Hodgeson, Hindes, Crawford, Manzardo, Waterson, Perry

Members Absent: Kallin

Others Present: J. Major, DPW Director, R. LaDuke, Building Superintendent, J. Adams, Clerk's Office

Moved by Hindes, seconded by Walls to approve and authorize the minutes of the Meeting July 21, 1999, at 4:00 p.m.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING:

1. Fire Station #1 / Water Tower Park – Progress Report
2. Improvements to Veterans Memorial Park – Progress Report
3. Fire Station #2 – Progress Report
4. Davison Road Side Park / Take Over Report by Sub-Committee
5. Bentley Tennis Courts/Basketball Courts Discussion with Mr. Kefgen,
6. Bendle/CD Playground Equipment Request
7. Review of By-laws
8. Any other business or discussion germane to Commission business

PRESENTATION:

Fire Station #1 – Water Tower Park

Mr. Major indicated Rick Riess did a walk-thru with Rowe Engineering and everything is completed to their satisfaction except what the kids have destroyed already. They will re-seed it, clean it up, put stakes up around the area, some sidewalk improvements and walk-ways. Mr. Major indicated the asphalt company will clean up the damage to the asphalt and straighten the asphalt line. The Mayor's tentative date for an open house is September 1st at 4:00 p.m. There will be some type of ribbon cutting ceremony, fire trucks will be out and probably a police car.

Mr. Major spoke further, that Mr. Riess is getting bids for the fencing and checking prices of what the contractor wanted.

Veterans Memorial Park

Mr. Hindes said he will have information regarding the markers for the sidewalk at the next meeting.

Fire Station #2

Mr. Major indicated it is completed, Mr. Riess has a suggestion of putting a playscape in the middle similar to the one at Child's World. Cost is around \$2,000.

Davison Road Side Park

Mr. LaDuke said he had the opportunity to speak to the County representative. He faxed them over the proposal the sub-committee submitted to the full Board this month. The County is still not interested in a shared project with us, and would love to give us the park. They do not want to go into a shared maintenance contribution. They said if we get volunteers to go in to clean and beautify the park, they will supply us with picnic tables and new grills, but they still want us to take the park over.

Mr. LaDuke stated further, the proposal of the sub-committee was not acceptable to the County, so we need to go in another direction. The County indicated with the widening of five lanes of Davison Road, we could shut off the entrance and make a parking lot. There would be one entrance in, and one entrance out, and make it more of a neighborhood park.

Bentley Tennis Courts – Tennis Courts

Mr. LaDuke said he received a letter from the Community Development office. We had to ask them if they could put a different use on those tennis courts because they were paid for by CD dollars. His letter from Jean Benzing and the letter from HUD indicated we can and it is an eligible item. As long as they are used for recreational facilities, the local municipality or government agency can pick what they want to use those for. We can contact Bentley and whatever direction the Board wants to take, it is an approved use.

Mrs. Zelenko read aloud the letter from the Community Development Program.

Mr. LaDuke indicated Mr. Abbey will be Bendle's representative, he has been appointed by the Bendle Board of Education to take Janet Kallin's place. They will be at the next meeting to make a presentation.

Review of By-Laws

Mrs. Zelenko said according to the by-laws, in September of each year they need to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair. It can be reviewed and discussed at the first meeting in September.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

Mr. LaDuke spoke regarding a question at last month's meeting concerning boxing equipment purchased with CD dollars, that he thought was sold at auction. He met with Mr. Becker the next day, and it was the case that it was sold at auction sometime between 1993 to 1995.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: No audience participation.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Zelenko said the ribbon cutting ceremony will be September 1st.

Mr. Hindes inquired regarding the Council accepting the by-laws.

Mrs. Zelenko said there has been no action taken by the Council on the by-laws at this time. It was presented to them for their review and she is sure there will be discussion on it.

Brief discussion followed regarding taking over the Davison Road Side Park. It was decided the sub-committee will meet again regarding the park. Mrs. Zelenko said she will need to reappoint someone to take Mr. LaDuke's place on the committee.

Mrs. Hodgeson and Mrs. Crawford volunteered to be on the sub-committee along with Mrs. Waterson and Mr. Hindes.

Mrs. Zelenko suggested they meet before their next meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for August 25th, and if the Commission would like, they could move it to September 1st at the Fire Station while they are there for the open house.

Mr. Walls said he would like to support the Bentley Schools with the tennis courts if that is what the community wants.

Mrs. Zelenko said they had set aside money for that at the previous meeting.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS AND/OR ACTION:

Motion was made by Walls, seconded by Blundell to spend \$3,000 to Bentley Schools to convert tennis courts to basketball courts.

Mrs. Perry said she read in the by-laws that in some instances the Commission members may be faced with a conflict of interest issue. She inquired as to a conflict of interest because she is on the Bentley School Board of Education, and the issue of dollars for the school.

Mrs. Zelenko said it is her personal opinion there is not a conflict of interest because that is one of the reasons why she is a member here, to bring back from the school what their desires are.

Brief discussion followed regarding abstaining from voting and conflict of interest.

Mrs. Zelenko said Mrs. Perry is not personally receiving the money, and re-iterated that she feels there is not a conflict of interest. Other Commission members spoke in agreement.

Mrs. Perry said she is not sure the Bentley School Building and Grounds Committee has made a decision as to that expenditure of dollars. She spoke further to table the action.

Moved by Perry, seconded by Crawford to table the item to spend \$3,000 at Bentley Schools to convert tennis courts to basketball courts, until the next meeting.
Motion carried, 10-0.

Mr. Hindes indicated the amount agreed to be spent at the Veterans Memorial of \$30,000 to \$35,000 for the cannon project, will probably be less than \$10,000, and maybe only \$5,000. Most of what they need to do to get the cannon is already in line and will probably be ordered out from the government in Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. Hindes spoke further, that Mrs. Zelenko husband spoke to the National Guard here, and they will go down and pick up the cannon when they get orders to pick it up. They will bring it back here, de-militarize it and then they will take it over to the pad at the Memorial site. They have spent a total of \$120 on it so far, and they will probably spend another \$1,000 on it and then that project will be completed.

Mrs. Hodgeson inquired as to a play park at Fire Station #3 and the possible purchase of property there.

Mr. Major indicated the property was purchased and now it is up for sale again.

Mr. LaDuke said he thought there were restrictions to the property.

Mrs. Hodgeson mentioned property on Genesee Road between Court and Davison, where they have putting greens. She thought it was a good location for soccer fields.

Mr. LaDuke said it would be a great location for a regional park.

Mrs. Zelenko said GM is wanting to re-zone that property.

Mrs. Hodgeson said maybe they could have someone talk to them on possibly donating the property for a great community development for soccer fields.

Mr. LaDuke said even donating a portion would be great, there is 225 acres there.

Mr. Hindes spoke regarding adding an item to the by-laws that would state any member of the Commission has a right to abstain from voting without given cause if they so wish.

Mrs. Zelenko said they would have a problem with that because you would have people abstaining from controversial items. If it is a direct financial benefit to you personally, as an example for property you own, then you could abstain.

Fire Station #2

Mrs. Waterson said it would be a good idea to get some new updated play equipment.

Brief discussion followed regarding a playscape, rebuilding the roof at the small pavilion, sign facing Belsay Road, benches, picnic tables and creating more space for a multi-play station.

Mr. Hindes spoke regarding Veterans Day, and the Disabled Americans Veterans involvement in the program.

Mrs. Perry said it would be a good idea to add a couple of picnic tables at Fire Station #2, because often times the tables are full.

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Mrs. Manzardo suggested another sub-committee to put together a long-term plan for Fire Station #2. Brief discussion followed.

The new Fire Station #2 sub-committee members are Mr. Blundell, Mr. Walls, Mrs. Waterson (Mrs. Perry – as needed).

Mrs. Zelenko suggested the members meet before the next meeting.

Mr. LaDuke said he met with IMA on the Burton City softball tournament which is tentatively scheduled for the middle of September. There is no actual cost to the Commission, they will generate enough dollars to pay for the use of the facility, umpires, equipment, trophies and prizes. At the next meeting he will have an update on the tentative date. He met with Paul Piornack from IMA and they will facilitate the tournament for us under the Parks & Recreation's name. They have given us the Davison Regional Park to hold that tournament, and any dollars we do generate, it is his understanding, would be put back in the youth programs.

Mr. Hindes spoke regarding having music in the park. He will check with the Genesee County Parks & Recreation as to what would be involved to have that.

Mr. Walls indicated he would like to have Bentley School Superintendent, Mr. Kefgen at the next meeting at the Water Tower Park.

Mrs. Perry will extend the invitation.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Pauline Dargel, 6119 Hugh St., Burton, MI, inquired regarding the property at Atherton and Center Road that was discussed in the past for a place for a Burton sign.

Mrs. Zelenko responded that they are still trying to find out who actually owns it and what the intention of the property is now that the monument is gone.

Mr. Major said he will have Steve Perez do a title search on it.

Mrs. Dargel spoke regarding the boxing equipment, and said it was sold at the County auction in April of 1993, the boxing ring which cost over \$5,000, was sold for \$475.66, and that was classified as equipment. The other \$5,000 was called supplies.

Mrs. Zelenko stated the next Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting will be held on September 1, 1999, at 4:00 p.m. at the Water Tower Park. If that changes there will be notification. Sub-committees for Davison Road Side Park and Fire Station #2 are to meet before then. They will also discuss the Bentley tennis court item at the next meeting and have Mrs. Perry extend the invitation to Mr. Kefgen. Mrs. Zelenko said they also are expecting the Bendle representative to be there and update the playground equipment request.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:56 P.M.

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