

CITY OF BURTON
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 12, 2013, 5:30 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS
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The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Steve Heffner at 6:18 p.m.

Commission Member James Craig led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Heffner, Craig, Adams, Spose, and Miron.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bauldry, Dunsmore, Hildreth and Moore.

OTHERS PRESENT: B. Bigsby, Parks & Recreation Director and M. Kimball, Clerk.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING: Discussion and possible recommendations for the following:

- 1) **Atherton Settlement Park**
- 2) **Chamber Partnership**
- 3) **Veterans Honor Race Update**
- 4) **Trick or Treat Trail Committee**
- 5) **Memorial Weekend Wrap Up**
- 6) **Safety Day Committee**

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: None.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

Mrs. Bigsby said the Memorial Weekend events were a success. The volunteers worked out well and were very helpful. A lot of work and planning went into each event.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Bigsby stated Fleis & Vandenbrink are in the process of adding Atherton Settlement Park to the Five Year Plan. Once we know what we are going to do with the park we can apply for grants; providing that our grant award is accepted this year.

Mr. Spose said he thinks that the name, "Atherton Settlement Park" is pretty exclusive. We should consider how the Burton residents will feel about the name. This may become a problem down the road. When we put in the Cancer Survivor Park, some people had a problem with the name even though we needed that name for grant money and proper designation for the park.

Ms. Adams suggested renaming the park to reflect Burton Parks and Recreation since this is a City park.

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Mrs. Miron asked if we could have a picnic table brought to Atherton Settlement Park. She said there may be an extra picnic table at Kelly Lake Park. The reason for the name, Atherton Settlement Park, is because of the history of the land. This was the Atherton Settlement. It is not meant to divide or single out the other school districts in Burton. There also used to be an Atherton farm right across from the Fire Station on Bristol Rd. near Bendle School.

Mr. Craig said most of the residents of Burton are very territorial. They are very proud that they attended Bendle, Atherton or Bentley. I can see someone saying, "okay...you have Atherton Settlement Park. Where is Bentley Park, Atherton Park or Carman Ainsworth Park?" I realize that the name of the park has nothing to do with Atherton School, but it will probably be taken that way. It depends on how it is presented. If we did rename the park, we could always make up a sign or plaque and explain that this is where the Atherton Settlement was with a description of the history of the area.

Mrs. Miron stated as the Burton-Atherton Historical Society Director, I have different areas of the City where I am trying to get a Bendle Park and Bentley Park. The Daly family used to live where For-Mar is now. The Daly family gave this land to For-Mar. The historical part of what I am doing is to show where the Daly family members used to be. It is written in the historical books of Genesee County that three Daly brothers were the beginning settlers. This was the starting point for Burton. I am asking that we go through the summer without changing the name. I have just started the Historical Society and we have had meetings for three months now. I am working on applying for grants to get more recognition for the different areas. Perhaps in the Fall if you think the name still needs to be changed, we could vote on it then. One suggestion that I have is to place historical markers throughout the City. We could place a rock at the site with a plaque attached and on it a description of the history for that particular area. For an example, Burton Dairy used to be by the Burton Fire Department and restaurant at Lapeer and Belsay Rd. Also Bendle Farm used to be where Bendle School is now. This land was donated to the school by John Bendle. We could place a historical marker in these areas and do the same for Bentley School, Carman Ainsworth and Atherton School.

Mr. Heffner stated we are getting ready to add the park to the five year plan soon. We should make a decision on whether or not to change the name now. Mrs. Bigsby reminded everyone that the Burton Council already approved the name of this park. Mr. Spose asked how the potential grant moneys would be affected if we changed the name of the park. Once the proposal goes through for the five year plan, would the plan be etched in stone or can changes still be made? Mr. Heffner replied there is a fee each time an amendment is made to the five year plan.

Mr. Spose would like to make it clear that the work that Mrs. Miron is doing with the Historical Society is great and is a very important thing. People who have lived in Burton all their lives or new residents coming in will have a better understanding of the history behind the City of Burton. Mrs. Miron has suggested some great ideas. There are pros and cons to changing the name of the park.

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Mrs. Bigsby stated that she was approached by Liz Gillies from the Burton Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Gillies would like to do a fundraising event for the Chamber of Commerce and Parks and Recreation at Kelly Lake. She would like to have a cook-off between the Burton Police and Burton Fire Fighters sometime in August after Back to the Bricks. We are going to call this event "Guns and Hoses". Mrs. Miron and Mr. Spose said they would like to be on this committee.

Mr. Craig has passed out a sponsorship form and application for the Veterans Honor Race to all members. He said he has already had a lot of interest. Elga Credit Union will be sponsoring the t-shirts and we have potential sponsors for the four star and the two star awards. The \$100 sponsorships will receive their name on signs around the race route and at Kelly Lake. We have some volunteers interested already such as The Civil American Veterans, Disabled Americans Veterans, church members, the Key Club, and a traveling basketball group. I am confident this will be a good fundraiser. This event will bring awareness to the veterans cause and the money that is donated will stay local.

Mr. Heffner suggested making up framed certificates for our repeating sponsors and volunteers. They deserve special recognition for their dedication to Burton Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Craig said he would like to give each sponsor for the Veterans Honor Race a dog tag. It would be nice to invite the sponsors and volunteers to a Council meeting and present them with the certificates. I think the sponsoring businesses would appreciate something to display on their wall from each event.

Mrs. Bigsby would like to table agenda Items 4, 5 and 6 until the next meeting when there are more members present.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS AND/OR ACTION:

Craig moved and Adams seconded the following motion:

To change the name of Atherton Settlement Park to Settlement Park.
Motion carried 4-1, with Miron voting no.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

mmk