

PARK & RECREATION MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2004
6:30 P.M.

- Call to Order:** The Parks & Recreation Board met on the above date and time in the Council Chambers, 270 West 15th St. Rushville. President Tracey Phillips called the meeting to order. Members present were Wilma Jo Kile, Tim Shuppert, and Charlie Brown. Denny Corn and Jack Harmon was absent. Others present were Attorney Julie Newhouse, Parks Director Danny Mathews, Secretary Carla Sharpe, Starr Shuppert of the *Rushville Republican*, Mike Ooley, FOP, Mayor Bob Bridges, Councilmen Mike Pavey, Will St. Johns, Gary Hoeing and Dustin Hittle of the Rushville Youth Baseball.
- Minutes:** Minutes of September 14th was presented for approval. Shuppert moved to approve minutes for September 14th. Kile seconded. Motion carried.
- Reports:** Mathews reported the Halloween Parade, sponsored by the Parks and Recreation, FOP and WKWH Radio, will be held on Sunday, October 31st at 5:00 P.M. The Parks Department will hand out the glow necklaces this year. Carla has had a big success with the money coming in to support this parade. Your presents at this event would be very much appreciated.
- Mathews stated he's in the process of having some carving done on the old oak tree. It's a 200 plus year old tree that split and fell. There's 10 – 10 feet of the tree that is solid still standing. He hates to see what was left wasted so he contacted an artist. He's going out and searching for funds to carve this tree. Thinks this will be an attraction drawer. Will take a week to utilize the whole tree. He will carve the tree in a family of bears, a coon, a squirrel, an owl and possibly an eagle. He would really like for the Parks board to approve taking any monies out of the Non-Reverting Fund to complete the payment of this. The complete carving was \$2,500 and so far he's received \$450. Others have committed their selves for \$10-\$20. He's not finished going out and searching for money but whatever is left he would like for the Parks approval out of the Non-Reverting Fund.
- Kile moved we finish the funding for the carving of the tree at the Hackelman Cabin. Shuppert seconded. Motion carried.
- Claims:** Reviewed prior to meeting by Brown and Shuppert. Brown moved to approve the claims for the month. Shuppert seconded. Motion carried. Claims approved.
- Unfinished Business:** **Mike Ooley – Discuss Signs on School Bus Shelter House's (Located in Park)** – Ooley stated he was present representing the F.O.P. They have built school shelters for kids to stand in during inclement weather and are placed throughout the town. They have asked business's to donate \$650 for sponsorship and a sign, which are placed on the shelters. The \$650 sponsorship is for the cost of the shelter materials. The F.O.P isn't making nothing on this project. All money goes into the shelters for kids. They put the names of businesses in a hat along with the shelters and that's whose names went on what shelter.
- The Mayor's office has received a complaint about the signs being on the shelter in Veterans Memorial Park.
- Ooley said the reason he is here is because the sponsors paid for the signs to be hung on the outside of the shelters, not on the inside.
- Kile stated she feels we should not advertise businesses in the park.
- Shuppert offered to pay for the signs to reimburse the money to the sponsor.
- Ooley stated there are advertising signs all over the baseball diamonds. He feels these shelters are for the kids.
- Mathews stated the ball diamonds are leased.
- Brown stated we need to give the money back for the signs.
- Kile again said she appreciates the shelters for the kids but she doesn't think advertising in the parks is a good idea.
- Kile moved to reimburse the FOP the full \$650 for the sponsor signs to be able to build another shelter and place those signs someplace else. Shuppert seconded. Motion carried.
- Shuppert stated he feels we should leave the existing signs up now until the new shelter is built and then they will be moved.

Mayor Bridges and Mike Pavey – Riverside Park Improvements – Mayor Bridges stated that his presentation is concerning the 5 year Master Plan that we have plans for a south side park. They have thrown the idea out to several organizations and they have got some interest. Mike Pavey, representing the City Council has done some preliminary drawings and have met with the runners and walkers club and they are interested in putting a trail there. Tonight they would like the blessing of the Parks Board to work on an amphitheater.

Pavey stated they have visited Johnson County and other communities and taken their idea and built on it.

We put money into the budget this year and next year for this. He basically volunteered his company to lay it out and the Mayor takes it from there and manages the job. The program they are going to present to local contractors is we will buy all the materials if they will donate the time to put the package together. Didn't know how well received this would be but we have had two commitments early on and then today gave this presentation to the Rotary and Rush/Shelby Energy stated they would be willing to donate time and material to help get the project going. Without making any presentation to the contractors yet we feel this is going to work. His main responsibility is to not bankrupt anybody trying to help out with this.

He has a list of all local contractors but first our primary interest is the local contractors. We want this to be a community funded project.

The name of this project will be Riverside Park. The design is historically based. We want this to give the City an identity.

One thing that we may need this boards help on is that a lot of these facilities are sponsored facilities.

Another thing is to form an Appreciation board. Basically who ever had done work or donated time, they get a semi permanent thing that they can show their kids and they can say lookie there, I helped do this. Just something to let them know we do appreciate them.

They have met with Wilbur Hoeing and he is going to be the liaison between the City and the Corp of Engineers as he's the one that was involved with the Levee. He will meet with them and start talking with them to see if there is anything we need to do to build on the levee.

WKWH is going to take their mobile trailer to the bottom of the levee where we intend on setting the stage and setting speakers out so we can get decimal readings in the area we think people will be able to listen to it and see how it sounds in the Circleville area, which is the area we are going to be shooting at.

We are meeting tonight with this board, the contractors on October 27th; schedule the start date for April 4th of 2005, completion date of May 23rd, 2005, and the ribbon cutting, sponsored by the City will be on May 28th, 2005.

Mayor Bridges showed the board a drawing of the new Riverside Park Amphitheater.

This will be a pole building with no sides. Tarps for the side. Front in wood, keep as historic looking as possible.

Will sit at an angle facing south, southwest. Not a whole lot of maintenance to this.

People bring their own chairs. Maybe do fundraiser for next year to raise money to maybe do some restrooms.

Mayor Bridges stated that with the annexation south of town this may spur some ownership from those people.

Don't plan on paved trails at this time. Cross Country kids have already expressed a desire to use the trails.

Structure will be an 80 x 64.

Phillips asked if this will be in a flood plain? Bridges stated with the way this is built if water comes up its not going to hurt anything. This will be a concrete slab.

Pavey said that back when it rained last year, something like 8 inches in a day, when we were seeing water we hadn't seen before, we actually had pictures taken and the water got someplace close to the path by the woods and this theater will be to the left of that so he thinks we be okay as this will set up 3 1/2 feet.

You will enter the park off of Water Street.

Board expressed excitement with this new park.

Pavey said he wants the Parks Board involved as much as the City Council is.

Brown said you build it and we will make it work. Sounds good to him.

When WKWH does the sound check Sharpe will send out an email inviting all to come.

Dustin Hittle and Gary Hoeing – Rushville Youth Baseball Request – Gary Hoeing was present representing the Rushville Youth Baseball and Dustin Hittle was present representing the Girls Softball. Hoeing stated they wanted to see if they could possibly build another field to use by the girls and boys field, south of the T-ball field. We really need a new field down there as the numbers keep going up. We have 230 some kids at the boy's baseball and 150 in softball. We have 20 some teams in group baseball and 13 some teams in baseball and we are trying to play that on three diamonds now.

He would like to see us become more of a complex instead of a separate entity where that's the girl's diamond and that's the boy's diamond. He would like to share.

We would like to have another facility built down there as our numbers continually go up and keep kids involved.

Shuppert questioned parking. Hoeing said that in that area if we push it as far south as we can get it should be fine.

In past he knows the girl's softball has signed a lease.

The lease was discussed.

The last lease was signed by Joe Malcom, Kim Berkemier and Lisa Sampson.

Hittle said they have done nothing there and he would like to see something done up there.

Phillips said if Hittle is the President now and he doesn't have a problem with it then he feels we should take a look at the lease and make the switch.

Hoeing said if we are going to invest time and money on this he would like both names put on this lease.

Mathews stated he has worked with both these gentlemen and it's been a great year. They have done wonderful things down there. He hopes to see this go through. He knows they will move on it and hopes to see that lot utilized.

Brown stated he likes the baseball/softball complex idea.

Shuppert moved to approve a new lease based on the review of the current lease.

Sharpe will pull the info together and get everyone copies.

New Business:

Mathews asked the Parks Board to take a look at Hodges Branch in South Veterans Memorial Park. His crew has worked hard on it removing all the rocks out of the branch. He is very pleased with the way it looks now.

Shuppert questioned the status of the pool. Mathews stated he contacted Quality Coating and they are trying to get us scheduled in for repairs. 75-100 feet needs to be repaired. They repaired almost 200 feet before.

There being no further business Brown moved to adjourn. Shuppert seconded, meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

TRACEY PHILLIPS, PRESIDENT

DENNY CORN, VICE PRESIDENT

TIM SHUPPERT, MEMBER

WILMA JO KILE, MEMBER

JACK HARMON, MEMBER

CHARLES BROWN, MEMBER

ATTEST:

CARLA SHARPE, SECRETARY