

**Chesterton Park Department
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
March 8th, 2022**

Those in Attendance: President Paul Shinn, Vice President Wendy Marciniak, Secretary/Interim Park Superintendent Bruce Mathias, Member Bob Cohn, Town Engineer Mark O'Dell, Town Manager David Cincoski, Town Attorney Connor Nolan, Administrator Hilary Thomas-Peterson

Paul Shinn called Roll – Wendy Marciniak, Bruce Mathias, Bob Cohn – all present.

Paul Shinn called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the assemblage with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve February minutes and February Special Meeting minutes was made by Bob Cohn. Seconded by Wendy Marciniak. Motion passed. February's minutes approved.

Comments from the Public

Jim Martin for pickleball. Would like to discuss the location of possible future courts. As per discussion. Would like 6 courts in a specific location, would like to set up a meeting.

Mark O'Dell for Duneland Soccer Club. Would like to maintain use of Dogwood West fields for practices, games and tournaments. Season would run April 3 to June 12, 457 players, 32 teams total. As per discussion. Spending for maintaining the fields runs \$10,000 and would continue to maintain and provide portable restrooms. As per discussion. Would like to present a \$914 donation to Park Gift fund.

A motion to allow Duneland Soccer Club use of Dogwood West for 2022 season was made by Bruce Mathias. Seconded by Wendy Marciniak. Motion passed.

A motion to accept the donation of \$914 from the Duneland Soccer Club was made by Bruce Mathias. Seconded by Bob Cohn. Motion passed.

Karen Davis-President, Nancy Anderson, Tracy Fields, Helen Hefguard of the Duneland Garden Club. Paul Shinn thanked the group and presented the Club with a beautification plaque for their work and continued work in the Parks. Will be placed around the Gazebo.

Mark Hopkins – Presented slideshow for possible Butterfly Garden in Coffee Creek. As per discussion. Would be a good source of pollination. Would like to look into getting a Rotary grant to get the seeds needed to plant the Milkweed plants up to \$1500, signage for the garden, soil treatment. As per lengthy discussion. Bob asked about possible location. Mark O'Dell stated some areas south of the road and others are a possibility. Mark Hopkins needs to meet with SEH to make sure it would work with what is planned. As per discussion.

A motion to allow Mark Hopkins to pursue a grant from Chesterton Rotary club was made by Bob Cohn. Seconded by Bruce Mathias. Motion passed.

Superintendent/Engineer Report

John Rubble with Planned Environment Assoc has worked with legal and got the topographic survey of Chesterton Park, 90% has been completed. Looked at all sides for pickleball courts, right field side more so. Complications with trees, football fields, North side more connected. As per discussion. Would like to meet with engineering and representatives of the pickleball club for more discussion. \$30k estimated right now for one court, will fluctuate. Bruce reiterated that the location needs a good look due to utilities. As per discussion. Will

hopefully have a presentation for April meeting. Paul would like figures from anywhere from 2-6 courts. Will look at all bid alternatives as well.

Glen Peterson – SEH, The Lake Michigan Coastal Grant application will be submitted Friday. Funds would be available Sept/Oct. Will need a layout of the trail, best looked at after the Park clean up day. Bid to go out quickly to get work started in the winter. NOAA approves final documentation. Land and Water conservation fund grants also available to apply for. Coffee Creek/dog park would be an opportunity. Will continue to look for more grant opportunities.

Bruce stated that snow removal was ongoing, checking parks, addressing graffiti. NITCO removed all remaining equipment for the compound. Light post has been replaced in Thomas Park. The staff would like to change the bulbs in the gazebo to blue and yellow.

A motion to allow light change at Gazebo was made by Bob Cohn. Seconded by Wendy Marciniak. Motion passed.

Referenced the list given to the Board of ongoing projects that need to be addressed. Discussed the gazebo maintenance.

Mark O'Dell stated that the park still gets complaints about Chesterton Park bathrooms, would like permission to look into getting some bids to improve and update. As per discussion.

A motion to allow an assessment of Chesterton Park Bathroom was made by Wendy Marciniak. Seconded by Bob Cohn. Motion passed.

Comments from the Board

Wendy thanked the Duneland Garden Club for all their help again and asked if they have regular meetings. Replied that they meet the third Tuesday of each month at the Masonic Lodge and are always looking for volunteers. Paul stated that he would like to attend a meeting.

Paul asked Hilary if the Summer Fun Program planning has started. Hilary will speak with Laura O'Dell this week. Paul asked Mark Hopkins if he was set with Rebuilding Together April 30th, making sure Coffee Creek Park is on their list. Paul stated that we will help with supplies/equipment in anyway.

Paul asked Hilary if there were any Special Use Permits submitted. Hilary stated Indiana American Water sent a refund of \$1569 for miscalculated fees of Thomas Park meters. To be receipted into park misc fund. Duneland Community church submitted a SUP for Dogwood Park Easter egg hunt on April 9th. Duneland Community church also submitted SUP for a basketball sports camp at Chesterton Park on Wen in June. Westchester Public Library submitted to start hosting movie nights in Thomas park in summer. Live bands would come in at 7 pm, movie to start at 8pm every Friday in June. Soccer Shots submitted SUP to use open fields at Chesterton Park for the soccer program every Wen 5-6:15 pm for 8 weeks. Donation of \$10 per child to the parks.

Paul asked if there were any communication about the car show, Hilary has not heard anything but will reach out to Brad Pikula. Also inquired about Dickinson Rd Master Plan. Bruce replied he has not heard anything from Lehman yet.

Paul asked Dave Cincoski for any updates. Dave would like permission to apply for two grants. NIPSCO Stewardship Community Grant due April 1st for up to \$5,000 with no match. AARP Livable Community Grant due March 22nd for \$11,500, would like to look into.

A motion to allow Dave Cincoski to pursue the proposed grants NIPSCO and AARP was made by Bruce Mathias. Seconded by Bob Cohn. Motion passed.

Paul would like to have a separate gift fund account for the Coffee Creek Park Project.

A motion to establish a Gift Fund for the Coffee Creek Park Project was made by Wendy Marciniak. Seconded by Bob Cohn. Motion passed.

April meeting needs to be moved due to early voting, rescheduled for April 6th at 6pm for.

A motion to reschedule April 5th meeting to April 6th was made by Bruce Mathias. Seconded by Wendy Marciniak. Motion passed.

Approval of Claims

A motion to approve March claims was made by Bruce Mathias. Seconded by Wendy Marciniak. Motion passed. February claims approved.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Bob Cohn. Seconded by Wendy Marciniak. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

President Paul Shinn

Date