

Freedom Park Board Meeting
April 15, 2014
6:00pm

Start Time: 6:00p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

President Randy Hall led members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Members Present:

Randy Hall, Harold Mussman, Alice Dahl and Robert Philpot.

Also present, Tom Sullivan, Candy Johnson and guests Paul Palmer, Kent Park, Jeff Greco, Greg White, Joleen Walma, Mitchell Walma, Blake Walma and Ethan Stevenson. Also present, Council Members Edgar Corns and Craig Earley. Guest Sara Martire from Family Video was also present.

Press member Lola Jean Brink of the Lowell Tribune was present.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the April 2014 minutes was made by Alice Dahl and seconded by Harold Mussman. There was no discussion and the motion carried 4/0.

Addition to Agenda:

Alice Dahl asked that the Lowell Lions Club representatives be added to this evening's agenda.

Page 2

Freedom Park Meeting

April 15, 2014

Reports:

Superintendent Sullivan reported that he had gone to Schererville and looked at the "swipe card system" that they have in place for their bark park. I did not see a "swipe card". I saw a heavy duty handle with a key pad on a box. The box has a battery in it so each member must have an assigned number that they punch in to gain entrance to the bark park. I believe it would work well here at our park. Tom advised that he would contact the Schererville Park Superintendent about how their system works and determine if a system like that could work for us.

Tom reported that he is caught up with the maintenance and all our tables are doing well. Picnic tables and trash cans are being distributed to our parks. We have been preparing the soccer fields for the spring soccer program. I have had a few calls about the batwing; however, we still don't have a buyer. Mr. Kleefisch from Tri Creek is also contacting other schools in the area to see if anyone might be interested.

Randy Hall asked if there was any news on the purchase of a handicap accessible swing for our parks. Tom advised "no" however, he thought we would hear something at this evenings meeting.

Old Business:

Dog Park Update:

Candy Johnson reported that there are currently 50 members. Current revenue is \$2600.00.

Walk/Bike Path:

Tom reported that the walk path/volleyball courts are both still a work in progress.

Page 3

Freedom Park Meeting

April 20, 2014

New Business:

Under new business we have Boy Scout Troop 697 present.

Blake Walma who is with Troop 697 advised that he is currently a "life Scout". Blake advised that he is here to propose his Eagle Scout project. Blake stated that he will be building (10) ten benches for Freedom Park. The benches will be made of pressure treated pine and will wear well. My project is being funded by the Lowell Lions Club. I am here to ask your permission to go ahead with this project.

Alice Dahl asked the cost of this project and the amount of money the Lions Club will be donating for this project. Blake advised that that the total cost of this project for the benches would be approximately \$600.00. Alice asked Blake if he would be willing to build more benches if other funds would be available and he stated that he would be willing to build additional benches. (The cost per bench would be approximately \$60.00). Tom asked Blake if he was planning on "routing Freedom Park" on each bench and he said that he was. Tom and the Freedom Park Board stated what a nice project this would be for Freedom Park. Mr. Philpot also advised that there will be some brass markers on each bench stating that the "Scouts" had provided the benches.

At this point Harold Mussman made the motion to whole heartedly go ahead with this project. The motion was seconded by Alice Dahl. The motion carried 4/0. There was further discussion about making sure that there are "markers" on the benches giving credit to both the Lions Club and The Scouts.

In other business a representative from Family Video spoke advising that Family Video likes to present a "grass roots" project for the community on a quarterly basis that will benefit the community. The current project chosen for the community is the handicap accessible swing. The total amount collected for the handicap swing is \$256.27. Representative Sara Martire advised that they would like to donate this amount toward the purchase of a new handicap swing for one of our parks. At his point Ms. Martire also offered to assist with other projects that would benefit the community.

Page 4

Freedom Park Meeting

April 20, 2014

Lowell Lions Club President Jeff Greco announced that Superintendent Sullivan had been asked to provide a "wish List" for Freedom Park to the Lions. As a group, the Lions votes to donate funds to purchase an office sign without the posts, for the Freedom Park office. On the same day, Jeff advised that the Lions were approached by the "Kelly Miller Circus". They are a "traveling" circus that comes to a chosen area for a 1-day event. They would put on two (2) shows: one at 4:30 in the afternoon and one at 7:00 in the evening. They are looking to do a show here in Lowell on Friday August 29, 2014 (Labor Day weekend). Mr. Palmer advised that he had spoken that he has received positive feedback from other Towns in the area who have hosted the Kelly Miller Circus. He stated that the only thing the sponsor would be required to do is provide approximated 1500 to 2000 gallons of water and adequate trash receptacles/waste containers, and something to haul the manure away with. The Circus provides the following: Home office team of professional support for the entire event, a million dollar public liability insurance, they provide their own generators, telemarketing of their event, tents, seats and all equipment, personnel necessary to erect tents provide performance and clean premises. 1000 adult and 1000 children's advance tickets sold on circus day and banners. The sponsor provides a suitable venue accessible show grounds approximate size 350 by 350, All necessary permits/licenses that are required by law, drinking water source on or near show grounds approx 1500 to 2000 gallons, Police and fire protection as required by your community, containers for trash and manure (Circus staff will pick up all trash but sponsor is responsible for moving all containers.) There is a contract fee of \$290.00 to be paid at signing of the contract. So they are looking to have this event of August 29th which is Labor Day weekend, which is the Friday prior to the Labor Day celebration so we figure this is a "no brainer" for us, we can start something new and we would like to showcase Freedom Park. We have tentative approval to have this event at the Legion but we would like to hold it out at Freedom Park. We are asking your permission to hold this event out here at Freedom Park August 29, 2014 with a show at 4:30 and 7:00pm. The circus will be cleaned up and gone by 10:00pm the same day.

Page 5

Freedom Park Meeting

April 20, 2014

Mr. Philpot asked if 350' x 350' area included the necessary parking. Mr. Greco advised that that area is for the tent only, parking area would be additional. An advance team from Kelly has already been out here and looked at Freedom Park and parking is more than adequate. Jeff added that Kelly Miller Circus has been here twice, 2005 and 2008. Both times the event was held at the Legion and they had plenty of parking. They came to the Lions because they see what we do for the community and said you (meaning the Lions) will be able to motivate the community to come out for this event and help us with advance ticket sales. We feel that this will be a great event for the community.

Mr. Philpot asked if the circus would have concession rights. The answer would be yes. They will give us a percentage of the take on the tickets. We voted as a club, we were approached by The Olympic Decathlon because they are going to Hawaii this year; this is the second year that they have gone to the National Championships. So they will be going to Hawaii so we are going to ask them to help promote this and we will give them $\frac{1}{2}$ of the proceeds to help defray their cost of going on this trip. Paul Palmer added that the Lions has just donated \$1200.00 decathlon recently and we will be donating more with this event. Discussion followed about the concessions and items that would be offered. It is also possible that we could let the community know when the circus tent will be put up. Maybe people would like to come out and see how the tent goes up. Mr. Philpot asked about the need for traffic control. Discussion followed about the success of the circus in other communities. (All feedback has been very positive.)

Tom asked if the parks well water would be suitable for the circus. (Water is needed for the animals) Discussion followed.

The motion to approve the circus to be held a Freedom Park was made by Harold Mussman and seconded by Alice Dahl. The motion carried 4/0.

A brief discussion followed about traffic control for the circus event.

Page 6
Freedom Park Meeting
April 20, 2014

Public Comment:
None

Motion to adjourn made by Harold Mussman and seconded by Alice Dahl at 6:25p.m. Motion to adjourn carried 4/0.