

Freedom Park Meeting Minutes
Tuesday February 16, 2016
6:00p.m.

Start Time 6:00p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Board Members Present:

Harold Mussman, Leann Angerman and Alice Dahl. Randy Hall was unable to attend due to illness. Also present, Tom Sullivan and Candy Johnson.

Guests present, Belia and Jeff Farver, also, Rotary Club members Jesse Forrester and Carla Herr were present.

No press member was present at this meeting.

Election of Officers:

Since there was no meeting in January 2016 meeting, the election of officers took place at the February 16, 2016 Freedom Park Meeting. Leann Angerman made the motion to nominate Randy Hall President of the Freedom Park Committee. The motion was seconded by Alice Dahl. Motion carried 3/0

Randy Hall President of the Freedom Park Committee for 2016.

Alice Dahl made the motion to nominate Harold Mussman Secretary of the Freedom Park Committee for 2016. The motion was seconded by Leann Angerman. Motion carried 3/0

Harold Mussman Secretary of the Freedom Park Committee for 2016

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the December 2015 minutes was made by Leann Angerman and seconded by Alice Dahl. Motion carried 3/0

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Approval of Minutes Continued:

Note: There was no Freedom Park Meeting held in January of 2016.

Approval of Claims:

After review of the Freedom Park claims, motion to approve was made by Alice Dahl and seconded by Leann Angerman. Motion carried 3/0.

Freedom Park Updates:

Superintendent Sullivan reported that the new "kiosk" he has been working on is on hold. Tom advised that he would have to rent an auger since he does not feel he will be able to dig post holes with a manual digger will get the job done in order to get the "kiosk" in the ground. The holes need to be 4' deep. Tom also reported that the Freedom Park sign which is located at the entrance to Freedom Park has recently been blown down by heavy winds. Tom also reported he has completed repairs on the men's bathroom divider. Tom advised that he will be reinstalling the divider soon. Next, Tom advised that he is servicing the mower and tractor. Tom advised that he needed to order parts for the batwing. The Street Department was able to make those repairs. The 1-ton has a gas leak and is currently at the Street Department for repairs.

In other business, Tom advised that he and Minda attended the IPRA Convention in January. He reported that one of the topics discussed was the use of "drones" by the public. People come out to Freedom Park to fly the "drones" because of the available open space. I feel it is important to come up with a park policy concerning "drones" in our parks. Discussion followed with regard to possible privacy issues and public safety as well. After discussion, Leann advised that she would discuss this with the Town Attorney. Tom advised that we could discuss issue at future meetings.

Bark Park Updates:

Candy reported there are currently 37 members and total revenue at this time of \$1885.00.

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Volleyball Court Updates

Tom reported that the Water/Sewer Department is going to help with this project. We will get to work on this project as soon as the weather breaks.

Walking Path

Discussion followed about completing the walking path out at Freedom Park. Harold advised that he had recently spoken with Don Huseman about the walking path. He suggested that acquiring a "paving machine" would be really helpful in completing this project. The machine would lay out the gravel, then you would follow up with a roller to flatten out the gravel for the walking path. Harold Mussman advised that there is a fellow in Demotte that has a paving machine and does excellent work. This person would have to be paid for his services of course, however, at this point the Freedom Park Committee feels it would be worth it to further investigate hiring this fellow and his equipment to get the walking path completed. Discussion followed with Leann asking if it would be possible to judge exactly how far the limestone and gravel that we already have stockpiled here at Freedom Park will go as far as completing the path. Tom said that he does not know how to measure the distance the existing gravel and limestone will go, however it looks like a lot but we won't know until the work is actually in progress.

At the point Leann Angerman addressed the 2015 Freedom Park budget. She advised that after speaking with the Clerk Treasurer, we have \$6000.00 that was spent in 2015. We need to re-appropriate that money so it can be utilized in the 2016 budget. At this point Leann Angerman made a motion that we re-appropriate the \$6000.00 that was not used in the 2015 budget to be used in the 2016 budget. Alice Dahl seconded the motion. The motion carried 3/0. There was no other discussion.

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New Business:

Lowell Women's Club

Belia Farver and her husband Jeff were present. Belia advised that the Lowell Women's Club would like to hold "The Barktoberfest" again in 2016. They have chosen October 8, 2016 for this event. Belia advised that they already have people and organizations interested in being a part of the "fest". Belia also advised that the "event" insurance is still effective so they will not have that expense for the 2016 event. Discussion followed. Mr. Farver asked if there was water available at the Bark Park. There is a "solar powered well" however at this point there is no electric at the park. Once again the organizations that will benefit financially from this event will be The Women's Club, Relay for Life for South Lake County and Freedom Park. Alice again thanked the Women's Club for their financial contribution to Freedom Park as a result of the success of this years' Barktoberfest. Discussion followed with Leann Angerman making the motion that we grant permission for the Lowell Women's Club to hold the Barktoberfest on October 8, 2016 from 10am to 3pm at Freedom Park. The motion was seconded by Alice Dahl. Motion carried 3/0.

At this point Tom advised the Freedom Park Committee that our part-time maintenance person Scott Geisen has recently passed away after his cancer returned after several years in remission. Scott was an important part of our part-time maintenance staff for many years and he will be greatly missed. Numerous donations have come to Freedom Park in his name. Discussion followed with regard to ways to honor his.

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The Rotary Club

Jesse Forrester and Carla Herr, representatives of the Rotary Club were present. Jesse advised that the newly formed Rotary Club currently has 15 members. Jesse advised that they are in the process of getting "chartered". Jesse advised that they currently need 5 more members in order to be chartered. They will hopefully reach that goal over the next few months. At this time the "Club" is looking for a project that would benefit the community and let the public know that the "Rotary Club" is back in Lowell and looking to make a difference. He advised that after speaking to Tom and Mindi about coming up with a project that would benefit Freedom Park and the Park Soccer League, they had decided on putting up a concession stand out at Freedom Park. All they would ask is that signage be posted letting the community know that the concession stand has been made possible as a result of the support of Lowell's newly formed Rotary Club. Jesse advised that they have been looking at various designs and have tentatively decided on a block structure approximately 10' x 14' in size. Jesse advised that the Park Department would be responsible for "manning" the concession stand. However, possibly 5% of the concession stand revenue would be returned to the Rotary Club. These funds would go toward future projects for Freedom Park development. Jesse advised that they have some fundraising projects in the works through October of this year, however, the Rotary is looking to complete the concession stand project in the spring of 2017. Leann asked where they were thinking of putting the building. Tom said he would imagine the building would be built in general proximity of the soccer fields; however, this has not been discussed. Discussion followed with Alice advising that the "Girls Softball League" had to contract their concessions help out because parents were unable to "man" the concession throughout the softball season. At this point Leann stated that she feels that what the Rotary is wanting to do to benefit the Parks is wonderful, however, there is a lot to consider for a project like this. She asked if the

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Freedom Park Committee would be able to check into all that is necessary for such a project and get back to the Rotary once all the details are covered. Jesse also suggested that Rotary Members may be willing to volunteer at the concession stand as needed. Again Leann suggested that further information is needed and as soon as we know what is needed, we will contact them. The "Committee" again thanked the Rotary for reaching out to the Parks Department with this wonderful idea.

Announcements & Correspondence

The next meeting of the Freedom Park Committee will be held on Tuesday March 15, 2016 at 6:00pm at the Lowell Town Hall.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Leann Angerman and seconded by Alice Dahl at 6:30pm.