

Freedom Park Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 22, 2013
6:00pm

Start Time: 6:00p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Alice Dahl led members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Members Present:

Alice Dahl, Harold Mussman, Robert Philpot and Randy Hall were present
Tom Sullivan and Candy Johnson were present.

Blue Bird Softball representative Mark Lewandowski was present.

*Edgar Corns came into meeting at 6:25pm.

Election of 2013 Officers

Harold Mussman moved that the 2013 Freedom Park officers remain the same as in 2012. The motion was seconded by Randy Hall. There was no other discussion and the motion carried 4/0.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the December 2012 minutes was made by Robert Philpot and seconded by Harold Mussman. There was no discussion and the motion carried 4/0.

Approval of Claims:

After review, the motion to approve the claims for November 26, 2012 through December 10, 2012 was made by Harold Mussman and seconded by Randy Hall. There was no discussion and the motion carried 4/0.

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Reports:

Freedom Park Updates:

Tom reported that he is bringing in our equipment to update and make necessary repairs for upcoming summer season.

Alice asked Tom if he has plans to redo the roof on the big barn. Tom advised that this is one of his goals for 2013. Alice also asked about the progress of the signs for the skate park. The signs are worn and difficult to read. Mitch was too busy to redo the signs after completing the silo last year; however Tom said that he would contact Mitch and ask him to complete the signs. There was no other discussion.

Freedom Park Goals:

Tom passed out a copy of 2013 Goals to each member for review. Tom also handed out a list of accomplishments in 2012. (A copy of each is attached) At the top of the 2013 goals is the re-roofing of the big barn.

With regard to the brick walk, Tom advised that the "Eagle Scouts" have contacted him about doing landscaping at Freedom Park in order to earn badges. They could put in the remaining benches that were donated by Lake County Solid Waste.

Last year Lake County Solid Waste donated several park benches to the parks. Alice asked if we were going to receive something this year for the park. Tom advised that he would definitely pursue receiving items that will enhance Freedom Park.

Next, Tom discussed the open space on the south side of Freedom Park. Tom said that before we would pursue putting another shelter in, we have to have underground electric run to that area. Discussion followed about the importance of running the underground electric in PVC pipe.

In other business Tom suggested that the "master plan map" needs to be updated. The original master does not show the park as it is currently laid out. Alice suggested that it could get expensive to update the plan every time something is updated or changed. Per Mr. Philpot's request, an original map will be included in everyone's work book.

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Randy Hall advised that he knows someone who has their own plane. He takes aerial photos of his subdivision and might be willing to take an aerial photo of Freedom Park for us. Randy will check into this.

In other discussion, Tom said he wants to check into available grants this winter. Tom advised that when he attended the IPRA Convention earlier in January, he spoke with a DNR representative about our eligibility for various grants. He told Tom that even though we no longer have a Park Board, we are still eligible for some grants, especially trails. This would really help with trail development at Freedom Park.

In other business, Tom talked about the doors on the east side of the quonset hut. Tom suggests just permanently closing those doors off since he does not use them. Mr. Philpot asked about the fire code, which Tom thinks it meets town standards.

Mr. Philpot asked about the plans for "disc golf". Tom advised that next we would be putting in the "T Mats". Tom has to dig out an area for each mat approximately 6" deep then, get some limestone. Then he will secure the mats with landscape spikes. Discussion followed.

Old Business:

Dog Park Update:

This is a new year; currently we have 25 members and a total of \$885.00. The key system is considered by most to be a really good idea.

Walk/Bike Path, Volleyball and disc golf already discussed.

New Business:

Mark Lewandowski who is the President of Lowell Bluebirds Softball was present to discuss the possibility of moving their softball fields to Freedom Park. He advised that they have a "not for profit 501C3 status".

Discussion followed about the financial responsibility of the league to continue to play games at the Lowell VFW.

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New Business continued:

Mr. Lewandowski advised that the girls' league continues to grow. The way the fields are laid out at the VFW, there is no room for further growth. This is a concern for all involved in the Bluebird League. The parking area the Bluebirds use is privately owned. The neighbors are nice enough to allow us to park on their property.

Mark is asking what the 1st step would be in order to start of process of constructing fields at Freedom Park. Extensive discussion followed.

Harold asked how many fields are needed. Mark advised that 2 fields would work well to get started; however his original vision included 4 fields. Alice asked how much acreage would be needed. Each field would require about $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of land. Mark feels that 6-acres total would be needed. This would include 4 fields, adequate parking and facilities.

After discussion, Randy Hall asked if the board could work toward this goal. All members were in agreement.

Tom advised that we do have an existing contract with the Lowell Little League; however, there is enough acreage for both organizations when needed.

After extensive discussion, Tom advised that he needs to speak to Gregg Shook about the Little League Contract. Bob Philpot suggested that Mark and Tom walk the proposed field area and determine what needs to be done to get started on this project.

Announcements & Correspondence:

None

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by Bob Philpot and seconded by Harold Mussman
At 6:50p.m.