

Freedom Park Board Meeting
Tuesday, July 16, 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. Randy Hall was unable to attend. Tom Sullivan and Candy Johnson were also present. Press member Lola Jean Brink of the Lowell Tribune was present. Guests present: Judy Walters, Greg Shook. Bark Park representatives present: Bob Thomas, Sharon Hylek and Courtney Cherry.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the June 2013 minutes was made by Randy Hall 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 presented at the June 24th & July 8, 2013 Council Meetings was made by Randy Hall and seconded by Harold Mussman. There was no other discussion and motion to approve carried 4/0.

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Freedom Park Updates:

Tom reported that after a very wet spring, he has finally been able to reach parts of Freedom Park that had been too wet mow and bush hog. Tom also advised that all the new trees are doing well.

In other business, the 2 small sections of the big barn roof have been completed and look really good.

Disc Golf Update: Three (3) new "T" signs have been put in the ground. We are starting to plan for a tournament here at Freedom Park this fall. Tom advised that he would keep the Board updated on this event. Currently they are involved with the "Nationals" which will be held up at Lemon Lake on August 3rd.

Alice asked about the status of the volley ball courts. Tom advised that he wanted to wait until the rest of the path is complete, and then use the small dozer to knock out the volley ball court at that time.

Old Business:

Bark Park Updates:

Candy Johnson advised that there are currently 95 Bark park members and total revenue in the amount of \$5017.00.

Alice advised that representatives from the Bark Park are present and would like to address the Freedom Park Board.

Sharon Hylek advised that the Bark Park Committee would like to turn over the responsibility of maintenance of the Bark Park to Freedom Park in January of 2014. (See attached Freedom Bark Park letter)

Sharon also advised that Bob and Roberta Thomas will be retiring and moving to North Carolina. They have contributed many hours mowing and maintaining the Bark Park. With Bob and Robertas' departure, it seems the time is right to transfer the responsibility of the park to Freedom Park.

Courtney Cherry advised that also attached is a general list of maintenance duties throughout the year.

Courtney advised that since the inception of the Bark Park in 2008, the Bark Park has been completely self supporting. Courtney stated that they would like to maintain the Freedom Park Committee in order to continue with the planning and preparation of all fund raising and social events.

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Courtney advised that most of the bark park maintenance involves mowing. Other maintenance would include weed control in the flower beds and applying mulch when needed. Duties would also include tree trimming and the maintenance of the solar panel. Ongoing maintenance would include regular inspection of the fences. Also, the gates and locks need to be checked to make sure they are in good working order. Trash cans also need to be checked and emptied regularly. Poop bags are ordered by staff in the park office. (You need to notify the park office when you are getting low.) Discussion followed with regard to funds generated through yearly memberships to the bark park.

Clerk Treasurer Judy Walters was present and explained that as long as bark park membership continues at the current rate, the bark park would be able to support paying an employee to mow and maintain the bark park. (Approximately \$2000.00 per year)

Judy advised that she is currently working on the 2014 budgets. Motion to give permission to go ahead with Freedom Park budget as discussed was made by Harold Mussman and seconded by Robert Philpot. Motion carried 4/0 with details to be discussed at August Freedom Park meeting.

Discussion followed about the current maintenance staff and the fact that part-time personnel is already familiar with the bark park maintenance.

Discussed earlier: the walking path, volley ball and disc golf.

New Business:

BMX Discussion:

Mr. Ken Swart had expressed an interest in updating the existing BMX track, however he was not present. Discussion followed about the track. The Board as a whole is not interested in reviving the track. Discussion followed. Mr. Philpot mentioned the fact that the disc golf course has been

added since the BMX closed up and would be in conflict if someone wanted to play golf when the BMX is in use. Other issues mentioned; the funds that would be needed to update and bring the track up to current standards.

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New Business continued:

Equipment Discussion

Tom advised that he would like to look into the purchase of another piece of equipment for Freedom Park. He stated that at this time we have the X-Mark mower which is not made to be used in all areas of the park due to the roughness of the terrain. We also have the JD5400 with the bucket in front. We have the batwing too. Tom suggested purchasing a mower with a 6' deck. This would really help cut the maintenance time involved with mowing throughout the park. Alice asked Tom if he had researched the cost, which he has not. Tom is asking permission to begin looking for equipment that is used and in good condition.

After discussion a motion was made by Harold Mussman and seconded by Randy Hall to give Tom Sullivan permission to get prices on equipment. The motion carried 4/0.

Alice asked if the Bark Park would be able to make a donation to Freedom Park on a yearly basis. (Bark Park gave a donation to Freedom Park in 2012) Bob Thomas advised that he would pass the request on to the Bark Park committee. Discussion followed. Alice thanked Bob for all they have done with the bark park, adding that the bark park is a wonderful asset to Freedom Park.

Randy Hall asked about the status on softball. Mr. Philpot advised that the town attorney has not had any response from Lowell Little League. A letter has been sent requesting that the current contract between Freedom Park and the Lowell Little League be terminated. Randy suggested that a representative attend the next Little League meeting and ask for an answer in person. Randy suggested that the entire Board attend and all agreed.

Randy said he would check the date of their next meeting. Little League meetings are held at the VFW and are open to the public.

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Public Comment:

In other business both Cedar Creek and West Creek Townships will contribute the same amount as in 2012 toward the Freedom Park budget.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by Harold Mussman and seconded by Randy Hall at 6:00p.m.