

Freedom Park Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 17, 2013
6:00pm

Start Time: 6:00p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Freedom Park members observed a moment of silence in honor of Cedar Creek Board Member Brian Mathias.

Board Members Present:

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

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

Guests present: Bark Park Representative Courtney Cherry was present; also present, Town Council Representative Craig Earley and Officer John Chase.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the August 2013 minutes was made by Harold Mussman and seconded by Randy Hall. There was no discussion and the motion carried 4/0.

Approval of Claims:

After review, the motion to approve the claims presented at the August 27, 2013 and September 9, 2013 Town Council Meetings was made by Harold Mussman and seconded by Randy Hall. There were no questions and the motion to approve carried 4/0.

Reports

Freedom Park Updates

Dr. Courtney Cherry was present and will be attending the monthly Freedom Park Meetings. Dr. Cherry will be updating the Freedom Park Board about Freedom Bark Park.

Courtney reported that the Barktoberfest will be held on Sunday, October 6th from 12noon to 4pm. Events will include the Lake County Sheriff Canine demonstration at 12:30 and 2pm. The Halloween Costume Contest follows at 1:00pm followed by the Pet blessing at 3:00pm. (All pets are welcome for the blessing.)

In other business, Courtney reported that the lock to the large bark park has been vandalized again. The lock has been removed for repair. Dr. Cherry also advised that there have been problems with the lock at the small bark park.

Randy Hall asked when the maintenance will be turned over to Freedom Park. This transition will take place the first of the year (2014).

Alice advised that Officer John Chase is present to discuss the possibility of putting a security camera at the bark park. Officer Chase suggested that there are several camera options. He advised that "wired/hard wired" would require a lot of ground work. A solar panel would also be an option. NIPSCO also would provide an estimate to run electric to the sight. Wireless is another option, and the cost would be about the same for all options.

Without knowing all the details, Office Chase advised that the cost to put a wireless system out at the bark park could cost between \$1500. and \$5000. for a wireless system. The wired system would include multiple cameras, whereas the wireless system would include one (1) or two (2) cameras and the cost would run closer to \$5000. He advised that the problem with a wireless system is not that its wireless, but that it would require a power source at the sight. We would have to hook up an independent power source, possible a solar panel which is pricey. Supt. Sullivan advised that there is

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already a solar power source at the bark park. It provides power to a pump for a water source at the park. Officer Chase asked how much power it draws and Supt. Sullivan advised that he did not know how much power it draws and that would be something we would need to check into, even if we needed to add onto that solar source. Discussion about the solar panel followed.

Alice feels that since the locks at the bark park have been damaged and have had to be replaced, in the long run, cameras out at the bark park would be cost effective. Randy Hall added that since the park continues to be a "work in progress", putting in cameras now would be a benefit as the park continues to grow. Officer Chase advised that he will put together several different camera options and return at next months meeting with more detailed information. Alice asked Courtney Cherry if the bark park would be able to contribute toward the cost of cameras. A brief discussion followed and Dr. Cherry advised that she would take this information back to the bark park committee. Bob Philpot asked if there are other options available to secure the bark park other than cameras. Officer Chase advised that the police have stepped up patrol of Freedom Park considerably, stating that they patrol the area every two hours. Officer Chase suggested that "motion lighting" would be helpful in deterring vandalism in the park. Discussion followed with regard to other possible options.

Other Updates

Supt. Sullivan advised that the new machinery is doing good. The batwing and mower are both doing a great job. The X-Mark is in the shop for repair right now. Discussion followed about selling the old batwing. Tom advised that he has been mulching around the trees and four (4) new memorial bricks have been added. Also, a new flag has been added. Disc golf is a work in progress and is getting better and he has been adding and leveling gravel along the walking path.

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New Business:

Officer Chase spoke and passed out paperwork to the board members about his upcoming Community Rummage Sale/Trade Show of September 21st and 22nd at the old "Globe Manufacturing" sight. This is a fundraising event with all funds going toward educating youth in 7th through 12th graders in CPR, environmental safety and other safety topics. Funds will also go towards establishing a scholarship program for the Lowell High School. Officer Chase would like to set up a date to hold this event in 2014 out at Freedom Park. Because of budgetary restraints, these topics are not taught in our schools. These classes will be offered at no cost to students and Officer Chase advised that there are 76 registered vendors coming to this event. A brief discussion followed with Officer Chase offering his help with programs geared toward safety topics. There was no other new business.

Announcements & Correspondence

Next meeting of the Freedom Park Board will be on Tuesday October 15th at 6:00pm here at the Town Hall.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Harold Mussman and seconded by Randy Hall at

Motion carried 4/0

