

Special Park Board Work Session

Tuesday September 17, 2013

5:00p.m.

Members Present:

Alice Dahl, Harold Mussman, Randy Hall & Robert Philpot. Also present, Tom Sullivan and Candice Johnson. Lola Jean Brink was present

Purpose of Work Session: Discussion Regarding Potential Funding

Randy Hall advised that he has spoken with Ann Bowman, the legal person for Dean White is told Randy not to be concerned about not having the 501C3 status. Randy gave each member a copy of the guidelines for applying for a grant through the Dean and Barbara White Family Foundation.

Alice asked Randy if, when he applies for this grant is he is going to request funds building constructing all the fields. Randy advised that he has never applied for a grant and he thought we could all work on this together.

Alice referred to the ball fields that have recently been built in Cedar Lake with a grant from the Dean and Barbara White Foundation.

Extensive discussion about required paperwork followed. Randy asked if there were estimates available so that we can come up with an approximate cost to construct the ball fields. Alice advised that the Lowell Little League had come up with a cost estimate when they were going to build fields. Alice suggested contacting the Little League and the Girls Softball League for help. She feels that the more involvement with these organizations, the more powerful our request for funds would be.

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Mr. Philpot brought up the fact that the Disc Golf is already at Freedom Park and funds have been invested. He advised that the "course" could be a money maker if our "Disc Golf Course" was a part of the Disc Golf Circuit. Tom Sullivan advised that there is some critiquing that needs to take place out at the disc golf course. Brian Cummings, the fellow who was involved with the course design would like to make some changes to the course. Alice asked Tom to make a list of what needs to be done and we can try to get the improvement made without a lot of cost.

Extensive discussion followed with Randy saying that building ball fields at Freedom Park would be a huge benefit for Freedom Park and the Town of Lowell. He added that the only reason the Little League is not out at Freedom Park is because their organization does not have the money to build the ball fields. Alice suggested contacting someone from Cedar Lake and asking who worked up and submitted their grant application. Possibly, Cedar Lake would show us a copy of their grant to follow as an example. Alice also suggested applying for a grant with the Legacy Foundation. Tom said he had a copy of The Legacy Foundation guidelines available.

Discussion followed about what will need to be included in the submitted grant request. Candy asked for clarification about exactly what the grant request will include. Request will be made to build fields as shown on the original Freedom Park Master Plan.

Mr. Philpot brought up the fact that if we do receive this grant and then do build the fields, who would be in control of those fields. Tom replied that we would be in control. Bob replied that the Little League still holds a 25 year contract with the Town of Lowell. Even though the Town attorney sent a letter to the Little League in May of this year requesting that the contract be voided, there has not been a response from them to date. This contract was drawn up in November of 2009. There has not been any attempt made by the Little League to move ahead with construction since then.

After discussion Alice asked Candy if there are minutes available where we, (the Freedom Park Board) approved the Little League Contract. Candy advised that she would check past minutes for requested information.

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The discussion about why the Town of Lowell is the only signature on the Little League contract followed. This discussion led back to the original purchase of Freedom Park and that fact that even though Cedar Creek and West Creek Townships are partners in the purchase of Freedom Park, legalities made it necessary for only the Town of Lowell to sign for the Bond that was needed to purchase the property.

After extensive discussion, Mr. Philpot asked specifically what the Freedom Park Board wants him (Mr. Philpot) to ask the Town Attorney.

*Alice responded: Ask the Town Attorney for an estimate of the cost to break the contract with the Lowell Little League.

Randy requested that if possible, can we receive an answer to our question without having to wait for the October meeting.

Motion to adjourn made by Robert Philpot and seconded by Alice Dahl at 5:55p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Park Secretary Candice Johnson