

Freedom Park Board Meeting
March, 18 2014
6:00pm

Start Time: 6:01p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

President Randy Hall led members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Members Present:

Randy Hall, Harold Mussman and Alice Dahl. Member Robert Philpot was unable to attend. Also present, Tom Sullivan, Candy Johnson and quest Jennifer Roberts

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

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the February 2014 minutes was made by Alice Dahl and seconded by Harold Mussman. There was no discussion and the motion carried 3/0.

Approval of Claims:

After review of claims submitted for 03/10/14 the motion to approve was made by Alice Dahl and seconded by Harold Mussman. Motion to approve claims for 3/10 carried 3/0. (There were no claims submitted at the 02/24/14 Town Council Meeting.)

Reports:

Freedom Park Updates

Superintendent Sullivan reported that the Lowell Moms Organization contacted him and asked about donating trees for Freedom Park. We are always happy to accept tree donations for Freedom Park.

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Reports:

Freedom Park Updates Continued

Tom advised that he has a list of trees that can be planted at Freedom Park. (The tree needs to be native to Indiana.) He also determines the location that the trees would be planted.

In other business, Tom advised that the potholes are so bad at Freedom Park that it will be necessary for him to use some of the gravel that was intended for use on the trails. The Board agreed that if there is a need, go ahead and do what is necessary.

Tom also advised that we will need to replace most flags at the Disc Golf course. Also, the disc golf sign that we had as an "eagle project" has come in and will be placed out on the course. The sign will go in as soon as the ground thaws. Alice asked how much it would cost to purchase flags. Tom advised that he did not have any prices yet; however they are not expensive to replace. Tom also reminded everyone that the Crossroads Marathon is coming up on April 27th.

Old Business:

Bark Park Update:

Candy advised that we currently have 26 members and total revenue as of today is \$1310.00.

Walk/Bike Path:

No update

Volleyball Court:

No update

A brief discussion followed with regard to the 2014 Freedom Park appropriation report.

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New Business;

Discussion followed about the need for a wheel chair accessible swing at Freedom Park. Tom advised that we did have a handicap swing at Evergreen Park; however, it was removed due to vandalism. Alice Dahl asked if it was still "usable." Tom stated that he would need to look at the swing and see what condition it is in.

Alice asked if we had a handicap picnic table at Freedom Park. We do not and Alice suggested that this would be a good Eagle Scout project. Tom said that the Eagle Scouts said that if we have a project, please contact them, they would be glad to help out.

Alice added that it sounded like we will also need additional gravel since it was necessary to use path gravel to fill potholes in the park roadways.

Randy asked if the bark park still maintains the bark park. Tom advised that all maintenance has been turned over to the park.

Discussion then followed with regard to the Freedom Park Budget. The yearly operating budget of Freedom Park is compiled of funds that are contributed by the Town of Lowell, Cedar Creek and West Creek. Additional funds are budgeted from revenue generated from Bark Park Membership and Freedom Park Shelter rental. These funds make up the Freedom Park Budget. Bark Park Revenue supports the line items that pertain to the maintenance and upkeep of the bark park and is a part of the Freedom Park budget. Randy asked about the status of the bark park. In the past the, the bark park was maintained mostly by volunteers. At the end of 2013 representatives from the bark park came to the Freedom Park meeting requesting that all maintenance be turned over to Freedom Park, which was approved. A governing bark park committee is still in place. This group plans fundraisers and oversees any problems that arise at the bark park.

Discussion ended and Randy asked if there was any:

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New Business:

At this time Jennifer Roberts who was present at the meeting introduced herself to the group. Jennifer lives in Timber Springs south of Freedom Park and spends a lot of time with her children at Freedom Park. She is running for Town Council for Robert Philpot's seat. Her goal is to develop Freedom Park into "the park where people want to come and enjoy". She is also interested in putting handicap play equipment in our parks. Jennifer added that she feels Freedom Park can bring so much enjoyment to our community. She is also very interested in extending the walk/bike path at Freedom Park.

At this point Randy asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Alice Dahl and seconded by Harold Mussman at 6:22p.m.

*Amendment:

Alice Dahl asked to amend the motion to adjourn. She requested that she wanted it noted that if Superintendent Sullivan can find a handicap swing or some handicap equipment that is reasonable we give him permission to spend up to \$1500.00.

Motion to adjourn made by Alice Dahl and seconded by Harold Mussman at 6:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Candice Johnson