

Freedom Park Board Meeting  
June 17, 2014  
Please Note Rescheduled Meeting Time  
4:00pm

Start Time: 400p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Executive Secretary Harold Mussman led members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Members Present:

Harold Mussman, Alice Dahl and Robert Philpot were present. President Randy Hall was not present. Clerk Treasurer Judy Walters was present to answer budget questions. Also present, Tom Sullivan, Candy Johnson. Press member Lola Jean Brink of the Lowell Tribune was also present

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the May 2014 minutes was made by Alice Dahl and seconded by Robert Philpot. There was no discussion and the motion carried 3/0.

Approval of Claims:

After review of claims submitted at the May 17, 2014 and June 9, 2014 Council Meetings, the motion to approve was made by Alice Dahl and seconded by Robert Philpot. There were no questions or discussion and the motion carried 4/0.

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Reports:

Freedom Park Updates

Tom advised that mowing and bush hogging is in full swing throughout Freedom Park. The new handicap swing has been installed at Freedom Park; however, people remove the harness from the swing and throw it in the mulch. Discussion followed with regard to ways to keep this from happening.

In other business, Tom advised that he has been speaking with the Dyer Lock and Key about a lock mechanism that might work at our Bark Park. Tom also advised that he has been speaking with Schererville about a key pad mechanism that they have in place. This type of system utilizes a swipe card rather than a key and is quite a bit more expensive than a conventional lock and key system. The cost for this type of system is around \$700.00. Since we have more than one gate that members need to maneuver through, I think the swipe card system would be too expensive. Electricity would not be needed, this particular system worked with a battery. In other business, Tom advised that he has had two (2) more calls about the batwing that we are looking to sell. Hopefully, we will get a buyer soon.

Old Business:

Bark Park Update:

Candy advised that we currently have 70 members and total revenue of \$3,705.00.

Walk/Bike Path:

No update

Volleyball Court:

No update

New Business;  
None

Announcements & Correspondence:

The next meeting of the Freedom Park Board will be held on Tuesday, July 15, 2014 at the Lowell Town Hall.

Public Comment:

Judy Walters advised that she was present to answer any questions that the Board might have about the Freedom Park Budget.

Judy advised that \$31,450.00 has been appropriated which is what Freedom Park has to operate on for the year. Judy advised that there is a line item, (451 Park Improvements) which has \$1500.00 appropriated and could be utilized to make necessary repairs to the overhead door on the big barn.

Tom asked about the purchase of a lock and key system for the Bark Park and what line could we draw funds from. Judy suggested that there are funds in Park Gift designated for the Bark Park in the amount of \$1400.00 that could be used to purchase the locks however; we would need to contact the Bark Park committee about utilizing these funds.

Alice asked if Board approval was needed to repair the overhead door. For an estimated amount of \$840.00 installed. Motion to approve this purchase was made by Alice Dahl and seconded by Robert Philpot. Motion carried 3/0. Clerk Treasurer Judy Walters stated that she is getting ready to work on the 2015 budget, In order to prepare the Freedom Park Budget Judy asked the Cedar Creek and West Creek if they would be contributing the same amount of funds towards the Freedom Park operating budget for 2015. Alice Dahl and Harold Mussman replied that they would be contributing the same amount of funds as in 2014. There was no other discussion

Circus Discussion:

Robert Philpot asked for further discussion about plans for the Kelly Miller Circus to come to Freedom Park on August 29, 2014. There will be two performances; one at 4:30pm and one at 7:30pm.

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Circus continued:

Budget discussion followed with discussion about the condition of the main Freedom Park roadway. Mr. Philpot advised that the main drive through Freedom Park is in need of new gravel. He (Mr. Philpot) asked if it would be feasible to go ahead and add gravel to the roadway. Judy advised that the funds to do this are not in the budget at this time. Alice advised that there is gravel that was intended for use on the path (but not needed) that will be spread on the roadway where needed. Tom feels that the gravel we have on hand will "dress up" the roadway where needed and will be more than adequate for people who will be attending the circus. Discussion followed about the roadway. Mr. Philpot advised that the approximate cost to resurface the main roadway with gravel would be \$5000.00. Judy Walters advised that funds are not budgeted and are not available.

Discussion turned to the need to "roll" out the grounds where the public will be walking and parking.

Alice suggested doing a shuttle service from one of the school parking lots therefore eliminating the parking dilemma. Mr. Philpot feels that the roadway will not accommodate the "turn around" space that is needed for a bus. The option of using golf carts to transport the public was also discussed. Alice also suggested using smaller buses. Discussion followed. Mr. Philpot stated that fellow Lion Jeff Greco is in charge of the parking and advised Tom that Jeff will contact him to discuss the parking situation. Other concerns were discussed including the need for lighting in the parking area or: changing the show times to earlier in the evening so that lighting would not be needed.

Mr. Philpot asked Superintendent Sullivan if he feels that the roadway needs to be re-graveled. Tom advised that the road definitely needs to be redone.

Tom advised that the in-roads should be periodically re-dressed until it is paved. Discussion followed about the options that may be available with regard to organizations and various programs that utilize Freedom Park for activities.

Tom asked Mr. Philpot about the other roadway exit options for Freedom Park he is talking about. Discussion followed with Mr. Philpot stating that the

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Planning Commission will be bringing several roadway options before the Town Council at the next Town Council Meeting.

Mr. Philpot advised that the option he is discussing would be paid for by the Town of Lowell and would be 3 to 5 years in the future. This is a part of the "thoroughfare project."

At this point discussion followed about the need for additional parking out here at Freedom Park.

Alice Dahl added that Judy Walters brought up a valid concern with regard to the need for lighting in the parking area at the 7:30 show. (Freedom Park currently does not have lighting in the park) Tom advised that he would follow up with a circus representative about this concern.

There was no other discussion

Announcements & Correspondence:

The next meeting of the Freedom Park Board will be Tuesday, July 15, 2014 at 6:00pm at the Lowell Town Hall.

Public Comment:

None

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 4:45pm made by Alice Dahl and seconded by Robert Philpot.

Respectfully submitted by Candice Johnson

