



**Freedom Park Board**  
**Members**

Randy Hall  
Chairperson  
Freedom Park Board

Harold Mussman  
West Creek Township  
Executive Secretary  
Freedom Park Board

LeAnn Angerman  
Freedom Park Board  
Lowell Town Council

Alice Dahl  
Cedar Creek Township  
Freedom Park Board

Tom Sullivan  
Park Superintendent

# FREEDOM PARK

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## Freedom Park Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 17, 2015

Start Time 6:00p.m.

### Pledge of Allegiance:

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

### Board Members Present:

Randy Hall, Harold Mussman, Alice Dahl and LeAnn Angerman. Also present, Park Superintendent Tom Sullivan and Mindi Buchler. Also present, Edgar Corns and Paul Crouse. Press member Robin Johnston was also present.

### Approval of Minutes:

Randy Hall asked if everyone had an opportunity to review the February 2015 minutes. Randy advised that an issue did come up with regard to the minutes. Randy Hall wanted to clarify with regard to the volley ball courts that we will not be making the courts into an ice rink during cold weather months. Alice Dahl advised that she had spoken to Bill Marshall who is a representative for the "Masons" about the volleyball courts. Bill advised that drainage could become a problem so he would rather not deal with elevation pertaining to drainage issues. Alice also stated that Bill Marshall asked if the "Masons" would be able to use the Towns backhoe. Tom advised that the rules are that a town employee is required to run all equipment that is owned by the Town of Lowell. Discussion followed. Motion to approve to approve the February 2015 minutes was mad by Harold Mussman and seconded by LeAnn Angerman. Motion carried.

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Review Park Claims:

After review of submitted park claims, motion to accept the submitted claims was made by Alice Dahl and seconded by Randy Hall. Motion carried.

Reports:

Freedom Park Updates:

Superintendent Sullivan reported park equipment has been serviced and everything looks good, no major repairs needed.

All buildings look good. I have told you about the roof on the two car garage needing to be replaced. The roof is not leaking yet, but one thing I do need to bring up, there is a tree on the south side of the house. We lost a huge limb last year that just missed the neighbors house and power lines. This tree is hollow in the middle and we will need to address the removal of the tree in the near future. At this point Randy directed Tom to go ahead and get two bids for the removal of the tree. Alice Dahl seconded that motion. Motion carried.

In other business Tom reported that we will need more mulch in our park playgrounds. Tom advised that since he now has a one-ton truck he can go and pick up the mulch, which will be more cost effective then having the mulch delivered.

Discussion followed about the need for mulch under the playground equipment. Randy asked if we would be able to purchase the shredded rubber mulch that is at Evergreen Park. Tom advised that the rubber mulch was purchased with recycle funds and is quite expensive. Discussion followed about the long term negative effects of rubber mulch. Randy advised that he was for the use of the mulch in our parks requested further investigation about the safety of using this product.

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Alice asked about putting a rubber mat at the base of the slides. Tom advised that he would need to check on that. Also Randy reported that the metal stakes that hold the playground border in place are sticking up.

Randy also reported that in front of the washrooms at Evergreen Park, there are huge chunks of rock on the sidewalk causing a hazard.

Edgar Corns was present at our meeting and he advised that the rubber mulch was purchased for \$27,000.00. He advised that the good thing about using rubber mulch is that water runs through it whereas with other mulch, water lays on top of the mulch. Edgar agreed with Randy as far as the purchase of rubber mulch would be the best way to go, however, it is costly. A brief discussion followed.

Tom advised that he has not been able to sell the batwing, however he has been in touch with Bob Nickovich from Lake County Parks has been helpful with possible contacts.

Work has continued with filling potholes at Freedom Park. Tom reported that he will need to use some of the gravel to fill the holes that he has also been using for the walking path.

Randy Hall advised Tom two (2) representatives from Arcelor Mittal Environmental are planning on coming out to speak with Tom about the "slag" to be used on the path. (Approximately 80 to 90 truck loads or 2200 tons. Randy said that we would be required to cover the trucking cost which will probably be approximately \$6,000.00. Alice asked if the needed funds are available. Randy said he had spoken with Judy Walters after the last Town Council Meeting and she advised him that the funds (\$12,650.00) is available, however the funds need to be appropriated before it can be spent on any project. Randy was assured that they have more than enough of this "slag material" available for projects. Mindi added that the "Masons" are on board to help with projects out here at Freedom Park. There was no other discussion.

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After discussion, Randy made the motion to appropriate all available funds for projects which was seconded by Harold Mussman.

Mindi asked for clarification with regard to appropriated funds. Randy advised that lawn mower repairs and things of that nature can come out of Freedom Park budget. However, park improvements can come out of the funds that will be appropriated.

Old Business:

Dog Park Updates:

Mindi advised that there are currently 30 bark park members and 39 dogs for a total of \$1520.00.

Volleyball Court:

Tom estimated the cost of per court at \$1059.00 which includes the nets, volleyball nets, and sleeves and will cover 100ft x 100 ft. area. Not included is the cost of the sand. Location of the courts will be adjacent to the playground equipment out at Freedom Park. Total cost of both courts approximately \$2168.00

Walking Path:

Discussed above.

New Business:

Dog Agility Items:

The board approved \$1445.80 to be spent out of Park Gift for equipment of Superintendent Sullivan's choosing.

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*Announcements and Correspondence:*

A request came in from Mackenzie Clark of the Hoosier Lottery to put two (2) banners in the Bark Park, one banner in the large and one in the small park. This is the Dogs vs Cats Lottery. The bark park will receive \$100.00 gift for each banner displayed in each area of the Bark Park.

The next meeting of the Freedom Park Board will be held on May 19, 2015 at 6:00p.m. at the Lowell Town Hall.

*Public Comment:*

None

*Adjournment:*

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