



FREEDOM PARK

Freedom Park Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at Lowell Town Hall
Start Time: 6:00 pm

Board Members

Heidi Laub
Chairman
West Creek Township

Alice Dahl
Vice Chairman
Cedar Creek Township

Dorothy Eich
Secretary
Park Advisory
Committee

Lowell Town Council
Will Farrellbegg

Mindi Arnold-Buchler
Director of Parks

CALL TO ORDER FOLLOWED BY PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

Freedom Park Committee members present: Heidi Laub, Alice Dahl, Dorothy Eich, Will Farrellbegg. Also present, Parks Director, Mindi Arnold-Buchler, Public Works Director, Kevin Gray. Guest: Lauren Mauk of Mommy's Haven. Danny Nestorvoski of Lowell Youth Soccer Club and Myra Harris from the public.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve April 2019 Freedom Park Committee Meeting minutes was made by Alice Dahl. Dorothy Eich seconded. The motion carried 3/0.

REVIEW OF FREEDOM PARK CLAIMS:

After review of the April 2019 claims, Will Farrellbegg motioned to accept these claims. Dorothy Eich seconded the motion. The motion carried 3/0.

REPORTS:

Mindi stated that we no longer have a Recreation Director. It is just Mindi running the office until office staff can be interviewed and hired in. She has offered the position to Cyndi Hughes and she should be starting the first week of June. Restrooms are opened and being cleaned daily. Will stated that there had been a vote taken at Lake County Solid Waste Management to close all recycle centers and they will not be coming back into Freedom Park. It was mentioned to possibly turn that area at Freedom Park into an ice skating arena in the colder months and more research is being done on how to make that happen.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bark Park Memberships

We currently have 73 members with revenue of \$3,595. Mindi looked into getting some type of swipe or fob system to make the park more secure, but it was very expensive and would require electricity on that end of the park which we do not currently have.

Maintenance Report

We have talked about a mulch quote for the playground area underneath the slide. New Toys, the manufacture for rubber mulch, gave us a quote for \$512 to cover 92sq ft at a 6 inch depth. Price includes shipping. We would concentrate the mulch right around the slide area. Will Farrellbegg motioned to get the mulch and Alice Dahl seconded the motion. It was agreed that the money for the mulch would come from repairs and maintenance. Mindi looked into quotes for grills. The price for one ADA compliant outdoor grill including shipping would be \$313.79. Will Farrellbegg made a motion to buy the grill and Dorthy Eich seconded that motion. It was agreed that the money for the grill would come from Freedom Park gift. Mindi also received a quote for tree removal. At Freedom Park the quote for removing two dead pine trees and two downed trees was \$325. It was decided that we would wait to see if the town can handle it ourselves before making a decision.

Kevin has spoken to our representative to get us a quote on chip and seal on the streets. All of the soccer fields have been sprayed.

NEW BUSINESS

Mommy's Haven is interested in holding their event Saturday, August 17th, 2019. Lauren Mauk will check with her board to see if a 20% donation of total proceeds to Freedom Park would be allowed, and inform Mindi when she knows.

Lowell Youth Soccer would like approval to hold another soccer camp on the week of July 29 - August 2 from 10am to 1pm Monday-Friday. Danny Nestorvoski will also check to see if a 20% donation to Freedom Park would be allowed, and will inform Mindi when he knows.

The Ott family has donated a white 6 foot bench for the Gazebo. The total for the bench was \$988 and we have received and deposited a check for the exact amount of the bench. The bench will be ordered by the end of the week. The Ott family has also purchased two 7-8 foot crab apple trees to put on either side of the Gazebo if that is acceptable. Mindi will check with Lorna from the garden club to see if this placement would be okay.

NEW BUSINESS RESUMED

Noah Katterman came into the Parks department office and dropped off a copy of what the Eagle Scout project will be starting in the park. The color will be tan and they would like to start the process soon and are looking to do a 16 by 16 square perimeter. The pit itself will be a 4ft by 2in pit and they will be using limestone gravel around it. He has received some donations from the Lions club and is looking into having some type of lid to cover the fire pit, preventing it from being open to the public 24/7.

Mindi had an Eagle Scout Nick Beck come into the office and say he wanted to be the one to create the horse shoe pits as his Eagle Scout project. Nick is hoping to attend next month's meeting to ask for permission from the committee members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Will stated the soccer revenue was \$28,000 in 2018. The expenditures are \$40,000. This figure is based on the employees and their benefits, soccer referees, soccer supplies, soccer insurance, repairs and maintenance, and restroom rentals. In 2017 the revenue was \$30,465, but the expenditure was \$44,369. Will noted that this program is not a money maker and that in general parks do not generate money but do the opposite as its budget is funded by tax dollars.

Heidi would like a \$5 fee per kid that is put into a fund for Freedom Park to put towards paving the roads or parking lot. This would be to help offset the cost of all the wear and tear of people coming into the park. Mindi will find out if this is acceptable and if it is, the changes would need to be made on the next quarterly fees and charges for Spring 2020 season as fees are currently being collected for Fall 2019 season.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Myra Harris would like to have 4 softball fields in Lowell in honor of Mary Conners. To get this started we would have to find a way to fund the fields. Fields would be placed at Freedom Park, but the exact placement of the fields would be open for discussion. Everyone agreed on gathering more information before moving forward with a request for such a large amenity to Freedom Park.

ADJOURNMENT

Dorothy Eich made the motion to adjourn at 7:40pm. Will Farrellbegg seconded that motion. Motion carried 3/0.