



FREEDOM PARK

Freedom Park Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 18, 2019

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 THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

Freedom Park Committee members present: Heidi Laub, Will Farrellbegg, Dorothy Eich. Also present, Parks Director, Mindi Arnold-Buchler, Public Works Director, Kevin Gray, Parks Secretary, Samantha Turcotte.

Guest: David McClean and Nick Beck.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve May 2019 Freedom Park Committee minutes was made by Will Farrellbegg. Dorothy Eich seconded. The motion carried 3/0.

REVIEW OF FREEDOM PARK CLAIMS:

After review of the claims, Will Farrellbegg motioned to accept these claims and Dorothy Eich second this motion. The motion carried 3/0.

REPORTS:

Mindi started reports with telling the board that the restrooms have been open for the season. There was some vandalism inside the restrooms were youth had used permanent marker to write in the stalls. Luckily, the janitor got it all off with vandalism remover. The park is being very utilized right now. The skate park is always full of kids. The park is also being utilized by the Chicago Fire Soccer Camp. In the end 33 kids signed up for that camp.

As for park maintenance there was a mower that broke down. The repair fee for that ended up being \$800. After that there is only about \$300 left in the maintenance account. There are repairs that may need to happen on the tractor, so it would be good to keep that in mind when talking about the budget. Next year it might be necessary to buy a batwing mower which could cost around \$1600-\$1800.

There is a disagreement amongst the committee on what is in the interlocal agreement as far as programs being held at the park, and how much money goes back to the park. The board decided to hold another meeting to reestablish the way Mindi should running these programs. The state board of accounts recommends that the board establishes some sort of flat fee for programs held at

the park. The 20% of profits does not work because there is no way to verify how much the program is making and whether or not they are giving the park 20%. Heidi mentioned a per person fee that could possibly work, and Will thinks a flat fee of \$150. The fee has to be the same for everyone holding an event at the park. It can't be a different fee for each person. There are a few different events where the board feels some events should be charged more including, something like a 200 person wedding compared to a birthday party. The board would also still like the opportunity to be able to waive fees. The board plans on having a meeting to come up with a final decision.

As for David McClean's disc golf tournament the board decided to have him build a donation box that will be stationed on the course at all times. This makes it possible to allow the public to donate money straight to the course. If David agrees the board will accept the donation box and his \$60 shelter fee from last year as payment for the tournament. Dorthy motioned to accept this agreement. Will seconded this motion. The motion was carried 3/0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bark Park Update: We currently have 84 members and \$4,172. Bark Park memberships have slowed down. We have been getting a few phone calls from people who are upset that we do not have the half off as of July anymore.

Maintenance Update: Kevin informed the board that he is finally starting to get caught up with the mowing. Kevin has been sending out some interns to get a lot of work done at the park. Other than that there has only been Rick to do most of the work. Kevin has had to send the street department out a few times to help keep up with the work. Kevin mentioned that there are three different electric maines on the park. He just had one turned off because it has not been used in years. It was previously used for the sport lot. Even though it hasn't been used in years they were still being charged \$24 a month. It is something that can be turned back on in the future if needed. Kevin says the park should think about purchasing a box scraper. A quote for one was \$1200. This would help to redo the roads, the one the park currently has is too small to even use. An even better piece of equipment would be a Harley Rake. It is one of the best pieces of equipment to use for the gravel roads. The cost of one is higher at around \$8,000-\$9,000. The Freedom Brick Walk was also updated. The street department changed the mulch out for gravel. The total came out to less than \$600 for supplies. That money was taken out of park gift. We have also received the grill that was also taken out of park gift. The memorial bench from the Ott family has also been received. We are just waiting on the plaque to be received and the bench will be placed in the Gazebo. Kevin will be fertilizing the soccer fields and also spraying the gravel path to keep out the weeds. He hopes to have this done within the next few weeks. The street department has also received the mulch for the slide and will get it out to the park when they have enough manpower to make it happen. The groundwork for the Eagle Scout, Fire pit is done and the final touches are being worked on.

The board agreed on a \$150 fee for Mommy's Haven. Will motioned to accept this fee. Dorthy seconded this motion. The motion carried 3/0. The board also agreed on a \$150 fee for Lowell Youth Soccer Club. Will motioned to accept this fee. Dorthy seconded this motion. The motion carried 3/0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nick Beck came to this meeting to propose his idea to the board to make a horseshoe pit as his Eagle Scout project. He handed out a blueprint of the horseshoe pit he hopes to build. His design includes two sides that you would pitch on the outside of them to prevent injury. He also designed for a back board so no horse shoes go flying pass that designated area. He will use rebar to anchor the horseshoe pit down, and put concrete blocks underneath. This makes so the horseshoe pit can just sit on the concrete and he won't have to fully install it into the ground. This will also prevent it from becoming uneven. For materials he plans on having his grandpa donate a lot of them because he is a woodworker and has plenty of extra supplies. Nick plans on taking inventory of everything his grandpa has and will be asking for donations for everything else he would need. Mindi mentioned that it would be a good idea to have some type of way to keep the horseshoes on site so the community always has access to them, and Nick said that is something he will try and incorporate that into his plan. He plans to build two pitts in total. Nick does not have any sponsorships yet, so Will Farrellbegg suggested he check out the Lowell Lions to get a sponsorship. Dorthy Eich also mentioned that the Woman's club would possibly be able to help. The Eagle Scout Project was accepted by the committee.

The next guest was David McClean. David McClean is here because the Disc Golf at Freedom Park. David came on board with Brian Cummings, the original person helping with the disc golf course. Mr. McClean has been very invested and has a lot of interest with the disc golf course. He has helped fundraise a lot and has also done a lot of labor on the course. He has been extremely involved and helped bring in volunteers to help improve the park. David McClean is here because he would like to bring a disc golf tournament out to Freedom Park in September. In years past Brian Cummings was hosting tournaments at Freedom Park. In those years Freedom Park had never asked for anything in return for the tournaments to happen. Mindi then became the Director of Parks and they reached out to her to host another tournament. Mindi told them they would need a certificate of insurance and they would also have to rent the shelter to make this tournament happen. When time came for the tournament, the weather was not good so they never had the chance to have the event. Because of this they still do have a shelter rental credit valid for one year after their event. David McClean stated that him and a group of friends all really love disc golf and would love to be able to grow the sport. Tons of people are currently going to Lemon Lake to utilize their disc golf course because everyone knows that it exists. Freedom Park does pop up on the map as a disc golf course, but when David went to use the course he then realized that the course was not playable. Most disc golf courses have a group of local volunteers that play and help keep up with the work of the course. This was not happening at Freedom Park because not a lot of people knew that this course even existed. David then decided he would be the one to do that. By making the course more challenging this is how you get more advanced players to come out and get the course and park more well known. He redesigned the course to make it a little more challenging to play. Since then they have also been working on putting concrete tee pads on the course. The goal for this year is to finish all of the tee pads. David has a tournament series that him and some friends are running. There are three events. One is going to be in Valparaiso, one will be at Lemon Lake, and they are hoping to have the third one at Freedom Park to help bring some exposure to the park. The series would be held September 28. David wants to know exactly what would be needed from him to be able to hold this series at Freedom Park since there has never been any set requirements for something like this. He is hoping to come to some agreement on what is going to be a set requirement for him to host something like this. He is expecting about 72 players to compete if the event fills up. A full event would include 4 people per hole with an 18 hole layout. David mentioned that at one of the nicest courses

around the area is Dellwood Park in Lockport, Illinois. There course is 100% maintained by the Parks Department. It is an extremely nice course and if you are trying to run a tournament there it is a \$100 fee to rent the pavillion and that's all. The most common price he has seen is about \$80 for a pavillion rental and then he can run his tournaments. He is not trying to run this tournament for any sort of profit the point. These tournaments try and get a group of people together and have fun doing a sport they love. All of the money they receive from sign ups goes towards rewards to the winners. The money could also go towards water and lunch sometimes. David would like the board to keep in mind all he and his group have done to help improve the Disc Golf course when they come up with a deal for him to run the tournament. During this Mindi also informed David that there is \$920 in the account for disc golf improvements. The board decided that they need to talk as a group and come up with a set fee for things like this, and would reach out to David when they come to an agreement.

There will no longer be a recycling center at Freedom Park. Solid Waste Management has given the board the option to either keep the fene up or have someone from Waste Management come and remove it. Mindi stated that area could possibly be used for a pickleball court. Or even just paint that concrete area as a shuffleboard court. The board decided to have them take away the metal rolling fence and keep the PVC fence.

Will mentioned there have been a couple of accidents at the skate park involving bicycles. If accidents are continuing to happen it might be a good idea to review and revise the policy on BMX bikes. Mindi noted that this may need to be revised if BMX accidents continue.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

Next meeting is July 16, 2019 at 6:00 pm.

Will motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 pm. Dorthy seconded this motion. The motion carried 3/0.