



FREEDOM PARK

Freedom Park Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 16, 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
Edgar Corns

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. Also present, Parks Director, Mindi Arnold-Buchler, Recreation Director, Jackie Bergstrom, Public Works Director, Kevin Gray and Town Councilman, Will Farrellbegg.

Guest: Matt Vandrunen of Lowell Volunteer Fire Department, Lauren Mauk of Mommy's Haven.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve March 2019 Freedom Park Committee Meeting minutes was made by Alice Dahl. Dorothy Eich seconded. The motion carried 3/0. Heidi Laub asked if the meeting minutes could have more detail. Mindi stated she would try to include more detail in future meeting minutes. Heidi also noted that she would like the minutes emailed to the township email and not her personal email. Mindi stated she would do so.

REVIEW OF FREEDOM PARK CLAIMS:

After review of the March 2019 claims, Alice Dahl motioned to accept these claims. \$128 for the skate park sign, March Nipsco and \$312 to Hicksgas for propane. Heidi asked if this was a portion of the propane bill that Freedom Park is paying. Mindi replied that the Town of Lowell paid \$312.00 too. The tank is filled at 75%. Heidi asked if there were any other questions. Alice Dahl asked if the committee can start receiving a copy of the Nipsco bill. Mindi stated she would ask for a copy. Alice Dahl motioned to accept March 2019 claims, Will Farrellbegg seconded. The motion carried 3/0.

REPORTS:

Mindi stated that the bat wing needs the drive shaft repaired. She believed the purchase order that maintenance presented to her was \$317 but was unsure if this was the exact amount. Heidi asked if this tractor was used exclusively for Freedom Park. Mindi answered her by saying it is. Will Farrellbegg asked if the batwing was the only mower at Freedom Park. Mindi answered that there is a zero turn mower too.

Mindi reported the dog park water hook up to the solar well was damaged over the winter and will need to be repaired before water is turned on for the season. Mindi suggested that the committee look into providing a battery backup for the solar well. She stated that water is not available on cloudy days. Mindi suggest using the Woman's Club donation from Barktoberfest to make this upgrade. Heidi asked the committee what something like this would cost? Mindi stated she would seek estimates if the committee wished. Alice stated she has a different system in Shelby that requires no electricity or solar use. Alice asked Kevin Gray if this was something that would work at the dog park? Kevin said he believed it could. Alice stated she had a man in Thayer who worked on the one in Shelby. Mindi asked if Alice would share the contact

information and she would reach out to him for an estimate. Mindi stated she would look into getting estimates and will report back to the committee at a later date.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bark Park Memberships

Mindi Arnold-Buchler reported the bark park currently has 62 members and collected \$3,090 in fees. She also asked the committee if they were willing to remove the membership policy from half off in July to maximize revenue. She also asked them to review selling of the weekly, monthly and daily passes. Mindi reported that due to the lock system that is in place, someone purchasing one of these type passes will have access to the park until the codes change in January. Alice motioned to keep the annual membership fee of \$60 year round and to not offer the daily, weekly, monthly passes. Heidi seconded that motion. Motion carried 3/0.

Maintenance Report

Mindi reported Freedom roadways had been graded. Heidi noted she drove out there and they looked pretty good.

Freedom restroom urinal needs replaced per Kevin. He stated he has received estimates for the urinal and plumbing parts for approximately \$230. He told the committee the repairs can be done in house. Alice motioned to purchase the urinal and parts. Heidi seconded that motion. Motion carried 3/0. Mindi noted that porcelain is not the most durable substance for public fixtures; however stainless steel upgrades would be very expensive. Alice asked what stainless steel would run. Mindi reported that a stainless toilet could cost as much as \$800. Mindi let the committee know that the restrooms have not sustained much vandalism over the years and porcelain will suffice. Heidi commented that due to the gates closing off Freedom Park, we shouldn't see much vandalism. Mindi stated the opening of the gates has not been established yet and there needs to be some discussion about that. Kevin stated we would talk about it later in the meeting. Mindi asked Kevin if he wanted to touch on it during the maintenance report. Kevin asked the committee what they wanted the hours of operation of the park to be. Discussion followed about the time the gates would open and close and the reasons why they should be opened and closed at the suggested times. Mindi explained to the committee that Freedom Park has a sign at the entrance of the park stating park hours are dawn to 10pm. She noted that the town parks are posted as dawn to dusk. She also noted that manning of the gate would be part of the janitor's responsibilities during the season. Mindi stated the janitor would typically have all restrooms opened before 8am and would close all at dusk. She also noted that the committee will need to consider the early bird dog park users when establishing the parks opening time. Dorothy Eich stated some members are arriving prior to 7am to use the dog park. Alice had concerns about asking the janitor to arrive to open gates and restrooms twice in the morning. Mindi replied that she would like the committee to consider the man hours of the janitor when considering the opening and closing of the gates. Heidi was concerned that a gate was installed that we would be unable to man. Mindi asked Will to update the committee on the towns discussion of the gates. Will stated the town council wanted the Freedom Park Committee to make the decision about the hours. He also asked if the janitor was paid out of the Freedom Park budget. Mindi stated the janitor was paid for by the town budget because Tom would take care of Freedom Parks restrooms. It was her understanding since the position of the Superintendent has changed that Freedom Park would be responsible for janitor hours used at Freedom Park. Will suggested that a 7am opening of gates and restrooms would be ideal. Alice agreed with that time. Dorothy stated that may be an issue with the early birds at the dog park. Mindi suggested

we could avoid any issues by posting the parks hours at the entrance of the park, posting notice at the dog park of the park hours and a press release a few months prior to change. She felt that by giving ample notice and taking the opportunity to review any future issues about the park would be the right way to handle the change. If issues do arise for the bark park members, Mindi suggested they could review making a separate entrance with a code system for bark park members to use. Kevin stated he was not too concerned with the locking of the gates until the recycle center opens back up in July. He felt that the illegal dumping would happen mostly in the evening hours. Will suggested the gates start being used in June, one month before the recycle center is to reopen. Heidi stated she would like the bark park members to have ample notice of the park hours changing. Heidi suggested having the hours posted as dawn to dusk. Will suggested having a set opening time would be ideal at 7am. Heidi stated she was ok with opening the park at 7am. Mindi asked the committee to make a motion to approve the Freedom Park hours. Heidi made the motion to establish Freedom Park hours as 7am to dusk. Alice Dahl seconded that motion. The motion carried 3/0. Kevin stated he would have a metal sign posted on the gates with the hours. Heidi agreed that this would be a good idea. Kevin said he would be able to use an old aluminum sign from the street department and re-purpose it by having the hours printed onto it. Will made a motion to approve funds to purchase/re-purpose a sign posting the parks hours for less than \$100. Alice Dahl seconded that motion. Motion carried 3/0.

Mindi had an update on the Eagle Scout fire pit project. She reported she had checked to see if a building permit was needed for the project and was told due to the project, one would not be required. Mindi updated the committee that Mr. Katterman is beginning to gather supplies for the start of this project.

Will took the opportunity to update the committee about the Lions Club donation of 10 benches for the soccer fields. Mindi stated due to this donation, some of the nicer wood benches that were utilized for the soccer program were distributed among Freedom Park. Mindi stated the benches were placed in the gazebo and dog park.

Mindi asked the committee if they were able to complete the spring tour of Freedom Park. Alice asked if the committee could return to this after the Fire Department and Mommy's Haven had their chance to speak to the board. Heidi agreed and moved on to new business.

NEW BUSINESS

Matt Vandrunen of Lowell Volunteer Fire Department approached the committee about the use of Freedom Park for Oktoberfest. He stated Oktoberfest dates would be Friday, September 13th from 5-pm to 12pm and Saturday September 14th this year. Matt stated they moved the date up in order to have nicer weather. Matt said the layout of the fest would be the same as last year. The committee asked if parking would be in the grass or in the parking lots. Matt replied the car show is the only time the grass parking would be used and the car show would run 8am-1pm. Matt asked the committee to wave any fees associated with use of the park. He also stated he would be submitting the special events policy through the town soon. Mindi stated the grounds were left in great shape last year and had asked Matt to purchase a larger dumpster for this year. Matt noted he had planned to do so. Alice motioned to approve the fest. Heidi seconded that motion. The motion carried 3/0. Matt thanked the committee and left the meeting.

Lauren Mauk of Mommy's Haven approached the committee about a fundraising event at Freedom Park in August 2019. She explained the event would be a family event that consisted of a few vendors, raffles and field day type games. Lauren told the committee she anticipated approximately 700 people to attend. Heidi asked how they would charge for the event. Lauren

explained that it would be free to enter into the fest; however participants taking part in the field day tournaments would be asked to pay a small fee. She apologized for not having that figure ready for the board as they are still in the planning process. Alice stated that due to many projects needing to be done at the park if Mommy's Haven would be willing to make a donation for the use of the park. Heidi asked Lauren if she would mind returning to the next meeting for their decision. Lauren agreed to attend next month's meeting and assured the board that Mommy's Haven would be willing to make a donation. A dollar amount would be decided at the next meeting. Mindi told Lauren that the event sounded fun and she would place her on the agenda for next month. Lauren thanked the committee for their time and left the meeting.

Lowell Youth Soccer Club could not make the meeting this evening and will be placed on the agenda for next month.

NEW BUSINESS RESUMED

Heidi directed the meeting back to the spring tour and project list. She stated that she was happy with the grading of the roadway.

Heidi noted the litter lift with local scout troops made a big difference. Mindi replied the scouts collected over 2 dumpsters of trash from the grounds. Heidi stated they did a great job. Mindi agreed and stated their thank you card was already in the mail.

Heidi wanted to know if the fencing that was piled up by the barn had been hauled away yet. Mindi stated this remains on the street departments projects list. She also noted that she was advised the dumpster for its removal would not be charged to Freedom Park.

Heidi questioned if the green PVC piping that was sitting by the barn could be stored somewhere else or removed and if the barns were empty. Mindi stated the quonset was empty. Will asked if the pipes were left over from the tower project. Kevin stated he didn't believe so and they were left over from culvert projects and they could be removed from that area.

Heidi noted the mulch on the playground was looking low. She stated she felt it was unusually low for the slide area. Mindi stated the playground is equipped with rubber mulch and usually needs to be re-distributed to lower areas. Heidi was concerned with the steep drop from the slide. Alice noted that Tom was made aware of that several times. Discussion followed on the possibility of getting an extension on the slide, replacing the slid, building up the ground under the slide, adding more rubber mulch. Will noted that rubber mulch was very expensive. Heidi suggested the ground under the slide should be built up and more mulch added to the area. Heidi felt this was a safety issue and it needed to be addressed. Mindi agreed with Heidi and said she would get an estimate on rubber mulch and report back to the board to make a decision next month. Heidi questioned if the border around the playground could be straightened as it was leaning. Kevin stated that this is pretty typical of playground borders and would be a big project as it would have to be removed and re-set.

Heidi asked the committee if they had any input on the tour list. Alice responded that she did not. Heidi moved forward with her short term/long term projects list. Heidi reviewed the idea of putting primitive camping spaces at the park. She suggested that the fire pit would be a nice amenity, yet she felt more items could be added to draw the camping crowds. Heidi discussed placing mulch paths in the tall grass area on the east end of the park. Heidi asked if this area was ever mowed. Kevin stated it was not. Heidi stated that the area would benefit from a controlled burn that possibly the fire department could utilize as a training session. Heidi continued to

discuss how a burn could take place out there. She estimated \$3,500 if Freedom Park needed to pay for it. She believed the burn would help control the brushy/thorn plants and create a more woodland area ideal for camping activities. She stated her husband works for NIPSCO and could secure mulch for the paths. Kevin stated the street department has mulch that could be utilized too. Heidi would like to see bird boxes, and seedlings planted. She stated the scout troops could assist with the planting of them and Jasper Pulaski would be a good resource for the seedlings.

Heidi touched on the old BMX track on the property. She stated there is still a path through the area that would be ideal for nature type fitness equipment. She looked into AAA State of Play and noted the cost of this type of equipment would be around \$1,500. She explained the equipment as the type that is found at local county parks on their paths. Heidi believed it would be a low cost amenity that would help utilize the unused space. Mindi was concerned that disc golf would interfere with this area. Heidi stated she believed it should not. She made mention that Lemon Lake's disc golf and fitness trails merge at times. Mindi noted she has seen this too. Heidi stated she believed these ideas would take a couple years and some education. She wanted the committee to know she was ok with that, she felt it would be ideal since the town would be bringing a trail system to Freedom Park in the future.

Shelter rentals were also a concern of Heidi's. She would like to see horse shoe pits, and a grill placed by the shelter as incentive to increase rental. The committee spoke of the Eagles Club in Cedar Lake where the Eagle Scouts made horseshoe pits for them. This was an idea for a future Eagle Scout project. Mindi stated she would reach out to her local troop and try to coordinate this. Mindi also stated she would have an estimate for outdoor grills for the committee to review at the next meeting. Alice asked if she could get a motion to purchase 2 outdoor grills and 2 horseshoe pits from park gift funds. The motion was not seconded and did not carry. Placement of the horseshoe pits was discussed. Mindi asked Heidi if she would like the pits close to the shelter. Heidi stated she would like to see them near the shelter area. Mindi then asked the committee if they would like the horseshoe pits presented as a volunteer project. The committee stated they would like that project to be an Eagle Scout project and to purchase the grills.

Heidi then spoke of future projects. She stated the gazebo needed trees planted for a scenic backdrop. Heidi felt this area would be an ideal place for senior photos. Alice stated Lowell Garden Club offered to plant trees if Freedom Park purchased them for that area. Heidi moved forward with long term project ideas of softball fields and travel soccer fields. Discussion followed amongst the committee about how funding these type projects could be obtained. Heidi stated she had some indication that Lowell Bluebird Softball would be interested in seeing a project like this happen. Heidi stated that 2 fields with lights would be needed. She then stated if 4 fields were built, 2 with lights and 2 without lights, Freedom could host tournaments. Heidi continued to speak of tournaments and estimated revenue of approximately \$16,000 per tournament. Mindi asked if Freedom Park would be running leagues and tournaments or if a private entity would be. Heidi stated she would like to see a commitment or a lease agreement made from a private entity prior to building fields. Discussion followed about the original plans for baseball and softball plans at Freedom Park. Costs of fields and locations of fields were discussed. Heidi felt the ideal location of the fields would be northwest side of the park closer to Cline Ave. Heidi stated each softball field would be between one and a half to three acres. She estimated the proposed location around 13 acres. Heidi stated that this type of project could be over a million dollar project. She wanted Freedom Park to make close to \$20,000 a year in order for a project like this to be considered in the future. Alice noted that concession stand would help with revenue.

She also noted that a traveling type food truck would be ideal too. Concession stand ideas were discussed among the committee. Mindi asked Heidi if this was a long term project that Freedom would be seeking grant money for or would they be willing to get bonds to make it happen? Heidi stated grants would be sought out and bonds would be considered as well. Will stated the bonds would be paid off in approximately 3 years. Alice stated yes however they pay one year in advance. Alice believed the last payment would be due in 2021, however she was not exactly sure. Alice stated she would like to have other items figured out before discussing future bonds. Heidi stated they would discuss that later on.

Alice let the committee know she did complete a park tour however she was waiting for other projects she was working on to finish before she could commit to new projects at Freedom Park. Alice would like to look into the possibility of helping with purchase the nature trail fitness equipment or an EZ skate ice rink. Mindi asked the committee where they would like to locate a rink at Freedom. She suggested using the volleyball courts. Alice would like to see one of these rinks in person before making a decision. Kevin asked for more information on an EZ skate rink. Alice and Mindi explained that they are not an iceless skate rink. Mindi stated the parks had something similar on the tennis courts at Liberty years ago. The system lasted one season and was unable to be used after that. Alice mentioned if the ice rink was to be permanent, roller skating could happen in the off season. Mindi suggested utilizing the skate park as a site for the rink and said most of the ramps are movable. Heidi asked what a rink would cost. Mindi stated some kits start around \$700. Alice stated at that cost it may be possible for her to do. Heidi asked if the ramps were able to be moved. Mindi said she believed most of them could be with the exception of the largest ramp. Heidi said she liked the idea due to the fact the area had a gate and admission could be charged for use. Alice let the committee know she has support of Lowell Rotary Club and she could always ask them for their assistance on this type of project. Heidi asked the committee if the skate rink would charge admission and/or rent skates. Discussion followed on staffing of the park, the rental of the skates and how this project could draw revenue. Mindi stated she had concerns about insurance liability. Discussion followed. Heidi stated she would like for us to look further into this idea for a winter activity at the park. Mindi said she will report back with more information.

Heidi stated she would like to discuss the interlocal agreement at this time. She asked the committee if they would like to go item by item or have her address all of the issues and speak about them when she was finished. Mindi stated she was okay with either option, as long as it was easy to track in the minutes. The decision was then made to address each concern and discuss to make the minutes easier.

Heidi stated she would like all programmed activities fees at Freedom park to be made to the town and townships without distinctions as to where a person resides. Mindi asked Heidi if she meant when soccer fees are collected that the program fee charged would follow this rule and not the residency rule of the town parks. Heidi said yes. Mindi asked if this would be the case since the soccer program is a town park program that was established prior to this agreement. Heidi referenced 3d of the interlocal agreement at this point. Mindi clarified the residency policy for the soccer program and questioned why this would be in effect for this particular program. Mindi asked if this was due to the fact that the program is hosted at Freedom Park. Will asked for clarification of the soccer program and its existence before Freedom Park. Alice stated the soccer program was moved to Freedom Park when the park was developed. She also noted that Freedom Park had helped plant the fields and provided the irrigation system for the fields. Alice stated she would have to double check the records on this as she was not completely sure from her memory. Heidi stated that the interlocal agreement does not state anything about pre-existing programs and all we have to go off of is the interlocal agreements. Mindi stated that many of the agreements were not placed in writing at the inception of Freedom Park. It was her

understanding that the soccer program was moved to Freedom Park as an amenity to the park and not as revenue program. Mindi stated she is unaware of what agreements were made in the past and would like the committee to sit down with the town council in a work session to discuss this and the other concerns the committee has. Mindi suggested that changing the agreement to a lease agreement or something that worked best for all parties would need to happen in a work session as she did not feel comfortable taking action on that in a meeting. Heidi stated these types of decisions for Freedom Park should be approved in a Freedom Park Meeting as each representative was there. Heidi stated she would like an agreed upon lease agreement or 30% of the revenue of the program to go back to Freedom Park. Will stated the soccer program doesn't make a lot of extra money and that the profit is not that much. Heidi stated her concern was that the program is at Freedom Park and a fee is charged for it. Will stated that program increases would need to happen in order to make profit from the program. Heidi stated the program has increased from \$25 to now \$55 dollars. Alice asked Mindi how a profit is not made on the program. Mindi stated that the cost of the soccer insurance policies have increased, along with the cost of uniforms and the new field maintenance that was established last fall when Kevin assessed the conditions of the fields. Mindi stated there are other costs that are not seen of the programs as: restroom rentals, payment of referees, maintenance staff and parks staff to make the program happen. She also stated that if Freedom Park is not happy with the current arrangement, they should look into how other towns host their soccer programs. Most of them are in lease agreements with clubs that provide the sports. Mindi also asked the committee if this arrangement was something they wanted to change, they will need to figure out a lease agreement or another type of agreement that works better and present it in a work session with the town council. Once the new agreement is made, we will put it in writing so we don't repeat these same issues down the road. Alice stated if the town shows them they are not making money off of the program, they will consider another type of agreement. Will stated he understands this topic has been an issue over the years and he wants the committee to know that the town has put lot money into Freedom Park. Heidi stated she understands that. She just wants to see the numbers on how much someone is paid to mow and how many hours are used to mow. If she had those figures she would be able to see it in black and white. If the town states they are doing certain things that the committee is not aware of, she would like to know. Heidi also noted she just wants the park to grow and she believes the committee all wants the same thing for Freedom Park. She sees the park not moving in any direction because there is not enough money coming in. Heidi then stated that if we can change this, we can see improvements. Will stated the town suggested renewing the bonds a few years ago and the townships were unwilling to do this. He stated in order to accomplish these types of improvements; the town and townships would need to secure more bonds. Heidi felt that the bonds would not be renewed if the interlocal agreement was not followed. Will stated if they wanted to change the way the agreement was being fulfilled, the committee would need to sit down with the town council to discuss the problems they have. Heidi said the Freedom Park meeting would be the place where these problems should be reviewed as Will was there on behalf of the town. Will stated he was there filling in for Edgar Corns but was not the official representative of the town. Heidi explained that these decisions should be made in these meetings. Mindi explained that because so many unwritten decisions have been made over the years, she felt the right place to work on all of them would be in a work session with the town council. She asked the committee to write down every concern and question they had and share that with the council prior to a work session. She explained this would make for a productive work session that would result in everyone's concerns being addressed and hopefully agreed upon. Heidi stated the interlocal agreement has the answers. Mindi stated, she did not feel that it did as there are too many concerns about the agreement. She also stated this has come down to how each party perceives the agreement and their

responsibilities to it and the biggest issue that remains is all of the agreements that were made in the past were not written down.

She also noted if the way it worked before doesn't work anymore, then the parties need to meet to change it. Heidi stated that if there was something in writing that stated the town was not to pay anything to Freedom Park for the use of soccer, then all we need to do is provide that and the discussion will be over. Mindi said she was unaware of how the agreement was worked out in the past because she does not have documentation of the agreement. She also stated this is in fact why everyone needs to get together to agree upon and move forward. Heidi stated she wants to be able to move forward and this is why we are discussing this. Alice stated that Heidi is trying to establish section 3b of the agreement. That the people who use Freedom Park will not be charged a different fee based on town residency. Alice stated there was an issue of the dog park where a Lake Dale resident was charged the non-resident fee a while back. She wanted to ensure that those people are being charged the resident fees that were agreed upon in the interlocal agreement. Mindi stated she could address that in the meeting. If the townships wanted the office to consider residency of Freedom Park programs by townships she would honor that and apologized that the Lake Dale resident was overcharged in the past. Will asked the townships to provide the zip codes to the park office so the staff would know which zip codes would be used to honor the residency. Mindi stated as far as the soccer program, she was unable to address the fee breakdown until that was discussed more. Mindi also stated that if the committee would like the parks to distinguish residency of other park programs hosted at freedom we would need to establish a certain percentage back to freedom and then honor residency guidelines of these hosted programs. Alice stated she wanted this to be applied to the soccer program too. She stated that she remembered Randy (Hall) coming back to the committee stating the town made \$70,000 a year off of the program. Mindi stated she wished the soccer program was profitable. Alice noted that if someone said someone is making \$70,000 off of your property, you would want that for your park. Alice said she would like to see a percentage of the program come back to Freedom. Heidi stated 30% of the fee would be acceptable to cover the maintenance costs of items like the roadways. Will asked the board about disc golf and what was being charged for the use of the course. Alice replied that the course is free to play and they will be reviewing changing that too. Alice wanted the committee to know they were not picking on who did what and when. She just wants everyone to know that it needs to be done. She also asked who was responsible for who and what. She said the town is responsible for everyday maintenance at the park. Mindi asked if she meant financially responsible. Alice did not answer Mindi's question but continued to state that she had asked nicely if they bought stone for Freedom Park if the town would be able to place it and she was told she would be charged labor and use of the equipment. Mindi stated that is something they may want to re-establish when they go back to review issues and concerns. Heidi stated that is what she is trying to accomplish by following the interlocal agreement. Heidi stated it was established 20 years ago. Mindi asked where there was a record of that and how can we honor that if none of us were there. And some of the concerns about the daily operation of Freedom Park are who pays what and when. Will stated that in the agreement the board shall establish an annual budget before August 1st. He advised that before August 1st the budget should be approved in the meeting and then approved by the clerk treasurer before going down state for approval. Will also noted that certain things are asked from Freedom Park of the town and the town will step up and do that. Heidi agreed with Will. Heidi then went on to mention that is not a fight between the town and the townships. She only wants to find a way for everyone to work together in an effort to make the park better. She just wants to see programs hosted at the park help the park thrive. Alice gave a short summary of the inception of Freedom Park and the partnership that was made to acquire the park. She wanted this committee to know that the state was excited to see this park happen due

to the partnerships. Will stated that the townships partnered with the town and the only way bonds were able to be secured was by placing them in the Town of Lowell's name.

Alice agreed and stated that is why the deed is in the Town of Lowell's name and the interlocal agreement was put together to protect the townships as property owners. Alice then asked Will if she were to ask him who owned Freedom Park, how he would answer her. Will stated Freedom Park is owned by three entities. Alice then questioned why Heidi was told that the Town of Lowell owns Freedom Park and when the bonds were paid for, the town would be the deed holder. Heidi said she asked for the deed and has the understanding that the interlocal agreement would allow the townships to be placed back on the deed when the bonds were done and she felt this has caused issues. Heidi then stated she wanted to continue to work on Freedom Park and that she wanted to do it right. Mindi said she would like to see everyone work together for the benefit of Freedom Park. Alice mentioned that she was not trying to cause any issues but she did feel that when the water tower was placed at Freedom Park, the town did not bring that before the committee before doing so. Will stated that was before his time and had no answers as to why but could only speculate that the piece of property where the tower was placed was town property. Heidi didn't agree with Will and said that parcel of property is considered Freedom Parks property. Mindi stated that it was her understanding the tower placement was factored by DNR purchased property. Since that piece of land was not purchased with DNR monies, the tower could be placed there. Alice and Heidi stated it was still Freedom Park property that was used and the committee was not considered in this. Alice then stated to Will this is some of the reasons they as a committee say what they say. Will said the town council and the townships really need to meet and work on this. Heidi agreed with Will. Mindi said this will be so much easier once these concerns are addressed. She also mentioned that a certain dollar amount spent on projects or maintenance is agreed upon and presented to the board for approval. Alice stated there is a limit that was set in the interlocal agreement. Mindi stated if they wanted to review that amount they could do so when they met in the work session. She just wanted to find a way to be respectful of the board and their budget as maintenance projects happen. Heidi asked Mindi if she could let the board know what programs were happening at Freedom Park on a quarterly basis. Mindi noted that Freedom Park will receive the revenue share of the upcoming Chicago Fire camp. Mindi also stated she will update the board on future programs that happen at Freedom Park. Mindi stated as far as the usual ran programs; she does ask the committee for permission for events and such. Heidi stated she wanted a formality put in place so the committee could be in the know. Mindi agreed to continue to do so and wanted to let the board know that she was always about showing respect to the committee. Heidi stated she knew that and this was not personal. Alice stated it was not personal and it was just time to figure it out. Mindi and Heidi both agreed.

Mindi stated she was willing to figure out a fee that would go back to Freedom Park for archery camp since it is already advertised. She thought maybe she could have the administrative fee that was figured into this fee go back to Freedom and will report that to the board in the next meeting to discuss.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Will wanted the committee know that storm water would be doing some things out in the park. They are finishing up an issue in Heritage Falls. Mindi asked exactly what was getting fixed out there. Will asked Mindi to speak to Greg White. Mindi then asked if she should invite Greg White to come speak to the committee at the next meeting. Alice stated that if they do move forward with this project that Freedom Park is put back the way it was found. Kevin stated he believed they were dredging out a creek that is already out at Freedom.

Heidi asked Will to fill her in on the grant that was received from the town for a trail that was to connect Freedom to Liberty Park. Will stated this was through NIRPSC and the route to Freedom

Park has not been established as of yet and land acquisitions will need to take place. Heidi was curious as to where the trail would enter into Freedom Park. Will stated this project is in the planning phase with an estimated completion date of 2024. Heidi felt the natural trail system she suggested would tie in nicely to the proposed trail and would give Freedom Park another safe route.

Heidi then stated she can see the original plans for Freedom Park are very similar to what this committee is currently wanting. Will stated with the bonds begin close to being paid off; the committee should begin looking at future projects such as trails and baseball fields. Heidi stated this is why she is trying to clear up old concerns so they could move forward. She also stated she realizes she is new to the committee and wants some items ironed out. Heidi continued to state she just wants what is best and would like these concerns figured out before moving forward with new bonds. Heidi also mentioned that she hoped more money would become available at Freedom Park so they can continue to improve it. Alice made mention to Will that she was happy that he understands the concerns of the committee. Discussion went back to the committee member being told that Freedom Park was owned by the Town of Lowell. Will stated the Town is listed on the deed for the bond purposes. Mindi then stated if someone were to contact the park office and would like to host an event at Freedom Park. She will explain that they would need to meet with the Freedom Park committee to ask for permission prior to her moving forward as Freedom Park has their own committee. Will agreed that is what should be happening when it comes to Freedom Park events. Heidi stated the committee should be involved in these types of decisions and they fell off track some when the water tower arrived at Freedom Park. Mindi stated if things are no longer working we need to address them. If certain areas are gray, let's make them black and white. She would like to see a procedure and protocol put together on how everyone would like to deal with future issues as they arise. She stated this would be an agreed upon way to resolve issues that were gray or seemed unfair. Heidi let the committee know that her goal for all of this is to generate revenue for the park. Alice stated she is willing to seek more bonds and make improvements; however she wants to see the original plan for ball fields happen with that. Will stated he would like to see the ball fields happen at Freedom too. He believed it would be an opportunity for revenue and it would also be an asset to the town and the townships. Discussion followed about revenue that could come through from hosting tournaments at Freedom Park.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment. Will and Heidi discussed the role of the chairman in a meeting setting.

ADJOURNMENT

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