

ALLIANCE PARK BOARD MINUTES
February 9, 2018

The Alliance Park Board held the regular meeting Friday, February 9, 2018 at 10:15 a.m.

Present: President Harry Paidas, Vice President Gary King, Secretary Jennifer Mastroianni. Also in attendance were Director Kim Cox, Foremen Scott Davis, Chris Zufall, Mitch Kirby, Asst. Foreman Kyle Grove, Athletic Field Commissioner Matt Trainer and Office Manager Jennifer Baxter.

The meeting was called to order by President Harry Paidas at 10:15 a.m.

Gary moved to adopt the agenda, Jennifer seconded and the motion carried.

Jennifer moved approval of the minutes from the January 18, 2018 meeting, Gary seconded and the motion carried.

Public Speaks: None

Administrative Reports:

Silver Park & Butler Rodman: Chris Zufall reported they fixed plumbing, replaced & repaired toilets at the lake restroom. Due to the furnace blow out the copper line was damaged and that since has been replaced & repaired. Started cutting trees and brush at Earley's Hill hillside; cut down 6 trees at Memorial Park and 4 trees at Silver Park that were dead, there are about 14 more that will need cut down at Silver Park, mostly maple trees. Fixing & staining tables, there are about 24 more left to do from the 96 we have done; fixing and painting barricades; painted Memorial Park restrooms and made equipment maintenance repairs.

Cemetery: Mitch Kirby reported he serviced 3 Funerals since last meeting; lots of snow plowing; tree removals and trimming at Silver Park, Earley's Hill Park and Memorial Park; backfilled 10 graves with fill dirt; overhauling of equipment repairs.

Recreation-Athletic Fields: Scott Davis reported that the A/M Girls Softball showed interest in signs they do at Butler Rodman Park, he told them to run it through our program and the money will be earmarked for Earley's Hill Park, so far they have received four responses and they just started last week.

General Administration: Kim reported update about the pool filter at RCC, funds have been allocated and a match of \$19,000 committed from GAF, a controller also was purchased and the pool should be in good shape for a while now; women's volleyball league on Monday nights at the YMCA is still going strong, low impact aerobics is on Tues & Thurs mornings, yoga started on Monday at RCC with a large crowd of about 30 people, starting to get donations for the annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 24, Big Bat signups have begun and we are allowing registration for 80 kids; attended the OPRA conference on Jan. 27 through Jan. 31 at Kalahari for CEU's for CPRP license; next Friends of The Parks meeting will be on Tuesday Feb. 13, noon at the Elks. Sign proofs came in from Carter's Copy for the disc golf at Memorial Park; submitted 2018 Inventory and Budgets to the Administration; the City received Insurance money for the Rustic Shelter that was damaged from the storm; Chris got the bids for reconstruction that will begin early spring. Harry asked if the Insurance Company gave us enough money to cover the costs, Kim said from all the estimates we have enough to rebuild it with the same features, Menegay will be doing the block work and Jeff "skillet" Keane Construction will be doing the roof and the rebuilding of the structure; more dead trees around the shelter will be cut down before they

fall on own. Will be speaking at the Quota Club meeting about the Parks on Feb. 12 at 5:30 pm. The Water Distribution is giving us two of their older trucks they are getting rid of to replace two of our worst trucks.

Council member Brian Simeone spoke on his concerns about the Park Levy. He said he uses the Parks six months out of the year for the Community Soccer League he does with his friend Kevin. He spoke very highly of the Park staff singling out Matt Trainer and Kyle Grove for all their hard work and dedication to keeping Butler Rodman in top shape. As an Alliance resident he will be voting for the Park levy but his campaign was for no tax levies for the community and he is strongly about keeping his promise to the residents of Alliance. He feels a lot of people don't use the Parks now and he thought a more attractive way to get voters would have been about a Safety Force Levy. He agreed with Don Kline, former Council Member asking how the City can justify giving employee raises when we are in fiscal caution and then ask residents to pass a levy. Brian also stated that there will be a town hall meeting and there is a group that is against the levy and he wanted us to know that he will have no part in it. Harry thanked him for coming and speaking. Harry added one reason we wanted the Park Levy was so that we could separate ourselves from the City's general fund and from City Council's approval on many decisions about the Parks; Harry believes the Levy can pass if we show good reason, quality of life and improvements; the last levy on the ballot was in 2008 and it lost by 100+ votes, we are not going to run an expensive campaign but more of an awareness of the good it will bring to the City. We did consider a safety force levy but it would be a much larger tax for residents and from all the groups he has spoken to they felt the Parks needed to be separate and felt the residents would more likely vote for the Parks. He also is glad to see that the voters will get a chance to vote on this matter.

Harry also welcomed and thanked Mike Dreger for attending.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: Working on a list of names to form a Park Levy Committee, Kim has received many phone calls from people wanting to help in any way they can. John Gross said he would allow us to use his name on the Levy signs but wasn't sure if he could commit at this time to help out. Harry said we will have to strategically pick who will chair the committee. Jennifer and Harry gave a few names they have spoken to and are willing to support and help, Gary will round up some names and he would like to see some African/American names on the list. The list will be ready for Friends of The Parks meeting on Tuesday Feb. 13, 2018. Jennifer suggested having some kind of rally in the Park to promote the Levy or host an information night at the Robertson Community Center.

Harry added he does not want to get emotional about this Levy and it's just common sense the Parks will soon be compromised. We have become dependent on the city administration, City Council and the general fund, if we are able to separate from them he sees even greater things happening at the Parks. Kim said we are now at the point that many programs and organizations will be cut; A few of the cut backs would be no more free meals for the kids that runs through the Parks, family reunions that reserve the shelters and cabins yearly, the July 4th activities, Carnation Festivals and all the youth sports. We have no capital money; we have to find donations to fund the skate park, the repairs at the RCC, equipment throughout the Parks and right now the best thing for the Parks would to have our own revenue separate.

Kim wrote a letter to the editor of the Review that has yet to be published regarding a comment that was made in Readers Tell Us about Maple Beach; it stated facts about everything we have done at Maple Beach and if the Levy passes Maple Beach will only keep getting more improvements and getting better.

Scott wanted to make the board aware and to see if it was ok that the Hot Stove has invited other cities to join the Alliance Charter; Minerva, Malvern, Canton City and Carrolton are a few of them. Harry doesn't see it as a problem as long as they are under the Alliance Hot Stove Charter. Scott also added due to more teams that regular season games will have to be scheduled on the weekends, now they are just used for rain dates. The board doesn't have a problem with it as long as it doesn't get too big where we can't handle it with the staff we have now and getting the fields ready for play.

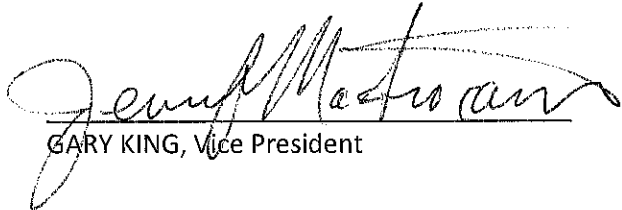
Kim handed out the new Cemetery rules & regulation books for the board to look over. She introduced Brian Simeone to all her full time employees. She stated we had 12 full time employees and now we have been cut back to 5 with more responsibilities and services including the RCC. Brian does appreciate all our hard work and efforts that go into the Parks and especially with the soccer program and having the fields always ready for play.

Jennifer moved to adjourn, Gary seconded and meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 22, 2018 at 2:30 p.m.



HARRY PAIDAS, President



GARY KING, Vice President