

**CITY OF CANAL FULTON
PARK & RECREATION BOARD**

September 11, 2008

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD:

Mrs. Higgins called the September 11, 2008 Parks & Recreation Board meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALLING OF THE ROLL

Present: Mary Ann Higgins, Mary Ann Hupp, and Ed Fousek.

Absent: Fred Fleming and Barbara Allman.

Others Present: Kathy McConnell, Canalway Center; Ian Losch.

CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA - None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Hupp moved to approve the August 14, 2008 meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Fousek. **ROLL: Yes, ALL.**

OLD BUSINESS

PUFFENBERGER PROPERTY:

Recreation Center Update: None

Engineering for Topography Grading: None

OFF LEASH PARK:

Broken Seats on Picnic Benches: Mrs. Higgins stated Mr. Fleming received the new seats. They were rough on the edges so he was going to sand them.

BRICK DONATIONS: No Report.

PARKS & RECREATION PROGRAMMING:

Ms. McConnell stated all should have received the latest newsletter. It outlines the upcoming recreational programs.

Senior Campfires: The word is getting out and they will soon be taking reservations for this event.

Lil Kickers Program: There are seven children signed up for the program.

History & Mystery of Canal Fulton: Ms. McConnell is coordinating the event with Sheri Braker-Recco. She will be presenting a slide show.

Holiday Event: Ms. McConnell stated the Holiday Event Committee is looking to expand the activities. They would like to do three Saturdays, December 6, 13 and 20. The Parks Department will sponsor Santa Claus. There will be visits with Santa and will be held at the Warehouse on the Canal. They will also do a small craft. The Committee will be adding some programs.

The tree lighting ceremony will be held on December 6.

Halloween Event: True Life Church will be doing the community event. They will have the same format as the past years. They have had enough booths and would like for the Parks Department to assist with set up and tear down. Ms. McConnell stated they may contribute with monetary things. Last year they provided some corn stalks and other items.

Summer Concert Series & Movies in the Park: These events are all completed.

Sweetheart Dance: Ms. McConnell stated she has contracted with the DJ service for this event. It will be held Friday, February 6.

TENNIS COURTS:

Build Your Own Drinking Fountain: No Report.

CANALWAY CENTER:

Canalway Center Report: Ms. McConnell stated Dominion East Ohio Gas did their community service project today. She stated Mr. Mayberry and her had been meeting with representatives to let them know of projects they would like completed. It was determined that the main focus would be St. Helena Heritage Park. They brought 80 people. They broke into 8 groups - painted the St. Helena II; water sealed the boardwalk; barn stone against the foundation of the museum; flower bed by the Canalway Center; split-rail fencing by the pavilion, did service project for Stark Parks-stained the fence line by the Muskingum Trail and other cleaning projects for the Heritage Society.

Jill Manda gave plantings to the City at cost. The gas company provided the man-power and the City supplied the materials. The Street Department assisted with the cleaning of the decking before it was sealed.

They will be coming back September 25th to do some more projects.

Tour D'Towpath: The event took place August 9th. There was over 300 bicyclists participate in the event. They partnered with the Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition. The tour started at St. Helena Park and ended there. There was food and entertainment.

Center Hours: The Center is open Tuesday through Sunday through the end of September. In October it will be weekends only and the hours are 10-4PM.

Reservation Procedure & Instructions: Mrs. Higgins stated within the next month a time will be set to start reviewing the policies and procedures. Ms. McConnell stated she has been reviewing park policies.

NEW BUSINESS

Park Reservations:

Church Group: Ms. McConnell stated she has a request from a local church that wants to rent the pavilion once a month and use of the surrounding area to set up a tent once a month for church services. She stated she had emailed the law director and city manager about this. She stated the law director had indicated that it was a separation of church and state can occur.

It was felt amongst those present that they should follow what the law director had indicated.

Boy Scouts: Mrs. Higgins stated they have a request from a local boy scout group wanting to camp out Friday, September 12 at the back pavilion. They have done this in the past.

She stated they don't have a policy on this and this will be something that they will need to clarify when they are reviewing the park policies.

DISCOVERY PARK:

Mrs. Higgins stated someone put epoxy on the slides and then put bark on top of it.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS:

Report: No Report.

BUDGET: Ms. McConnell stated there is a finance meeting for Tuesday, September 16 for the department heads.

COMMUNITY SERVICE COORDINATOR:

Project Suggestions: No Report.

OLDE CANAL DAYS: Mr. Losch stated they had put some monies aside for the skate park. The Committee is looking to put an additional \$500 aside. They would

now have \$1,000. He stated it is their hopes that the kids will get involved in helping to raise funds for the park.

Mr. Losch had asked about the location of the park.

Ms. McConnell stated they probably wouldn't look at Heritage Park because of the flooding situation. That area would always have something broken up because of flooding. The Puffenberger property improvements are too far out. The next choice would be the Olde School Lot. This would probably be an area that they would look at first and foremost. They would have to change from asphalt to concrete and then start to buy pieces of the modular equipment. She stated Jackson Township has been doing this. They put down the concrete pad first, which was about 100-140'. She asked the cost of this and it was about \$35,000. They are buying pieces at a time. They can be moved, not easily but it can be done. She stated when the Puffenberger property is done they could move it there. She stated there are a lot of companies that make this equipment that is quality.

Mr. Losch stated they need to have the young people involved in this so they understand that there are liabilities and there are issues to put something like this in place.

Mr. Losch said this park has been discussed in meetings but doesn't seem to be going anywhere.

Mr. Fousek stated this hasn't been sitting, they don't have the money. He stated they talked about it earlier this year, as well as the end of last year. They put it on hold because no one showed up to talk about to the board about it. They had been told some kids were going to come to the meetings to talk to them about it and they never showed up. The Puffenberger property then came along and they have been discussing that park and they don't have money for that park either.

Ms. McConnell stated they have a very small budget. They don't have capital funds to put toward this park. They have received some grant monies to put toward other things. She stated unfortunately there is not a lot of money for skate parks.

Mr. Losch stated he would like to see more money go toward supporting the parks. He stated this is what this community is about. He stated it is a very attractive City with the boat and the park system draws a lot of people and we have to support it. He would like to create the possibility of getting more people involved and work toward this project.

Ms. McConnell stated they are pro skateboard park because they see it as a playground for teenagers.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the possibility of a skate board and getting the kids involved in raising funds for it.

PRIORITY LIST:

Report: No Report.

ST. HELENA HERITAGE PARK: No Report.

Olde School Yard Park:

KaBOOM!/The Home DePot Blitz Project: There are still a few projects that need completed.

New Student Advisors: Ian Losch is the new student advisor.

NEW BUSINESS

Park Reservations: Mrs. Higgins stated she mentioned the Manchester Boy Scouts earlier in the meeting that are going to be camping in St. Helena Heritage Park on Friday, September 12, 2008.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Higgins adjourned the September 11, 2008 meeting. The next regularly scheduled meeting is October 9, 2008 at 7:00 PM.

Mary Ann Higgins, Chairperson