

**Chesterton Park Department  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Those in Attendance:** President Paul Shinn, Vice President Wendy Marciniak, Secretary/Interim Park Superintendent Bruce Mathias, Member Bob Cohn via telephone, Town Engineer Mark O'Dell, Town Manager David Cincoski, Town Attorney Connor Nolan

Paul Shinn called Roll – Wendy Marciniak, Bruce Mathias, Bob Cohn via telephone – all present.

Paul Shinn called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the assemblage with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Started out with the hiring of the new Park Superintendent.

A motion to hire Tyler McLead as Park Superintendent starting May 2, 2022 was made by Wendy Marciniak. Seconded by Bruce Mathias. Motion passed.

### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve March minutes was made by Bruce Mathias. Seconded by Wendy Marciniak. Motion passed. March minutes approved.

### **Comments from the Public**

Mark Hopkins presented the Board with signage proposals for the possible Monarch habitat. A company in Illinois and in Pennsylvania have similar designs. Would look into fundraising for signs. Spoke with Bruce about placement. As per discussion. Met with a VU professor in 2020 about creek restoration by the bridge. Build up the bank with White Oak and stone. As per discussion. Would work with the VU professor on bringing in biology students to help. As per discussion. Also presented the Board with a Coffee Creek donation.

A motion to accept \$1000.00 donation from Mark Hopkins to the Coffee Creek gift fund was made by Bruce Mathias. Seconded by Wendy Marciniak. Motion passed.

Jim Hardin thanked the Park Board for consideration of pickleball.

John Rubble of Planned Environmental Associates has met with pickleball players at Chesterton Park for possible placement of courts. Presented drawing, as per discussion. 34 x 64 sizing, North/South placement. Drainage will be put in. Will go out for bid for four courts. Fencing will be put in place around the courts. Will place in an additional sidewalk.

A motion to authorize Bruce to go out to bid for pickleball courts was made by Wendy Marciniak. Seconded by Bruce Mathias. Motion passed.

Audience member suggested they would fundraise for additional courts to be done at the same time. Paul asked Mark O'Dell what the average court cost will be, to which Mark replied about \$40k per court. Paul reiterated that there will be bids for four courts and six courts. Author Craft asked if there was a solid pad for the courts or if there will be a break in them for possible repairs. John Rubble replied that they will be paved together as of now and will fill in repairs as needed in future. As per lengthy discussion of cracks and repairs. Paul suggested that they get their 501C3 to help with fundraising as well.

Cheryl – asked if they will consider a special fund for pickleball. Paul stated that he will speak with legal counsel.

Brad Pikula of Mels Detail would like to host the car show on the last Saturday of every month from May to October. Would like to also implement a trunk or treat in October with the car show as well. As per discussion. Had an issue with a few vendors in the last year. Would like to coordinate parking a little earlier with possible signs. Paul stated that he will need to fill out a special use permit as well.

## **Superintendent/Engineer Report**

Dave Cincoski state that he will be applying for the NiSource Charitable Foundation Grant for \$2000 for the Monarch garden. Also applied for the AARP Grant on March 21st for \$10,000 to rehab Thomas Park gazebo. Also had to research the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant, will need to match \$500,000 with land donations. Will need permission to move forward. Will also need a public forum with the Park Board. This can be done during a regular Park Board meeting.

A motion to authorize Dave Cincoski to work with legal on the Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant was made by Bruce Mathias. Seconded by Wendy Marciniak.

A motion to hold a public forum during the next Park Board meeting for the Conservation Fund Grant was made by Bruce Mathias. Seconded by Wendy Marciniak. Motion passed.

Dave Cincoski addressed the Special use permits that have come in.  
Liberty Rec for use of Dogwood west softball fields May through June.  
Race the Region for use of Dogwood parking lot for two running events, Oct 30<sup>th</sup> and Aug 14<sup>th</sup>.  
State Park Little League for use of Dogwood east fields for practice and games.  
Duneland economic development for the UpsaDaisy Market for Thomas Park on Sundays.

A motion to accept all Special Use Permits submitted was made by Bruce Mathias. Seconded by Wendy Marciniak. Motion passed.

Chesterton High School Class of 1992 would like to hold their reunion in the Chamber Parking lot to include Thomas Park. They would like to have food vendors and a beer garden. Dave has spoken with legal, a contract will need to be drawn up. Three dates have been proposed and will be finalized for the contract.

A motion to approve the Special Use Permit for the Class of 92 reunion, pending legal contract was made by Bruce Mathias. Seconded by Wendy Marciniak. Motion passed.

Mark O'Dell has been working on pickleball project. Has been working on establishing a line item in CEDIT for the bike trail and repairs, also for tennis courts, about \$3000. Street Dept to help with repairs as well.

Bruce Mathias stated that they have repaired the power washer, snow plowing has been done, repaired the bobcat. New grills for the shelters were ordered last year, have finally been received. Leaf removal on softball fields, the compound has been cleaned up and thanked the street dept for picking up scrap metal. Mulch has been delivered, and will be distributed to parks weather pending. Bathrooms will be opened for the season soon. Has worked with Mark Hopkins on the Monarch habitat.

## **Comments from the Board**

Paul asked about the Dickinson Rd project. Bruce stated that he will meet with Chuck Lehman and inform him of future meeting. Paul asked Mark Hopkins about Rebuilding Together on April 30<sup>th</sup> and the creek rebuild. As per discussion. Also asked Mark O'Dell about Chesterton Park bathrooms. As per discussion.

## **Approval of Claims**

A motion to approve April claims was made by Bruce Mathias. Seconded by Wendy Marciniak. Motion passed. April claims approved.

## **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Bruce Mathias. Seconded by Wendy Marciniak. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

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President Paul Shinn

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Date