

**Chesterton Park Department
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
November 2nd, 2021**

Those in Attendance: President Wendy Marciniak, Vice President Paul Shinn, Secretary Mark Dickinson, Member Bob Cohn, Park Superintendent Shane Griffin, Town Manager David Cincoski, Town Attorney Connor Nolan, Administrator Hilary Thomas Peterson

Wendy Marciniak called Roll – Paul Shinn, Mark Dickinson, Bob Cohn – all present.

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve October minutes was made by Bob Cohn. Seconded by Mark Dickinson. Motion passed. October minutes approved.

Comments from the Public

Paul Petro – Duneland Cove subdivision, Park board member from 1997-2001. Basketball courts were not used in Waskom Park, so they converted them to tennis courts. He gave free tennis lessons for years. As per discussion. Addressed the pickleball lines being put into the tennis courts, concerned about the parking situation at Waskom Park. There is no parking lot at Waskom Park, people park along Michael Dr., and have noticed that people are now starting to double park along Michael Dr. Concerned with kids running in-between cars. Asked who will be scheduling these court times and managing it. Also, concerned about the noise factor of pickleball, it is a louder play. The Duneland Pickleball group is an ‘aggressive group’, concerns there. Suggested that basketball courts be converted to pickleball courts at Chesterton Park, parking is better there. As per discussion. Would like the Board to consider his suggestions. As per discussion.

Rich Riley – Petitioning to change the name of Thomas Centennial Park to Railroad Park. Presented slide show and discussion of history. William Thomas platted the downtown lots, donated money for station. Thomas Park land was donated to the Town, being called Railroad Park. Changed to Thomas Centennial Park in 1966. As per discussion. Formally asking for Thomas Park to be renamed to its original, Railroad Park.

A motion to consider the name change under legal advisement was made by Mark Dickinson. Seconded by Paul Shinn. Motion passed.

Jennifer Davidson – Pickleball, as per discussion. Asking for four courts at Chesterton Park. As per further discussion.

Dr. Brent Laskia – Chesterton resident and veterinarian at Vale Park Animal Hospital, and on the ValPawraiso Board. Spoke about Dickinson Rd land, glad to hear a dog park was considered for that location, and willing to help in anyway. Chesterton Rotary is also interested in supporting. Paul inquired about Valpo dog park and how it’s run. As per discussion. Paul thanked him for contacting Shane, working on getting a sub committee together for a potential dog park. As per

discussion. Mark Dickinson asked Connor if Impact Fee can be implemented for Dickinson development. Connor responded that it was not a priority on the Master Plan, and cannot address it until the 5 year mark. Paul asked Connor to check to see if it can be amended. As per discussion.

A motion to have Connor Nolan confer with Lehman & Lehman to amend the 5 year Master Plan was made by Paul Shinn. Seconded by Bob Cohn. Motion passed.

Keith Davison – revert to spring for Rebuilding Together. Looking for more volunteers, also asking for anyone to reach out if they need help.

Superintendent/Engineer Report

25 trees came in from NIPSCO. All but 3 have been planted, most in Dogwood Park. Removed evasive bushes and trees and replaced. Restrooms have been closed for the season with exception of Thomas Park, all porta potties removed as well. Still mowing and working on leaves. Softball tournament has been cancelled the last few weeks because of weather, rescheduled for this Thursday. Soccer season just ended. Removed bleachers at Dogwood East fields deemed hazardous. Repainted the bike trail crosswalk at Pearson Rd. Class of 1971 is donating a bench in Thomas. Memorial tree at Coffee Creek for Virginia Galvin. Starting to put up new Christmas tree, working out how to put up and get running. Spruce tree on the other side of gazebo will be decorated. Proposal submitted from Lake and Pond biologists for Coffee Creek pond next year, would get rid of all evasive plants, aerate pond and fish stock. Master Plan for Dickinson Rd from Lehman and Lehman submitted to Board. Park signs are being made for all parks with rules and hours and 411 tip line.

A motion to have Shane look into getting appreciation plaques was made by Bob Cohn. Seconded by Paul Shinn. Motion passed.

A motion to allow Shane to meet with Lehman & Lehman for a proposal on Dickinson Dog Park, subject to legal review, was made by Paul Shinn. Seconded by Bob Cohn. Motion passed.

A motion to authorize Shane to employ Lake and Pond biologists was made by Mark Dickinson. Seconded by Bob Cohn. Motion passed.

Glenn Peterson/John Rubble – SEH for Coffee Creek update. Take draft report under advisement, get in revisions. Will work with all groups for revisions and final report. \$10-\$15 Million in projects, need to prioritize, target grants for additional funding. Paul asked for potential grants and deadlines.

A motion to take the draft report from SEH under advisement was made by Bob Cohn. Seconded by Paul Shinn. Motion passed.

Comments from the Board

Mark thanked everyone who came in and had input.

Wendy asked how the vino event went, asked if all markets are over now. As per discussion.

Paul asked Shane to look for more pickleball locations. Would like to check out ValPawraiso.

Approval of Claims

A motion to approve November claims was made by Paul Shinn. Seconded by Mark Dickinson. Motion passed. November claims approved.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Bob Cohn. Seconded by Mark Dickinson. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

President
Wendy Marciniak

Date