

**Chesterton Park Department  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Those in Attendance:** President Candy Tucker, Secretary Paul Shinn, Member Mark Dickinson, Superintendent Shane Griffin, Liaison Jennifer Fisher, Town Attorney Connor Nolan, Administrator Hilary Thomas-Peterson

Candy Tucker 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 September minutes was made by Mark Dickinson. Seconded by Paul Shinn. Motion passed; September minutes approved.

**Comments from the Public**

Bob Cone – Sandpiper Dr. Rebuilding Together, thanked everyone who came to the Coffee Creek Park clean up Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Paul asked about the overlook. Starting to pull it out, as per discussion.

Gretta Burke – 2<sup>nd</sup> St. 15 year old lifelong resident requests that the Tennis courts be kept as is, read a letter and gave the Board a petition of names. As per discussion. Read a letter for the Chesterton High School tennis coach. Read a letter from Gretchen Shinn. Read letter from Tom Boar – coach. Read letter from Kyle Pro – coach.

Nicole Wood – Porter Ave. Read a letter from son regarding the tennis courts.

David Wells – Sawgrass. Thanked Shane for getting the pickleball nets. Plays 2-3 days in Chesterton. Cannot find any permanent nets in any other local parks. The pickleball group is not asking to take away tennis courts. But would like permanent nets be put into one of the tennis courts in Chesterton Park. Mark asked what the difference is between permanent nets and the temporary ones. Replied that the nets can blow over, and the pickleball lines in with the tennis lines can be confusing. As per discussion.

Greg Engels – Morgan Ave. Lives across the street from the tennis courts. He sees tennis players out frequently. Concerned that more things are being taken away from the youth. Suggested that a fundraiser be established to put in a new courts in town, instead of taking over current ones. As per discussion. Fencing was put up without permission, Candy instructed them to remove the fence.

Pauline Engels – S 18<sup>th</sup> St. Offered her opinion on the situation.

Bill Laster – Oakwood Dr. Explained that pickleball players are not trying to take over the tennis courts. As per discussion. Referenced the new court put in at Waskom Park, across 49, that people can go too. Looking to start a non-profit organization. As per discussion.

Lori Laster – Oakwood Dr. Presented board with a list of courts in the NWI region. Does not want to take anything away, but are looking for a home base. As per discussion.

Paul addressed the community involvement, but everyone needs to co-exist. What is in place now accommodates both tennis and pickleball players, and at this point there is no plan to eliminate a tennis court for a pickleball court. There is no money available at the moment to put in new courts. Everyone needs to work with each other, and it needs to remain first come first serve use of the courts. If time needs to be reserved for court use for a tournament, contact the Park office.

Candy – Fundraising has helped with beautifying the current parks. Referenced that DSC has put many hours and money to keep the soccer fields nice. Reiterated that everyone needs to work together. The sign issue was addressed. As per discussion. Mark also addressed the need for both groups to work with each other.

A motion to take the permanent pickleball court matter under advisement was made by Paul Shinn. Seconded by Mark Dickinson. Motion passed.

### **Superintendent/Engineer Report**

Shane addressed the rebuilding together project in Coffee Creek, good job done. Splash pad is closed for the season. Dunbar plaque has been hung in the new shelter. Also has been in contact with DNR and the Army Corp to obtain a permit for Coffee Creek. Finishing up Master Plan. Submitted a list of surplus vehicles for the auction to the Board.

A motion to add the three park trucks and one mower as surplus vehicles to the Town auction was made by Paul Shinn. Seconded by Mark Dickinson. Motion passed.

Shane asked how much square footage is needed for pickleball courts. 120 x 110 for 6 courts was replied by the public.

NIRPC counters would be provided with an 80/20 grant. The board needs to make a decision by Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>.

A motion to move forward with the trail counters with an 80/20 grant was made by Mark Dickinson. Seconded by Paul Shinn. Motion passed.

### **Comments from the Board**

Mark thanked Rebuilding Together for the great job at Coffee Creek.

Paul asked Shane about personnel for Spring. Would bring back last years help and hire a few more. Also suggested CREDIT funding for the overlook. Asked what the new vehicle rotation is. Asked for LEL property update. Shane stated that we are still waiting on the demolition to be done of the house. Connor also addressed.

Candy commended Shane on how good the parks looked this year. Asked that the features be waxed at the splash pad.

### **Approval of Claims**

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

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Paul Shinn. Seconded by Mark Dickinson. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Candy Inoke  
President

11-4-20  
Date