



Committee Members

Chairperson
Freedom Park Committee
Harold Mussman
West Creek Township

Executive Secretary
Alice Dahl
Cedar Creek Township

Lowell Town Council
LeAnn Angerman
Member

Freedom Park Board
Dan Kowalski
Member

Tom Sullivan
Park Superintendent

FREEDOM PARK

Freedom Park Committee Meeting

Tuesday, July 17, 2018

Meeting Start Time: 6:00p.m.

Call to Order followed by Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Members Present:

Alice Dahl, Dan Kowalski and Harold Mussman. LeAnn Angerman was unable to attend due to a prior commitment.

Also present, Clerk Treasurer Judy Walters, Town Manager Jeff Sheridan, Council President Chris Salatas and Councilman Will Farrellbegg. Dorothy Eich who serves on the Park Advisory Committee was present.

NUTOYS Representative Chuck Gardner was present and David McLean who represents the Disc Golf was also in attendance.

Park Staff present: Tom Sullivan, Mindi Buchler and Candy Johnson.

Guest Joy Sherman was present as a Rotary Club representative.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the June 19, 2018 Freedom Park Meeting minutes was made by Alice Dahl And seconded by Dan Kowalski.
Motion carried 3/0.

Review Freedom Park Claims:

Motion to approve the payment of Freedom Park Claims dated 07/09/2018 and 07/23/ 2018 "Accounts Payable" was made by Alice Dahl and seconded by Dan Kowalski.

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Reports:

Tom reported that all Freedom Park equipment is running well.

Old Business:

Dog Park Updates:

Candy Johnson reported that there are currently 94 members and total current revenue of \$3939.00.

Gazebo Update:

Tom reported that the new gazebo looks really nice. The "Rotary Organization" has planted flowers around the perimeter and shrubbery has also been added by Kevin Gray. Tom added that the sidewalk has been extended to the parking lot. He has also graded the parking lot. Tom advised that gravel will be needed soon so this is something to think about.

Alice asked Tom if he had found out the cost of providing electricity to the gazebo. Tom replied that the electrician had not been in contact. There was no other discussion.

Splash Pad Updates:

Chuck Gardner who is a representative for NUTOYS Leisure Products was present. Chuck advised that he has been with NUTOYS for 13 years and prior to that he was the Park Director at both Munster and in Crete Illinois. NUTOYS has been in business for 45 years and in the past 5 years they have acquired a "Splash Pad Company" named "Aquatics" which is located in Eden Prairie Minnesota. Chuck advised he had forwarded several splash designs along with pricing.

There are many different splash pad designs adding that there are almost endless options.

There are basically 2 different types of splash pads.

1. One type uses city water that drains away and;
2. The other option re-circulates the water that is used in the splash park.

Initially the drain away option is less expensive than the re-circulation design which does not waste water like the drain away system would.

Mr. Gardner advised that once we determine the size and features we would like to have in our splash pad, we can begin to determine what the actual cost of our "pad" will be. Mr. Gardner added that he has numerous catalogs available for us to compile a "wish list" for our proposed splash pad. We also need to determine the age of the children that we are targeting to utilize the pad. Then, we need to determine: Will the pad be staffed during hours of operation? If not, there are also timer mechanisms that can determine exactly how long the splash pad features will operate.

Chris Salatas discussed the matter of age limitations at the proposed splash pad. He stressed the importance of providing a splash pad that can be easily expanded to include all children from the very young to older youth.

(See attached "splash Pad" examples)

Discussion followed with regard to splash pad size and aesthetics. Mr. Gardner advised that once he has a better idea about desired amenities, he will be better able to quote the Committee a price for the cost of our "proposed splash pad."

Dan Kowalski asked about vandalism. Mr. Gardner advised that nothing is vandal proof but he feels that a splash pad is no more vulnerable than all playground equipment. Mr. Gardner said that

the more people utilize the splash pad, the more they care what happens to it. People take the time to report any problems or vandalism to authorities.

Mindi Buchler asked if there were any completed splash pads in the area. The closest would be Homewood Flossmore in Illinois.

Chris Salatas asked Mr. Gardner to attach pictures and approximate cost of those splash pads. Chuck advised that he would get that information to Chris.

Discussion followed with regard to "drain away or re-circulation" systems and which is most cost effective and the most environmentally friendly. With regard to the cost, re-circulation, it would initially cost 70% more than a drain away system. It would take several years (7 to 8 years) to re-coup those funds if you invest in a re-circulation system.

In other business, the Committee asked about the progress on the Park Master Plan. Mindi advised that she has a "partial draft" of the Master Plan that is avail for review.

There was no other discussion.

New Business:

Joy Sherman who is a Rotary Club representative met with Dave McLean. Two (2) trees were chosen from the park "preferred list" of trees and have been planted in close proximity to the Disc Golf course. Joy said the Rotary is hoping to generate more interest in the disc golf course out here at Freedom Park. Joy said that the Rotary is excited to become more involved in the Lowell community.

Joy advised that some time ago the Rotary had spoken with Jeff Sheridan about bringing the "Little Libraries" program to Lowell. She advised that they would like to begin with three (3) The Rotary would purchase the book containers. They would also clean, maintain and supply each "Library" with books for children and adults depending on the location. Discussion

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followed about where to place the Little Libraries. Some locations discussed

1. Freedom Park near the soccer fields
2. Moose Park
3. Gazebo at Freedom Park
4. Evergreen Park
5. Freedom Bark Park

Alice advised we are the Freedom Park Committee, and cannot speak for other Parks; however she thinks it is a great idea to bring something like "Little Libraries" to Freedom Park.

In other business, Dave Mclean was present to update us on the progress at the Disc Golf Course. Dave advised 10 of the T-signs are completed. Five more are at the printers. Dave also advised the 3 more T-Pads have been poured so the front 9 have been completed.

Dave also advised that Brian Cummins is holding a tournament on July 25 and 26th.

Alice asked if a portion of the funds generated by the tournament go back into Freedom Park. Discussion followed about a percentage of the entry fee would go back to Freedom Park for development. Discussion followed. Joy Sherman asked is there is a fee to play on the disc golf course. There is not, however there is a player fee when tournaments are held. Discussion followed.

Announcements & Correspondence:

Alice advised that this is Toms last Freedom Park Meeting. He is retiring at the end of July. He was presented with a "happy retirement" card. Also, delicious cake was enjoyed by all.

Public Comment:

None.

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Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by Alice Dahl and seconded by Dan Kowalski at 6:50p.m.