



#### 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 May 15, 2018  
6:00p.m.

Call to Order followed by Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Committee Members present: Harold Mussman, Alice Dahl, Dan Kowalski and LeAnn Angerman. Also present; Park Superintendent Tom Sullivan and Park Secretary Candy Johnson. Guests present were Dave MacLean and Town Council President Chris Salatas.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the April 17, 2018 Freedom Park Committee Meeting minutes was made by LeAnn Angerman and seconded by Alice Dahl.  
Motion carried 4/0.

Review Freedom Park Claims:

After review, motion to approve the claims from Accounts Payable 4/23/2018 and 5/11/2018 was made by Alice Dahl and seconded by Dan Kowalski. Motion carried 4/0

Reports:

Freedom Park Updates:

Tom reported that he has started mowing at Freedom Park and... is mowing with his new mower. Tom added that he mower is doing a great job.

In other business Tom is in the process of putting together the new skate park ramp and a skate type "picnic table". Both pieces of skate equipment have been donated by the Bergonia family in memory of their son Jacob Bergonia. Jacob was an avid young skater at the Freedom Skate Park. There will be a "Memorial Celebration" in loving memory of Jacob on Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup> beginning at 11:00a.m. at the Freedom Skate Park.

Please join us as we celebrate Jacobs' life.

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Old Business:

Dog Park Update:

Candy reported we have 78 current members and total revenue of \$3490.00.

Gazebo:

Tom reported that the gazebo is completed. Tom showed the committee members a photo of the completed gazebo which is beautiful. Alice also advised that "Big Jims" Concrete is going to give Alice an estimate to extend the sidewalk another 30 feet so the sidewalk will reach from the parking lot to the gazebo. Alice will let us know when she receives the estimate.

Bergonia Memorial Celebration:

Mrs. Bergonia is planning this celebration for her son's memorial celebration.

See reports.

New Business:

Disc Golf Course:

Dave MacLean was present to talk to us about future plans for the Disc Golf course. He advised that Brian Cummins, the fellow who spearheaded and designed the "golf course" has been very busy with other projects. Dave MacLean and Scott Drasba have stepped up and taken over the maintenance and development Disc Golf course.

Dave advised that they have started a "Thursday League" to bring people from all the area out to Freedom Park to see the course and be part of "League Night". Dave said that he and Scott have been making improvements and some changes to the course. Listed below, changes/improvements that they have made.

Change course from 18 to 21 hole course.

Made the course more challenging for players with a higher "skills set".

Discussion about the need for concrete "T Pads" followed. Dave advised that 4/5 "T Pads" have already been poured.

Discussion followed about projects that have been done to improve the course. Mr. MacLean asked if the mowing schedule could coordinate with the Thursday evening League play at the course. Tom advised that the mowing is "a weather permitting process especially at the north end of the course." Dave said that the League has grown to 20 members, up from 4 members. He added that they do give of their time by hand mowing and weed whacking the areas that the batwing can't reach.

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Dave also stated that he has received a lot of positive feedback from the public since they have begun making improvements to the course. Discussion followed about the lack of "T-Signs" on the course. (T-Signs are important because they show each player how the course progresses.

(These signs direct the player through the course.)

The original signage is beyond repair and definitely needs to be addressed.

Discussion followed with regard to the outdated signage that is currently at the disc golf course.

Dave brought an example of a "T-Sign" that he had made. The sign is made of stainless steel that he has provided. The cost of the printing is approximately \$35.00 per sign. (Sign longevity is approximately 20 years) and was completed by "Print Pro" in Crown Point.

Discussion followed

Committee member LeAnn Angerman thanked Mr. MacLean for all the work he and Scott have done on the course. She also thanked him for his expertise and his efforts to make the course a "Disc Golf" destination. She added that it is important to bring his improvement ideas to Tom or the Freedom Park Committee prior to completion.

Dave said that the most important golf course improvement at this time would be completing the concrete T-Pads and replacing the T-Signs on the course. LeAnn thanked Dave for his work in bringing league play to the disc golf course, adding that it is really nice to see the disc golf course being enjoyed and used.

Finance discussion followed. Dave advised that each member pays \$10.00 to play the course. \$1.00 of that goes into our "Club Fund". Dave advised that members have a chance to win money if they score for example, "a hole in one".

Discussion moved on. Alice asked what the cost of the concrete pad is. Dave figured about \$100.00 would cover the cost of the signage and the cost of the T-pad for each hole. Dave also advised that he receives a discount at Home Depot because he is a contractor by profession. Chris Salatas asked the total cost to update the entire golf course. Dave advised approximately \$2,100.00 would do the job. Tom asked Dave to stay in touch with him as the projects move forward. Tom advised that we do have the "quonset hut" out here at the park that can be used for storage.

A brief discussion followed about holding disc golf tournaments out at Freedom Park. Dave said that at this point, the park is not ready for tournament play.

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Once the concrete pads and T-signs are all completed; he can foresee tournaments (possibly 2 or 3) coming to Freedom Park. A brief discussion followed about the golf course generating revenue for Freedom Park.

Disc Golf Course continued:

Dave Asked about planting some trees at the course. Tom advised that there is a list of "native trees" that can be planted at the park office. The size of each new tree would have to be at least 2" in diameter to deter the "kritters" from munching on them. LeAnn asked Dave to be sure to keep the "committee" informed about what they want to do with regard to improvements at the course. Discussion followed.

LeAnn Angerman, along with Chris Salatas who was also present discussed the proposed "splash pad" for the Town of Lowell. LeAnn advised that several different locations have been discussed and Freedom Park has been chosen as the most viable location..

LeAnn advised that splash pads are very expensive, approximately \$100.00.00 for a small pad. The Town would be looking to fund the splash pad because the Town Council would like to provide this amenity for the community's children to enjoy. LeAnn advised they would be looking at placement of the pad north and west of the Freedom Park pavilion. All maintenance and water would be provided by the Town. There would not be any cost to Freedom Park.

Harold Mussman asked about insurance coverage. LeAnn said that the cost would be covered by the Town's policy. Harold asked if staff would be needed. LeAnn advised they are looking at a splash pad that runs only when someone is there to use it. In other words, a timer would be a part of the splash pad. Say someone sets the time for 15 minutes. The splash pad would operate for 15 minutes, then shut off automatically. If more time to enjoy is wanted, the timer can be set again.

Chris added this is the type of "operation" that St. John has and it works very well for the community.

LeAnn advised that those who took the "Park Survey" listed a splash pad as one of their top "wish list wants". This also included residents from West Creek and Cedar Creek. Discussion followed about the speculated size of the proposed pad.

LeAnn asked the Freedom Park Committee if they were interested in offering a splash pad out at Freedom Park. LeAnn also advised any decision about the splash pad would ultimately require approval by the Town Council.

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"Splash Pad discussion continued."

Chris Salatas also suggested that the Town would like to add another pavilion to the splash pad area to provide more shade for those who are enjoying the pad.

Alice Dahl advised that she would welcome the splash pad as long as there is no expense to Freedom Park. She welcomes amenities to Freedom Park for the community to enjoy.

Harold Mussman advised that he would be in agreement to having the splash pad at Freedom Park.

Discussion followed about providing a walking path to Freedom park from the down town area. Chris and LeAnn said that there has been extensive discussion about providing a path to Freedom Park. The costly problem is the "valley" that separates Freedom Park from the rest of the Town. Chris advised that the "valley" issue should have been addressed many years ago, prior to the development of Timber Springs, Freedom Springs and Heritage Falls subdivisions. Unfortunately, previous Town Councils did not address this issue and at this point it would be very difficult and expensive to correct.

Dan Kowalski suggested the splash pad be put in at Liberty Park where it is accessible and closer to the down town. Chris advised that prior to Liberty Park, the area served as a town dumping sight and not conducive to putting in a splash pad. He also added that this is also the problem with the foundation at the tennis court. A brief discussion followed.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn was made by Dan Kowalski and seconded by Alice Dahl at 6:52p.m.