



#### 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, June 19, 2018  
Meeting Start Time: 6:00p.m.

Call to Order followed by Pledge of Allegiance

#### Roll Call:

Members present: LeAnn Angerman, Harold Mussman and Dan Kowalski. Member Alice Dahl was not present.

Also present: Park Superintendent Tom Sullivan, Recreation Coordinator Mindi Arnold Buchler

Park Secretary Candy Johnson.

Guests present: Council Chairman Chris Salatas and Danny Nesterowski.

#### Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the May 15, 2018 Freedom Park Meeting minutes was made by LeAnn Angerman and seconded by Dan Kowalski. Motion carried 3/0.

#### Review Freedom Park Claims:

After review, motion to approve the Accounts Payable claims from the 05/28/18 and the 06/11/18 Town Council Meetings was accepted by LeAnn Angerman and seconded by Dan Kowalski. Motion carried 3/0

#### Reports:

Tom reported that the signs at the Bark Park have been updated. The existing signage was definitely in need of updating. In other business, the mowing is going very well thanks to our new mower. The mower just had its first 100 hour checkup and all is well. Tom also reported that he has

been doing some gravel work at Freedom Park, filling holes along the roadways.

Tom advised that we are in need of more gravel for the drive if our Freedom Park budget allows. Discussion followed with LeAnn asking Tom to check into pricing so they know the cost when looking at the budget. Harold asked if the Town stockpiles gravel and would Freedom Park be able to purchase gravel from the Town at a better price. Tom advised that he would need to check into all options and make a decision at the July meeting.

In other business, on May 26th the Bergonia Memorial service was held at the skate park in memory of Jacob Bergonia. Tom advised that at least a 100 people were present for the service. A new skate ramp and bench was donated to the Freedom Skate Park in memory of Jacob.

Old Business:

Bark Park Updates:

There are currently 86 members and total revenue of \$3670.00.

Gazebo Update:

Tom advised that the gazebo is up and looks great. He has received several phone calls from organizations that want help with donations of landscaping and preferred trees signage.

Tom also advised that the planned extending of the sidewalk from the gazebo to the parking lot still need to be completed.

At this time LeAnn Angerman made a motion to accept the gazebo as a gift to Freedom Park valued at \$21,144.00. The motion was seconded by Dan Kowalski. Motion carried 3/0.

Splash Pad Update:

Council President Chris Salatas and Mindi Arnold Buchler were present to discuss possible splash pad plans and ideas.

Splash Pad continued:

Since the Splash Pad will be located in Freedom Park, he asked what location the Freedom Park Committee feels would be the best location within the park. A map of Freedom Park was given to all members to help with the discussion of the best location of such a project. This map did not include the recently added gazebo.

Several locations were discussed including the proximately to the existing washroom facility and shelter.

The size of the proposed splash pad was discussed. The approximate size would be no larger than the skate park. Cost would be determined by size and nature of the water features. Mindi mentioned that the area should not be accessible to skaters and bicycles. Danny Nesterowski added that most splash pads have fencing around them to prohibit skaters and bikers from entering. Chris said he would like the splash to reach out to "special needs children", pre-school and elementary age children.

Discussion followed with regard to the cost and maintenance of the proposed splash pad, also design selection. Mindi Arnold suggested a "Naturescape" splash pad with "features" to accommodate children and adults of all ages and abilities.

LeAnn is concerned about the "aesthetics" of a splash pad with pipes coming out of the ground verses a more natural water feature. She also asked about the proximity of a shared washroom for use by people using the bark park or splash pad or the gazebo verses a portable toilet. There was also discussion about providing a sewer hook-up to the Town sewer system.

Harold Mussman advised that he would have to go out in the park before offering his impute for a splash pad location. Chris Salatas also said there are many factors that enter into the location of a splash pad. Harold suggested that members meet and physically walk selected locations and see which location would best serve the community.

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Chris Salatas and Freedom Park Committee discussed size and the amenities or water features that would make up the proposed new splash pad.

Discussion turned to the availability of washrooms at Freedom Park. The Bark Park currently uses a portable toilet and the existing permanent washroom would be too far away from the gazebo. With the hope that the gazebo will become a source of income for Freedom Park for weddings, it would be beneficial to have washroom facilities to accommodate the wedding party and wedding guests. The washroom could also serve the patrons of the splash pad. Discussion followed with regard to connecting a new washroom facility to the "towns' septic system." They also discussed the importance of the location of the splash pad.

Danny Nesterowski added that the splash pads that he has seen always are fenced so they can be closed to the public after hours.

New Business:

Lowell Youth Soccer/Danny Nesterowski

Mr. Nesterowski introduced himself. Since March, he has been the president of the Youth Soccer League. He said that he is interested in working with the parks in order to build youth soccer in our community.

Mr. Nesterowski advised that the "Hallmark soccer fields that are out by I65 charge \$25.00 for 2 hours of practice time on their fields. They charge \$40.00 if a game is played on their fields. He would like to see his teams play on the major fields here at Freedom Park. He advised they have their own goals. Dan added that there are 10 soccer clubs in northwest Indiana. Dan said that because they are a travel league, they don't always get to use the Hallmark fields when the league needs them.

Danny Nesterowski continued:

Mindy added that Dan has been involved with park soccer for many years; sometime coaching 3 teams at one time during the soccer season because he had 3 children playing in the program. His children then progressed into the travel leagues.

Mindy added that the hope would be to have league play at Freedom Park, which would bring revenue to Freedom Park.

LeAnn Angerman asked the age of the children in our parks soccer program. (4-14) the children in the Travel League are ages U8 (6-8, U10 (9-10 and U14 (11-14) they also keep score at games where the parks league only keeps score in the "major" division.

Harold asked Mr. Nesterowski what he is asking for tonite. Dan advised that they are currently playing games at Three Creeks but when they put in solar panels, the fields needed to be reconfigured and it was necessary to play games on the Hallmark fields. There is property out at Freedom Park that could be utilized for league play. Dan added that they have their own goals and would mow and paint the fields. Discussion followed about possible field placement. Discussion followed about possible field location. Mindy added that she feels it would be good idea to keep all soccer fields in the same area at Freedom Park. LeAnn asked how much area would be needed for fields. (100 yards by 60 yards) would be needed for a U14 field. He repeated that they have their own goals and paint their fields. Tom asked about field maintenance. The cost of mowing would be covered by field fees or Dan said they could contract out the mowing. League soccer also has its own insurance coverage. Mr. Nesterowski added that league play would bring players and their families to Freedom Park providing another revenue source. Also, leagues from other Towns may want to play games here, bringing in more revenue. Discussion followed.

Mr. Nesterowski added that his league will be holding a soccer camp at the end of July and he is looking for a place to hold this camp. The camp would be 5 days from 9a.m. to 12 noon Monday thru Friday and will be open to all players, not just his league. LeAnn asked the dates for the camp. (July 31 - August 4) Dan would hold this camp on our existing soccer fields. LeAnn asked if it would interfere with our park soccer, which it would not. Park soccer does not begin until the week of August 13. LeAnn asked if parking is adequate for this type of camp. Dan said they are expecting approximately 30 participants, so parking would not be an issue. LeAnn asked if there were any other events happening out at Freedom Park at the time when the proposed camp would be held, and there was not. LeAnn said ok, you are making 2 requests. Number 1 you want to hold this soccer camp out here at Freedom Park July 31 - August 4th and you want to have U14 league play at Freedom Park beginning August 1<sup>st</sup>.

LeAnn asked if it would be possible to approve the camp at this time. The more complicated issue of partnering with Freedom Park soccer seems complicated so I would like to hold off on that decision for now. LeAnn advised she would like to discuss that possibility further at our July meeting.

At this point LeAnn made the motion to allow the soccer camp to be held from July 31 - August 4<sup>th</sup>. The motion was seconded by Harold Mussman. Motion carried 3/0.

LeAnn asked about the donation to Freedom Park. Dan advised that if there are 30 children participating, the donation would be \$100.00 for the week (approximately 15 hours of field use. Dan advised they are a not for profit organization. The fee for the camp is \$99.00 and included a T- shirt. There was no other discussion.

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Announcements & Correspondence:

Chris Salatas advised that Tom Sullivan will be retiring the end of July (July 26) after 22 years. A brief discussion followed with Tom advising that once his retirement is finalized he would like to return as a part-time employee.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by LeAnn Angerman and seconded by Dan Kowalski at 6:52 p.m.