



FREEDOM PARK

Freedom Park Committee Meeting
Tuesday September 21, 2018
Meeting start time: 6:00p.m.

Committee Members

Harold Mussman
Chairman
West Creek Trustee

Alice Dahl
Executive Secretary
Cedar Creek Trustee

LeAnn Angerman
Lowell Town Council
Member

Dan Kowalski
Member
Freedom Park Committee

Mindi Arnold-Buchler
Director of Parks

Call to Order followed by Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Members Present:

Harold Mussman, LeAnn Angerman, Alice Dahl and Dan Kowalski.
Also present, Director of Public Works Kevin Gray, Park
Superintendent Mindi Arnold-Buchler and Secretary Candy
Johnson. Guest Dorothy Eich was present and Press Member
Jennifer Strate of the Lowell Tribune.

Approval of minutes:

Motion to approve the August 21, 2018 Freedom Park Meeting
minutes was made by Dan Kowalski and seconded by Alice Dahl.
Motion carried 4/0.

Review Freedom Park Claims:

Motion to approve the payment of Freedom Park claims dated
08/27/2018 & 09/10/2018. Motion to approve park claims was
made by LeAnn Angerman and seconded by Alice Dahl. Motion
carried 4/0.

Reports:

Freedom Park Updates:

The Girl Scouts have completed their donation to the Freedom
Park Bark Park. The Maintenance Department was able to
install the two pieces of agility equipment in the Bark Park.

Large Bark Park area: 3 piece "Hoop dog jump"

Small Bark Park area: 2 piece "Hoop dog jump"

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Updates Continued:

A thank you note has been sent out the Girl Scout leader, thanking all involved with the fundraising to purchase these agility pieces for our visiting pets to enjoy. Mindi advised that we will also get a thank you in the newspaper.

In other business Alice Dahl has a contact who is the UAW Ford Project manager. He is part of a group who repair handicap accessible ramps. They do not provide the materials, but they do provide the labor on these repair projects, both residential and commercial.

He has now drawn up two (2) different plans for our ramp. Mindi advised that she had the plans with her if anyone would like to look them over. Because the ramp is located on the north side of our building, it is exposed to the elements. Because the wood has not been maintained over the years, he suggested cleaning, power washing and then applying a heavy stain to the existing ramp. This would hopefully help to maintain the ramp for a couple more years. LeAnn asked if the ramp is currently structurally sound, and Mindi advised that it is, however it is in need of some TLC. Mindi advised that he also discussed a possible access point off the deck which also needs attention. This option would provide access through the door that is located on the east side of the building. They also discussed the entry point on the front of the building however a lot of work would need to be done on the concrete porch and the overhang.

Mindi added that Jeff Hall is not licensed or bonded and this sometime is a problem if he is working with municipalities. Mindi thanked Alice for reaching out to Mr. Hall adding that he has been very helpful. LeAnn asked if he had advised what the cost would be. Mindi advised that he has not since we have not decided on a repair option. Mr. Hall feels that a concrete

ramp would be our best option if we would be able to secure a concrete provider. Discussion followed. LeAnn suggested that Kevin Gray look at the ramp and offer his opinion. LeAnn then suggested that if the ramp is currently compliant and some cleaning and staining would extend the life of the existing ramp, LeAnn does feel that the hand rail may need replacement or possibly sanding the rail prior to staining would be a good option. Kevin Gray advised that he would look into the options. He also advised he has a good wood worker who is employed by the Town.

Mindi advised that we are going to be purchasing park software which will give the community the option of registering and paying for park programs, shelter reservation or bark park memberships.

LeAnn asked what the cost of software is. Mindi advised her best option would cost \$4900.00 per year with the ability to cancel at any time.

Discussion followed with regard to Freedom Park offsetting the cost of the software because of the Freedom Park shelter rental and Freedom Park Bark Park Registrations ongoing throughout the year. Discussion followed about the revenue that is generated at Freedom Park and the limited budget that Freedom Park has. After discussion, the Freedom Park Committee does not feel that it would be beneficial for Freedom Park to contribute to this software for the parks. Mindi repeated that she is not expecting Freedom Park to pay for half of the cost of the software, but was hoping that Freedom Park would contribute in some way. LeAnn feels that if all we are looking for is credit card processing, there must be a more budget friendly way of making this happen. Discussion followed.

Alice Dahl advised that the Lowell Garden Club has added more trees to the gazebo and completed some additional landscaping. Alice advised the gazebo looks really beautiful.

Alice also advised that Dorothy Eich is in attendance to once again request 2 free membership passes to be given out as prizes at the upcoming Barktoberfest. Also, Dorothy asked if just for the Barktoberfest, it would be ok to allow dogs to participate in the walk along with their owners which the committee agreed to.

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LeAnn made a motion to give 2 Bark Park passes. The motion was seconded by Alice Dahl

Old Business:

Bark Park Updates:

Current membership 107 members and current revenue \$4205.00

LeAnn asked if the gazebo was being rented out and what the rental fee is. Mindi advised that currently the gazebo is rented at the same cost to rent the pavilion which is \$60.00. LeAnn feels that \$60.00 is a great bargain for anyone wanting to rent the gazebo. Alice and Harold suggested that once the gazebo is totally complete we should revisit the rental cost for 2019. Discussion followed about ways to promote the gazebo. LeAnn asked Mindi to speak with Judy Walters with regard to who set the shelter rental fees. She asked this also be addressed on the October agenda.

Harold then asked about security since he and Alice are going to purchase the handicap swing for Freedom Park. The cost of the swing is approximately \$800.00 and there is a risk to anything that is placed in our parks. The existing swing targeted children 50 pounds and under. New swings Mindi suggested purchasing a swing made for children 2 -5 years of age. She advised she had gotten quotes from NuToys and Game Time and their prices were comparable. Discussion followed with Mindi saying that if Harold and Alice would like to wait till spring of 2019 to make the swing purchase, she will continue looking for less costly options. LeAnn suggested that the new swing could be removed during the winter months and reinstalled in the spring.

Splash Pad Update:

LeAnn advised that she did speak with the rest of the Town Council regarding placing the splash pad at other locations. All Council members would prefer the splash pad to be installed at Freedom Park. The Town is paying for the splash pad entirely and feel that the splash pad would be a

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great asset to Freedom Park. By bringing it to Freedom Park, water and electric would come to the location that the splash pad will be installed. Discussion followed. Alice and Dan agreed with the splash pad being put in at Freedom Park. Harold asked if a motion was need. LeAnn did not feel it was necessary at this time.

Security System & Policy Procedure Updates:

Discussion followed about the security system at the Bark Park. Mindi advised she has been in contact with 2 different companies searching out a better security system for the bark park. Mindi advised that the cost of these different systems is why we have the bark park access system that we have. Also, there is no electric at the bark park so we would have to rely on solar or battery power. Discussion followed about the revenue available for bark park improvement. There was also discussion about how to determine who is actually a member. Each member is given a lanyard with an ID card attached. We are not able to monitor whether or not members are wearing them when at the Bark Park Discussion followed. Part two of this discussion. Looking at the Freedom Bark Park Registration Packet: Page 1 and 2 remain the same Pages 3 & 4 address member etiquette while at the Bark Park. See attached. LeAnn asked if the Freedom Park rules and etiquette has been reviewed by the Town Attorney. Mindi advised she had not spoken to the attorney but had spoken with other towns in the area. LeAnn advised she would like to take time to review the paperwork. She also feels that the attorney needs to review the entire document and revisit this at our next meeting.

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New Business:

Skate Park Policy:

Current policy at the skate park is that no bikes are permitted. The issue that we do have at the skate park now is that bikes often come into the park even though it is posted. Mindi advised that she has been investigating the policies of other Bark Parks in the area. Most area parks permit bikes and skateboards in their parks.

Mindi has also checked into the existing equipment in the skate park and found that it is safe for both bikes and skateboards. Also, insurance does not increase if bike would be permitted. Mindi requested a policy change in the skate park where bikes would now be permitted to the skate park. Discussion followed with LeAnn concerned that bikes might take over the skate park. LeAnn advised she would like to investigate this policy change prior to a final decision. Discussion followed with LeAnn asking Mindi to check and make sure there is not an ordinance.

Announcements & Correspondence:

None

Public Comment:

None

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by LeAnn Angerman and seconded by Dan Kowalski at 7:10p.m.