

Freedom Park Committee Meeting
Tuesday October 16, 2018
Meeting Start Time: 6:35p.m.

Call to Order followed by Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Freedom Park Committee members present: Harold Mussman, Alice Dahl and LeAnn Angerman. Dan Kowalski was unable to attend due to illness. Also present; Park Director Mindi Arnold Buchler and Park Secretary Candy Johnson.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the September 21, 2018 Freedom Park Committee Meeting minutes was made by Alice Dahl and seconded by LeAnn Angerman. Motion carried 3/0

Review Freedom Park Claims:

Mindi advised that she had noticed that our batwing was repaired by Don Bales. The cost of the repair was mistakenly taken from Park Op when it should have been deducted from the Freedom Park budget in the amount of \$117.04

After further review of the October 8, 2018 Accounts Payable Register, Motion to approve was made by Alice Dahl and seconded by LeAnn Angerman. Motion carried 3/0

Reports:

Freedom Park Updates;

Mindi advised that we are at that time of the year where we are running short of funds to pay our part-time maintenance. Mindi

Page 2
Freedom Park Committee
October 16, 2018

advised she would like to make a recommendation to transfer funds from #301 professional services to part-time maintenance #114. Our maintenance person has 4 more weeks of maintenance. Rick Carlson works 2 days a week 16 hours per week. Most of his work time includes mowing at Freedom Park and some maintenance in the bark park. There is a need to also update the bark park rules which would be completed by the Town Attorney. We would like to update the rules for the bark park before the end of the year if possible and that would also be deducted from #301 Professional Services. LeAnn Angerman made the motion to move \$1200.00 from Professional Services to #114 Part-Time Maintenance for mowing purposes. The motion was seconded by Alice Dahl. Motion carried 3/0.

The Oktoberfest happened out here at Freedom Park, which was a very nice "host site" for this event. The weather was very cold and windy Friday evening. On Saturday the car show was very well attended. The following weekend was the Barktoberfest which was rained out on Saturday and held on Sunday at the Freedom Bark Park. Only a few vendors dropped out because of change and the turnout was still good on Sunday. Discussion followed about a person who lives on Morse Street target shooting during the time that the Barktoberfest was in progress. Discussion followed about the need to change the Lake County ordinance to prohibit target shooting on property that is adjacent to Town Parks.

In other business, there was also discussion between Mindi and Dorothy Eich about combining the Oktoberfest and Barktoberfest event.

Mindi discussed her idea to create a "community calendar" that would include the entire community. All activities would be posted on this calendar and would be maintained by Lowell Parks staff. This would raise the possibility of combining events to make them bigger and better than multiple small events.

Page 3

Freedom Park Committee

October 16, 2018

One more thing, Mindi advised that she had spoken with Brian Cummings. He announced that there will be a Disc Golf Tournament (The Freedom Classic) on November 4th at Freedom Park. With regard to the Tournament, Mindi has spoken with other departments who also have Disc Golf courses on their property. They actually hired a "manager" to oversee the schedule and maintenance of the disc golf course. He then turned over a percentage of revenue earned by providing a Disc Golf Course for interested parties. This has worked out very well for all involved. LeAnn asked what the cost would be to rent a shelter. Freedom Park shelters rent for \$60.00 per day. She asked that Dave McLean also be contacted and make sure that he and Brian Cumming are aware that any changes and additions to the disc golf course to be brought to the Freedom Park Committee prior to moving forward. LeAnn also asked Mindi to contact additional Departments and ask how much revenue is generated when they hold disc golf tournaments. Mindi added that Dave McLean is being groomed to take over for Brian Cummings with regard to overseeing the disc golf course in the near future. Discussion followed.

Old Business:

Bark Park Updates:

Current bark park members: 111

Total revenue to date: \$4355.00

Gazebo Update:

Please remove from agenda per Alice Dahl. This project has been completed.

Splash Pad Updates:

Harold Mussman asked if there were any splash pad updates.

LeAnn Angerman advised there is no new information at this time.

Page 4
Freedom Park Committee Meeting
October 16, 2018

They are still looking at the Freedom Park location, but there are additional needs such as restrooms which will be required. Harold Mussman asked if anyone has seen those large blow up pads for children jump on. (There is one down at Fair Oaks Farms) It is almost like an in the ground trampoline. Harold advised that Manteno Illinois just put one in. Alice asked the cost of something like that. Harold said he had not checked into the cost but thought it would be less expensive than a splash pad. Harold said that the pad at Manteno had a shelter over the top to protect it from the elements.

Discussion followed about providing a place for children to ice skate. Mindi advised that several years ago they attempted to flood the tennis court at Liberty, but that did not hold the water, it just ran off the court. Mindi said that since there is no skating on Evergreen Pond, there is a retention pond off Burr Street.. The retention pond is plugged during the cold weather months by the Water Department, but if there is not much rain or snow during cold weather months, it does not work well. Discussion followed about the City of Crown Points skating area. Discussion followed with everyone in agreement that a skating area is a great idea. They also discussed the sled hill at Freedom Park. Mindi advised that the sled hill is difficult to access during snowy weather, and she often recommends Liberty Park for sledding. LeAnn also suggested the Old Lowell Middle School hill. Mindi added that possibly the volley ball courts at Freedom Park could be utilized during the winter for skating since the volley ball courts are level.

Policy Procedure & Rule Updates for Bark Park:

Mindi advised that she would like to review and revise the Bark Park rules and regulations for the 2019 Bark Park season. (See Attached rule and revision) Page one of the rules written at the inception of the bark park. Page 2 was written following an incident that took place a few weeks ago at the Bark Park.

Skate Park Policy:

Mindi advised that there is no ordinance on record prohibiting bicycles in the skate park. This was a decision that was made when the skate park opened not to permit bikes in the skate park. She repeated that our insurance would not change by permitting bikes and NuToys where the ramps were purchased state that the ramps can accommodate bikes.

Mindi is requesting that bikes be permitted in the skate park. Alice suggested a trial period where bikes are permitted. LeAnn expressed concern that bikes would take over the park. Mindi advised that other skate parks in the area permit bikes and skateboards without problems. After discussion the motion was made by LeAnn Angerman to remove the "no bikes permitted" signage to permit bikes in the skate park. The motion was seconded by Alice Dahl. LeAnn asked to be kept informed if there are any problems with permitting bikes in the park. Motion carried 3/0

Little Library:

Mindi advised that she was approached by the Rotary Club had approached the Park Dept. about placing a "little library" out at Freedom Park. There is a prototype at Olde Towne Square located in the southwest corner. The Rotary will maintain the libraries where the public can take a book and leave a book for others to enjoy. The Rotary would like to put a library by the skate park with the option to move it to the soccer fields during soccer season. Discussion followed with LeAnn expressing concern about having a pole placed near the soccer fields. They also asked if the pole would need to be encased in concrete. Harold said he did not think that was necessary. The Freedom Park Committee agreed that they would like to have the "little Library" put in at the landscaping area by the bark park. Mindi added that our Street

Page 6
Freedom Park Committee
October 16, 2018

Department will be installing the library and that the Rotary will be making this donation to the Park Department. The library will be put on the Parks inventory and be insured by park insurance.

Option#2 Alice Dahl also suggested that the library could be placed near the skate park. Either option is approved by Freedom Park.

New Business:

Friends of the Parks:

Mindi advised she would like to form a group of about (10) people who are passionate about our parks and are willing to donate their time and skills to improve our parks. This would not be a 501(3)c, that may happen in the future. All volunteers would be background checked. This group of people would form "sub committees" where some might be interested in beautification of the parks, others might be interested in helping with community events or fundraising for the parks. LeAnn requested that Mindi keep the Freedom Park Committee informed about how this idea is progressing. There was no other discussion.

Alice asked that pea gravel be put under the shelters in the bark park rather than the larger rock gravel that is under the shelter currently. Mindi advised that the larger gravel was donated by the Gleaners. Mindi suggested reviewing replacement gravel as funds become available.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by LeAnn Angerman and seconded by Alice Dahl at 7:28p.m.