

Freedom Park Board Meeting
Thursday, February 16th 2023
4:30 pm at Lowell Town Hall

CALL TO ORDER FOLLOWED BY PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Heidi Laub called the meeting to order and led the meeting attendees in speaking the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL-Heide Laub, Alice Dahl ,John Alessia, Dorothy Eich and Cyndi Hughes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES-John Alessia made a motion to approve minutes from September 15th, 2022, and Alice Dahl second the motion.

REVIEW OF FREEDOM PARK CLAIMS- Everyone was given a current budget and old budget in the folder. Judy Walters explained the current and old budget and asked the board how they would like the money to be appropriated for the current year. All were in favor of splitting it between the Capital Fund and Employees' Salaries. It was indicated that the salaries for the seasonal employees would be raised to \$18 per hour.

REPORTS-Cyndi Hughes reported that the current Bark Park membership was at 25. She reported several complaints coming in from people concerned about aggressive dogs in the park and they may not be current members. Discussions were had regarding the passes being remade and visible. Also, signage needed regarding trespassing laws. It was indicated that all aggressive dog behavior needed to be reported to 911. The board unanimously approved monies being used towards the signage. Also, Kevin Gray updated the board that he has installed the new keypad and that it would be changed soon.

OLD BUSINESS

BARK PARK ADA IMPROVEMENT-

Craig Hendrix reported the update on the ADA Improvement projects and the bidding process was discussed.

PICKLE BALL COURT PROJECT STATUS-

After much discussion regarding how the project would be funded. It was decided that we would proceed with 4 courts and use stone in the lot and pave at a later date in order to complete this project this year. Some discussion was also had regarding the condition of the front lot and if it was possible to come up with more monies to get it re-done this season also. It was agreed that it would be looked at and future discussions would be had.

MAINTENANCE UPDATE-

Kevin Gray reported on the mowers and preparing for the upcoming season. He reported that we may need to anticipate more funding based on the fact that the equipment is aging and that the current mower came up higher than we anticipated.

EXERCISE EQUIPMENT-

Kevin Gray reported that it was installed and discussion was had regarding making a park map with instructions for the public.

PARK OFFICE DEMOLITION

Craig Hendrix reported that the demolition of the park office would be discussed in New Business

NEW BUSINESS

CUB SCOUTS CAMPING-

Cub scout leader Scott and his wife Breanne spoke regarding some past trips that the children enjoyed and the need for children to have this experience. They requested the use of Freedom Park for a overnight camp trip for the troop on March 17th 2023. They then expressed that the troop would be willing to volunteer whenever needed. Cyndi Hughes added that she spoke with the fire and police chief and they were both on board with the overnight event. The board approved the trip and some discussion was had regarding some ideas from all to help make the event successful. Motion to approve with no fee and future Volunteer work approved by Dorothy Eich and seconded by John Alessia.

PRESENTATION OF FUNDING GRANT FROM AMERICAN WATER-

At this time American Water presented the Town Of Lowell with a check for \$5000 to cover the cost of the utility lines for the demolition of Freedom Park house. It was then discussed that the house would be demolished after this work was completed.

BARKTOBERFEST DONATION-

Dorothy Eich presented the Town with a check for \$1000 from the Barktoberfest she hosted last October. She also requested to use the park again for October 7th 2023.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be held on April 11th 2023 at 4:30pm at Town Hall

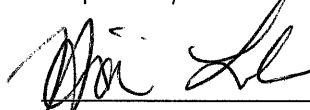
PUBLIC COMMENT

Much discussion was had regarding the current situation at the dog park. Members, had concerns regarding the code not being change and the conditions at the park. Also, aggressive dog behavior from non-members. The public was then told to dial 911 in this event and that our police chief is award of the situation

ADJOURNMENT

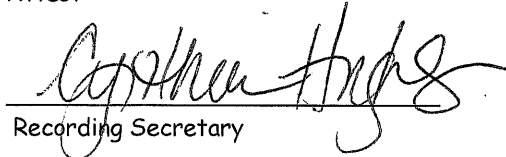
John Alessia made a motion to adjourn at 6:11 pm. Dorothy Eich second the motion. Motion carried with four in favor, and none opposed.

Respectfully submitted:



Heidi Laub, Chairperson

Attest:



Recording Secretary