

Parks Committee December 17, 2007

Bill Becker called the regular monthly Parks Committee meeting to order at 7:00PM in the meeting room at the Town Hall. Present Bill Becker, Mark Franke, Mike LeClair, Mike Parent, James Rossol, Jane Pluff & Douglas Smith. Absent Robert Schultz.

Clerk verified posting. Motion made/second Mark/Mike P. to accept the agenda. Carried.

Accept minutes – Correction of name in Citizen Input section of the minutes from the October meeting. Deputy Clerk made the correction in the minute book the following day. Motion made/second Jim/Mike L. to accept minutes with the correction. Carried.

Citizen Input – Mike P. asked if the room tax money will be talked about by the Parks Committee at all. Clerk explained Town Board will be talking about this after the first of the year.

Update on Anclam Park if any – Jim and Bill attended the October Town Board meeting that involved the Anclam Park project and Miller Engineers (official name of company; not “Miller & Associates”). They got a blueprint of the potential plans. Both Jim and Bill had questions as to where the sand dunes are going to be installed. The blueprint has elevations and it looks like to dunes could be about 6 feet tall. Jim and Bill voiced a concern as to what their ideas potentially were for the parking lot area and the open area. Another thing Jim found surprising is the time table. The major work isn't going to be done until 2009 and the final plan won't be completed until June 2008. Clerk stated the Vortek unit, which will be located in the parking lot area, will be worked on in late 2008. Some of the concerns with the dunes are that once they're there, the DNR won't let anyone do anything with them. The feeling is that if there isn't some input from the town as to what it's going to become and they stick the sand dunes there, we won't be able to touch them. The purpose of the sand dunes is to help break up the erosion of the water runoff. If the area is going to be landscaped and made more park-like, we'll have to work with the town board as the plans go on.

Jim stated that it didn't seem like the board was really objecting to anything that was presented in the potential plan. It seemed like they just accepted this as what was going to happen, so Jim was happy him and Bill were at the meeting. Jim also stated it would be nice if they asked for our input going forward. It wasn't clear to Jim that they were necessarily going to do that. That was just his feeling about things.

As for the jetty, there really wasn't any plan for that. As the project progresses, there will be some more meetings with Miller Engineers. Jim stated they said the print would be on their website ([startwithmiller.com](http://startwithmiller.com)). Mark asked if the jetty served any purposes other than the fireworks and the benches that are out there. People walk and fish out there. Looking at the current plans, it doesn't really look like it will be accessible by vehicles. The fireworks wouldn't necessarily have to be shot from that point.

The main concern for Miller is to run the storm sewer. What the committee is hoping is, as they're putting it in, the committee can work with them. Bill's personal opinion is there needs to be a plan to make things useable and not really worry about fireworks.

There were some plans drawn up a few years ago that included a boardwalk on the jetty with a gazebo on the end. Clerk retrieved plans from protected records room. Committee would like that plan to be taken into consideration as the project continues. This will be on the agenda at the next meeting.

Update on Kendall Park if any – Mats will be going in this spring. Bill reported that Brian Flannigan assured the BHCA that they are refurbishing some of the old beer wagons and they will fit under the pavilion.

Management Plan for Rec. Park – Back in September, Parks Committee received a letter from Jim Parent going over the goals for the Rec. Park. The goals are to maximize the use of the facility, to present a management plan to the Town Board, and itemized budget requests. Bill drafted his thoughts on a management plan and handed it out to everyone. Plan is in minute book. Bobby and Bill had talked to Don Haen several years ago. He took care of things at Sevastopol Town Park. He made sure concession stands were stocked, there were people to run the stands, etc. Bill put together a proposed fee schedule. Mike P. said overall he agrees with almost everything on page 2 (the fees). The one question he was regarding that each team will receive 25% of the gross proceeds for their personal use. Mike asked if that also means the women softball team. The answer is, yes, any team. Bill's thought was that each team needs funds for bats, balls, etc. Bill's thought was to also do a 50/50 split from concessions for the A's because they help fund some of the other teams. Markup on concessions is roughly 50%. Jim asked that if we pay the umpires out of concessions and then split it 50/50, wouldn't we be losing money? When Bill says "roughly" he means that some things are 50%, others are a lot higher than that. For instance, a can of beer costs us about \$.80. We charge \$1.50. But hot dogs and brats are a whole lot higher.

For volunteers, the only policy is that it's not there to feed their entire family. Clerk asked if there should be a policy saying everyone should pay. Bill feels in any volunteer situation, there is always a risk of stolen products/money. It's hard to police it. Mike P. feels the policy should be consistent and everyone should pay for it.

Another concern for Mike P. is regarding the Jr. & Sr. Legion teams. The Jr. Legion will be calling Baileys Harbor their home field, if it happens. He is concern about the Sr. Legion; they will only be here for maybe two games. One party is trying for more but is facing some resistance. Mike doesn't feel it would be a great idea to hit them with a fee charge if we are trying to get them here to play some games. They are not charged at Sevastopol to play their games. Bill stated there is a lot of friction from the Northern Door Legion. Since they most likely won't be playing here this year, we should probably just take them off the management plan. If they do end up playing a game or two, we could just absorb that cost. Jim said since the overall goal is to get the park utilized as much as possible, an option would be to let them use the field for free, to entice them to

come, but keep the earnings on concessions. Or we could charge them, but the more they use the field, they'd get a rebate. Mike P. will talk to one of the representatives before the next meeting.

No soccer games for the soccer field yet. Bill met with Mr. Knutson from the high school and Blake Siefert of Soccer Elite to talk about possibilities. Bill told Knutson if they wanted to come up with some kind of proposal or plan, they should go ahead and do that. Tournaments cannot be played at Gibraltar anyway, because they do not have a regulation field. Mike L. said all of Nor-Door Football might be moved over here (5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade), so we should think about a user fee for that. The school wants to start charging \$200/game. Mike P. said to look at what the cost is to line the fields and water them. Mike L. would like to see the concession stands open.

Bill stated he has kind of a problem with user fees for the A's, because they really built that field. The town didn't really stick any money into it until last year. It was all done by Joe Parent and his employees. Bill said it's sort of the same thing with the soccer field. Clerk stated the soccer field was not all donated and that there was a very large sum of money that came out of the Town's general fund to build it. Jim asked how competitive our fees are. Unfortunately, Sevastopol is the only other one to have a similar fee structure. Nobody else really has this type of scenario. Sevastopol charges \$100/day for the entire park and \$10/team. Softball teams' sponsors pay \$15/game with a one-time roster fee of \$10/person. Institute Cubs pay \$50/game, plus one-time fee of \$10/player. When the A's played a home game at night, they were charged \$100.

Bill explained some of the reasoning behind his ideas for fees. Since the A's generally make more money, Bill put their fees a little different than he did for the Babe Ruth.

Nor-Door Football would mostly be Saturday games, with a few on Tuesdays. There would be 4 home games. Practice would be three nights per week, starting in the middle of August. Clerk reminded everyone that the park is rented for a family reunion on June 21, 2008.

As for lights on the field, the July WPS bill was approximately \$340, August was \$459, September was \$330. That's the total light bill for the whole facility. It doesn't break down the baseball lights. Clerk doesn't remember the bill ever being over \$300 in prior years, before the baseball lights were installed.

Back to the Nor-Door Football, committee will have to think about a fee for them. Mike L. will be getting together with the other members after the first of the year. He's hoping some guys could get together and build a press box, or donate a score board.

Jim thinks rather than wait for the principal of Gibraltar to come to us with something, we should put something together and try to sell it to him. We could put together a package saying if they come with the soccer team, and then also bring in football and baseball, we could give them some kind of bigger incentive. For Nor-Door, having the concession stand would be nice, but if not, they could get the booster club wagon as long

as there is power out to the field. At Memorial Field, Bill thinks if the Babe Ruth plays there, it's \$10/player. Nor-Door would have to be responsible for finding officials and manning the concession stand. Concession stand sales would probably be either 25/75 or 50/50. Jim thinks there should be a rule stating the concession stand split cannot be used to pay the user fees. Bill said user fees would have to be paid at the beginning of the season. As for how much the fee would be for soccer and football, we'd have to keep it the same for both. We can't really change the fee from one sport to another. One issue that might have to be addressed at some point is the concession stand if there are two different games going on. Mike P. thinks we should just get someone out there to play. Try \$10/person for this year and see what happens. People just want to see the field being used right now. Bill suggested removing the section regarding high school practices etc. and just give them a user fee. Age restriction should be deleted as well. Regarding the section about "outside teams," Bill explained that was for games such as the Door County League All-Stars, which is a night game.

Jim said since we've established user fees, we could maybe take those fees and market them further than just Door County. Maybe there are other high schools or teams that would want to come up here and have a special tournament, since Door County is a tourist destination. We could perhaps tie it in with lodging or some other attractions. Once the framework is in place, we could a direct mail piece to football/baseball directors in other counties throughout the state. Might not be much return, but it would show an effort to market the facilities.

Mike P. discussed revising and bringing back the fee page to the next meeting. Jim seconded a motion, but after reviewing the tape, no motion was made and Bill did not take a vote. The general consensus was that it was a good idea, which is fine, as no motion was required.

Mark Franke abstained from the following discussion.

Bill's thought is to hire a Recreational Park Director. Job description is in minute book. The person would basically handle everything to do with the Rec. Park. Person would open bathrooms in the morning, clean them, pick up garbage, cut the grass, get the fields ready, order and stock the concession stand, mark the fields and keep a schedule of all events being held at the Rec. Park. Bill had the Clerks get him all of the hours that were worked at the Rec. Park by town employees for the past year. There were 827 hours. That comes out to 20.7 weeks at 40 hours per week. Hourly wage wouldn't really work because there would be overtime. It would have to be a salaried position. Bill's idea is to recommend to the Town Board that they hire Mark Franke as the Recreational Park Director, because he's involved with so many activities out there already. At the end of the Rec. Park season, Mark would go back to being regular maintenance, still at full time. Bill had a talk with the Town Chairman who said there could be some shifting around for maintenance people. Bill feels there should be a bonus system in place for when the person goes out of their way in scheduling different events.

Mike P. asked if that sort of thing was allowable. Clerks weren't sure, but will consult with auditors or attorney. Jim does like the idea of a bonus. His idea is to have a bonus pool available. For example, if you're supposed to run 2 tournaments and end up running 4, you'd get a percentage. For the most part, everyone agreed on the description, aside from the bonus. Jim said it could be phrased "year-end bonus should be paid based upon established management objectives" and then list the objectives. Clerks will find out if a bonus would be allowable and let Bill know. Based on what the answer is, Bill will decide if we change the wording or strike out the bonus section all together, as well as if the Parks Committee should have a joint meeting with the Town Board. If there would be a joint meeting, it would tentatively be scheduled on January 8, 2008.

Motion made/second Mark/Mike L. to adjourn at 9:30PM. Carried.

These minutes are subject to correction at the next regular monthly Parks Committee Meeting.

Douglas Smith  
Deputy Clerk