

Parks Committee September 17, 2007

Bill Becker called the Parks Committee meeting to order at 7:00PM in the meeting room at the Town Hall. Present Bill Becker, James Rossol, Michael LeClair, Mark Franke, Robert Schultz, Jane Pluff, Doug Smith and 2 visitors. Absent Michael Parent.

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

Accept minutes – Under the “Update on Rec. Park” section from the previous meeting, it states that Jim Rossol felt the fitness walk area should be considered for the budget. He wanted it on record that he was talking about the picnic area that was mentioned at a prior meeting. Motion made/second Mark/Jim to accept the minutes. Carried.

Citizen input – None.

Jerry Smuda – Discuss dog park – Jerry lives on Thimbleberry Lane. He has a 2 year old black lab that needs a place to play. He has talked to Bill about it in the past and presented him a map of where he thought a good one could be located. He recently put a notice on the bulletin board on the post office to ask for signatures in favor of a dog park. He got about 17. In the suburbs of Chicago, the parks would have numerous, huge areas for dog parks. They had acres and acres of land because of the forest preserves. The dog parks were used extensively. Users would get a permit to use them and there was an annual fee. In addition to finding a place and building a dog park, the town would have to consider if there should be a fee, and make sure the dogs that use it have their shots. Since we currently get dog licenses from the town perhaps that could entail some methodology for having a permit for a dog park. The dog license requires that they do have the shots, so that would take care of that part. Another question would be if visitors staying at motels and campgrounds would be allowed to use and how that would be handled. Jerry’s idea was off the left field fence at the ball diamond at the rec. park. However, the committee thinks that might not be a good place for it because of the proximity to the children’s playground area. Jerry asked how the process for getting this approved works. Bill explained that the committee gathers information and then relays their suggestions to the Town Board. Jerry went on the Internet and got some information from the Lake County Forest Preserves and some of the dog parks there. For Lake County residents it’s \$44 for the first dog and \$18 for each additional dog, both annually. There’s a big list of rules and regulations. Jim Rossol has also gathered information. Bill does think a dog park would be a good idea. However, after discussing it earlier in the year, it was decided that the ball park really wouldn’t be the best place because of the chance of dogs getting excited during a game with everyone running and just the game itself being played. Bill and Mark thought a good spot might be an area by the old town dump on Highway 57 because it’s far enough away from a lot of activity. One thing that was in the information mentioned was that in Chicago, every dog park needs a community organization to sponsor it. It also sounded like there was someone always there to be a sort of “police officer” of the park during the times it was open. From the information Jim got on the Internet, it seemed like the park would have to be very heavily regulated and there would have to be very specific rules with signage. Then there has to be personnel to enforce the rules. If the rules are not enforced, then liability could be transferred from not just the person with the dog that’s acting out, but also to the

municipality that wasn't enforcing the rules at the time. Generally, it seemed like the user group was responsible for doing this sort of thing. Bob agrees the old town dump is probably the best spot for it. Jane reminded everyone that the road going to the dump is an easement, so it can't be figured into the plans. Jerry will contact Mark Franke to take a look out there someday. Jerry will also pick some names from the list to try to create a group and they will work on cost as well as ideas for rules and regulations. The original plans were for 21,000 square feet. Jim mentioned that in one of the articles it stated that any fencing would have to be high enough so dogs couldn't jump over it, as well as buried into the ground so they can't dig under it. As to who would cover the initial cost, that would have to be discussed in more detail once we have some numbers to look at. Bill suggested talking to the Village of Sister Bay, as they've just created a dog park.

Update on Anclam Park/Budget Suggestions – Mike LeClair & Jim Rossol – Bill asked some general questions about budgets before they got too deep into everything. He was wondering why the Rec. Park has a personnel account when no other park does. Clerk explained that they wanted to have a better grasp on how much time was being put into everything out there and it was easier for Bob to keep track so he could do his budgets with a little more ease. As for Anclam, Bill met with Mark to get some estimates. He also prepared an itemized sheet with everything that could potentially be done along with their individual cost. The teeter totter needs new wood and paint. The Anclam Park signpost is rotted at the bottom and loose and the sign could use some freshening up. The mulch at the playground equipment doesn't have edging so it tends to creep into the grass. The perimeter of the areas is 160 feet. Jim was thinking something along the lines of edging timbers of some sort, like railroad ties or landscape timbers. Steps to the playground area could be extended, which would include removal of a half dead spruce tree, some 6x6's and a quarry wash. On either side of the steps, it's overgrown. Jim contacted Caleb Whitney for some quotes, which will be included in the minute book. The walkway could be extended from the restrooms to the patio area. One idea was flagstone with quarry wash. It would be two sections, one from the bathroom to the patio and one from the patio to the steps. One thing that wasn't included on the estimate lists was doing something with the lift station, to make it blend in a little better. That's a bigger project. Clerk reminded them that the entrance has to stay open. Back to the list, A.C. could be run to the low voltage transformer. Low voltage lighting could be installed along the new pathway. It would be a good idea to put a fence up along the bluff, which would be about 140 feet. They figured material and labor at \$100 for a ten foot section. A low capacity water heater along with a sink for the equipment room could be installed in the bathrooms. Playground area could use some additional benches. The fencing along the bluff would not only look good, but it would be a wise idea to put something there from a safety standpoint. In 2006, \$5150 was spent at Anclam. The budget was \$3500. This year, Anclam has \$4000 budgeted and \$3700 is spent as of the end of August. The reason for the overage in 2006 was we had Harbor Const. do some clean up. A draft copy of the Anclam Park Budget Estimates will be placed in the minute book. Line item 12 will be scratched, because benches are usually donated. Caleb explained that the estimate he gave contains a significant amount of maintenance, some of which might be able to be done by town employees. Jim said the Woman's Club of Baileys Harbor, in their August meeting, set aside \$1500 for the Parks Committee to spend whenever we thought was a good time to spend it. Mike LeClair said he would donate the running of the A.C. and the installing of the low voltage lighting. Caleb mentioned

the Community Association might be willing to give \$1000. Walkways and paths will come out of sidewalks. Motion made/second Jim/Mike to recommend to the Town Board that the 2008 budget for Anclam Park be \$10,000. Carried.

Update on Rec. Park/Budget Suggestions – Mark Franke & Mike Parent – Mark prepared a sheet that will be in the minute book. He got soffit price estimates from two local contractors, prices for the electrical for the soffit and an estimate on repairing the roof. During the summer when Mark and Jeff were cleaning, there was about a three week period where there was a lot of dampness in the bathrooms. He was thinking an air-to-air exchange might be needed. The new insulation might help, but we won't know for sure. Dehumidifiers might even work. New tarps for the ball field will be needed. Football/soccer goals; possibly remove the donated goals and just buy new combo goals with nets. The donated bleachers will need planks, hardware and paint. Fields will need paint. Mark also has an idea for the location of the picnic area. An aerial shot with it outlined is in the minute book. It would be on the north side of the soccer/football field. Estimates would need to be done for cleaning out the woods and pathways. Grills and picnic tables would be needed, with quarry wash under the grills. One of the paths would be drivable in order to bring in equipment. The cleared out area wouldn't have to be that big to begin with because it would easily expanding. Even 100 feet by 100 feet would be ok. Water lines into the baseball fields could be a possibility. Another thing that was brought up was getting a port-a-potty for the fall/winter months after the bathrooms are closed up because of the recycling program twice a month. The old bathrooms were usable because they were simply pit toilets. Motion made/second Mark/Jim to recommend to the Town Board that the 2008 budget for the Rec. Park be \$28,000. Carried.

Update on Kendall Park – Bill Becker & Mark Franke – Bill sees three items that could use attention. Bill verified with Clerk that all of the general maintenance comes under other areas. The mats will be put in this fall or early spring. Another item is fixing the drain on the fountain. Mark thinks it just has to be dug up. Bob mentioned that the old storm sewer pipe should be fixed up too. Bill's last item was mats for the merry-go-round and maybe the slide. Bill measured the merry-go-round and measured the mats for under the swing. Four of them would cover the area under the merry-go-round. Figure around \$1500 for the mats. Motion made/second Bill/Mark to recommend to the Town Board that the 2008 budget for Kendall Park be \$2000. Carried.

Discuss/decide cutoff time for future agenda items – Cutoff time for future agenda items will be the preceding Thursday at 9AM.

Motion made/second Mike/Mark to adjourn at 9:00PM. Carried.

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

Doug Smith
Deputy Clerk