

## City of Columbus Park Board Meeting

October 17, 2013, 6:30 p.m.

### Call to Order

Terry Phinney called the meeting to order at 6:43 p.m.

### Roll Call

Members Present: Andrea Messina, Bob Bodene, Jim Ingalls and Terry Phinney.

Members Absent: Sandie Wood and Marilyn Didling.

Also Present: Council Member Jeff Duraine, City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko, and Secretary Karen Boland.

### Approval of Minutes

Jim Ingalls made a **motion** to approve the August 15, 2013 minutes. Second by Bob Bodene. Motion was approved.

### Agenda Additions or Deletions

None.

### Treasurer's Report

Park Fund ending balance for 7/31/13	\$55,329.91
Park Capital Fund ending balance for 7/31/13	\$19,702.82
Park Land Fund ending balance for 7/31/13	\$17,430.02
Park Fund ending balance for 8/31/13	\$49,694.49
Park Capital Fund ending balance for 8/31/13	\$19,946.83
Park Land Fund ending balance for 8/31/13	\$15,447.63
	(after Century Fence expense)

### City Administrator/PW Superintendent's Report

#### a) Council Action on Field Rental Increase

The City Council accepted the Park Board's recommendation to increase the ball field rental fee from \$10 to \$15 per four-hour block. This increase will take effect on January 1, 2014.

#### b) Council Action on 2014 Budget

In August, the City Council accepted the Board's parks budget recommendation as presented. Elizabeth does not anticipate changes, but the final levy will not be adopted until December.

## New Business

### a) Field Activity & Maintenance Discussion

Elizabeth handed out a breakdown of reserved field usage for each month from April through October during 2013, by field. There were a total of 252 ball-field reservations made during these months: 12 in April (the late spring was noted), 70 in May, 70 in June, 59 in July, 9 in August, 24 in September, and 8 in October.

Previously, the Board agreed to look at the possibility of cutting costs by reducing dragging and chalking of the fields from twice a week during peak season, to less during slower-use months. Ryan contracted in 2013 to drag the fields twice each week April through September. Elizabeth suggested that if changes are to be made, this decision should be made early, so that it is known before bids are taken.

After discussion, the Board asked Elizabeth to present to the contractor a change in the job bid. They wish to cut back to no chalking in the months of August and September, and dragging the fields just once a week during those months. If extra chalking or dragging is needed on occasion, it could be charged at the contractor's hourly wage. Elizabeth and Jim plan to meet with Ryan later this year, and will propose this to him.

### b) Increase Size of Parking Lot Areas

Mayor Povolny asked the Board to consider increasing the size of the parking lot area at Columbus City Park due to the volume of cars on days when the fields have heavy use and lots fill up. The Board felt that some lots are not utilized, and that there is no room to expand the main parking lot. They also felt it would be too costly.

## Old Business

### a) Park Maintenance Contract

Elizabeth said the mowing contract will continue through 2014. The park maintenance contract was only through 2013. Public Works will cover garbage removal, and any necessary plowing of the trail through the remainder of the year. As discussed in item (a) of New Business, the Board suggested some changes to the amount of ball-field maintenance for the next contract.

Elizabeth said the City Council will need to decide how park maintenance will be covered for 2014.

b) Timber Barrier Alternatives

The Board said that before taking up existing timber barriers, they want plans for a solution to keeping park users safe, and discouraging field vandalism. The Board previously discussed that along 165<sup>th</sup> street a number of large pine trees near the T-ball field act as a barrier. Adding a half-dozen posts on that side, between the trees and the parking lot, may be enough to remove the telephone poles, without a large expense. Jim Fraley will check to see if the trees behind the t-ball field provide enough of a barrier along 165<sup>th</sup>. Board members said they, too, could take a look at how much area needs to be covered there. Over the winter, the Board will consider low-cost, low-maintenance alternatives to the timbers along Kettle River Boulevard between the playground and the trees.

c) Phase 3 of the Playground Installation

Phase 3 is in. Elizabeth said lots of kids were using the playground equipment during Fall Fest. Elizabeth forgot to ask Jim Fraley if the bearing issues have been resolved.

Next Meeting

The Board elected not to meet in November and December. The next meeting will be January 16, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the Public Works Building.

Adjourn

Jim Ingalls made a **motion** to adjourn. Second by Andrea Messina.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Karen Boland, Recording Secretary