TOWN OF SCHERERVILLE SCHERERVILLE, IN
REGULAR PARK BOARD MEETING APRIL 6, 2022

The Regular Park Board Meeting of the Town of Schererville, Indiana, was called to order by President Brad Bassick at 6:00 p.m. in the Schererville Town Hall, 10 East Joliet Street, Schererville, Indiana.

The Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance was taken with the following Board Members present: Brad Bassick, Tom Malinowski, Ed Repay, Joe Skvarek and Nicole Kelly. Staff members present: Superintendent John Novacich, Administrative Coordinator Irene Mireles, Attorney Christian Bartholomew, Councilwoman Robin Arvanitis, and Recording Secretary Kristen Bohling.

THEREUPON, Approval of minutes for March 2, 2022 and March 18, 2022 Special Meeting

Mr. Malinowski made a motion to approve the minutes from March 2, 2022 and March 18, 2022, seconded by Ms. Kelly. All in favor (5-0).

THEREUPON, Donations

Mr. Novacich said the donation from James Sessa for $1,750.00 is for a sponsorship for a bench for the bike trail. He said the donation from Crown Point Community Foundation for $538.78 is annual distribution from the Park Foundation Fund that is being held by the Crown Point Foundation.

Mr. Skvarek made a motion to accept the donations from James Sessa and the Crown Point Community Foundation, seconded by Mr. Repay. All in favor (5-0).

THEREUPON, Correspondence NONE

THEREUPON, Reports

ITEM A. Staff

Mr. Novacich said that the trees were removed from the Pennsy Trail Project site and a preconstruction meeting is coming up with the contractor. He said the Gariup has been made some progress with the Rohrman Playground project. Mr. Novacich said the sign was put in at Scherwood Park and the bottom skirt will be put on, once the power is connected and tested. He also said there is a preconstruction meeting for the Splash coming up with the contractor, Public Works, and the engineer. He said he received a Certificate of Insurance from Joe Duncan for the Disc Golf Tournament. He also said that there is a purchase order for Sportsfields to redo the fields at Stephen Park.

Ms. Bohling reported on Community Center and Picnic Shelter rentals.

Ms. Mireles reported on Rohrman Ballfield rentals this year.

Joshua Barnes, Recreation Coordinator, reported on upcoming events, camp sign-ups, and revenue brought in so far this year.

THEREUPON, Old Business

ITEM A. Softball Lease

Ms. Mireles said that the board for Girls Softball will be meeting over the weekend and will discuss the lease. She said there are no changes expected.

ITEM B. Soccer Lease

Ms. Bohling said the Schererville Soccer's board meeting is next week and they will review the lease agreement then.

Mr. Malinowski asked Attorney Bartholomew if the changes discussed at the last study session were made to the leases. Attorney Bartholomew said that the changes discussed to incorporate the late fees were made.

Mr. Malinowski made a motion to allow the Park Board President to approve the Girls Softball and Schererville Soccer leases, contingent on no changes made from their boards. Mr. Repay seconded the motion. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM C. Splash Pad

The Board decided to come back to this topic later in the meeting.

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. Consider Waiver of Special Event Fee – Tri Town Safety Village

Bill Jarvis, Executive Director of the Tri-Town Safety Village, approached the Board to request the fees for the event that was approved on July 17. Mr. Skvarek asked Mr. Jarvis how revenue will be made from the event. Mr. Jarvis said the people that there is a fee for the cars and food trucks that want in the event. Mr. Skvarek asked if there will be coordination with Police Department for this event. Mr. Jarvis says he has already been in contact with them. Mr. Repay asked what the total event fee would be. Mr. Novacich said that the special event fee is $540.00.

Mr. Skvarek made a motion to waive the special event fee, seconded by Ms. Kelly. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM B. Park Special Event Request – NICK Foundation

Donna Criner, from the NICK Foundation, approached the Board to request the use of Redar Park on September 11, 2022, for their annual fundraiser event. Ms. Criner said the event will be the same as previous years. She also requested that the special event fee be reduced to $250.00.

Mr. Repay made a motion to approve the usage of Redar Park on September 11, 2022, contingent on required permits and documents be obtained, at a fee of $250.00. Mr. Skvarek seconded the motion. All in favor (5-0)

ITEM C. Consider Waiver of Special Event Fee – The H Life

Beth Serafin, from H Life, approached the Board to request the fees be waived for the annual fundraiser Tour de Life Bike Ride on June 25, 2022. The bike ride will start in Munster and end at Redar Park Ms. Serafin said they are working with Trek Bike Store to map the route and coordinate with the local police departments. Mr. Novacich asked Ms. Serafin how many people will participate in the bike ride. Ms. Serafin said that they are expecting about 100 participants.

Mr. Malinowski made a motion to approve the use of Redar Park on June 25, 2022 at the rate of $250.00, seconded by Mr. Skvarek. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM D. Consider Waiver of Special Event Fee – New Star

Chris Reichsteiner, from New Star, approached the Board to request the fee be waived for their Stroll and Roll event on May 21, 2022. She said that they are hoping for 50 participants to walk around the park.

Mr. Skvarek made a motion to approve the event on May 21, 2022 at Redar Park and to waive the special event fee, seconded by Mr. Repay. All in favor (5-0).

Councilman Caleb Johnson asked Mr. Novacich if this event will be able to occur with construction at Redar to expand the parking lots on the east and northeast side. Mr. Novacich asked Ms. Reichsteiner if the walkers could use the trail across the street from Redar. Ms. Reichsteiner said the walkers could use the trail, as long as they use the shelter at the park. Mr. Bassick said the construction will not be by the shelter.

ITEM E. Consider Approval of Tournament Request – Lake Hills Baptist Church

A representative did from Lake Hills did not attend the meeting.

Mr. Repay made a motion to table the discussion, seconded by Ms. Kelly. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM F. Park Special Event Request – Mental Health America of NWI

Vicki Rainwater, from Mental Health America, approached the Board to request the use of Redar Park on September 24, 2022, for a Touch-a-Truck event, centered on health and safety. Ms. Rainwater said there will be booths for different hospitals, clinic, and health and safety businesses to set up and pass out information. She said this event is not a fundraiser. Mr. Barnes asked how many trucks they are planning to get. Ms. Rainwater said that she hoping for 15. Mr. Barnes asked how many food vendors she is planning. Ms. Rainwater said she is thinking 5 at the most.

Mr. Malinowski made a motion to table this discussion, until Ms. Rainwater has a better idea of how many trucks and food vendors will be at the event. No second. Motion dies.

Mr. Repay made a motion to approve the event request from Mental Health America, at Redar Park on September 24, 2022, contingent upon the Special Events Permit through the Town of Schererville and all other items outstanding be given to the Park Department, and in addition to waive the special event fee of $540.00. Mr. Skvarek seconded the motion. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM G. Consider Acceptance of Beer Garden Proposal – Celebrate Schererville Festival

Mr. Novacich said there was only one proposal turned in for the beer garden at the Celebrate Schererville Festival.

Mr. Malinowski made a motion to approve the proposal submitted by the Schererville Firefighters Local 4279 for the beer garden at the Celebrate Schererville Festival. Mr. Repay seconded the motion. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM H. Consider Acceptance of Beer Garden Proposal – Fireworks

Mr. Novacich said there was only one proposal submitted by Region Ale and recommends the Board accept it.

Mr. Malinowski made motion to accept the proposal submitted by Region Ale for the beer garden the Fireworks event, seconded by Mr. Skvarek. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM I. Consider Approval of Grimmer Park Fencing

Mr. Novacich said a new fence was looked into last year and the pricing was very expensive, with pricing increases and supply issues, so it was not done. He said he solicited for proposals again and received two. Mr. Novacich said he would recommend FFC Fencing's proposal.

Mr. Repay made a motion to approve the Grimmer Park Fence Replacement Project proposal from FFC Fencing, not to exceed the cost of $16,265.00. Mr. Skvarek seconded the motion. All in favor (5-0).

THEREUPON, Old Business

ITEM C. Splash Pad

Mr. Novacich said that once the pad is in place he can get a better idea of for placement of the sidewalk. He said there will be rules for the Board to review next meeting. He also said there are some smaller shelters that could get placed on the south side of the pad. Mr. Malinowski said there was a discussion about adding parking at the Community Center that needs to be considered when making plans.

THEREUPON, Business from the floor

Councilman Johnson asked the Board if there is any illumination by the Splash Pad at night. Mr. Barnes said it is not completely dark there due to some lights on outside of the Community Center.

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM J. Any other from Park Board

Mr. Repay said he attended the public hearing for the Kennedy Avenue expansion. He said that he would encouraged the Board to look at the intersection between Kennedy Avenue and the Pennsy Bike Trail. Mr. Repay said he is concerned about Junction Avenue being realigned to run along the Pennsy Bike Trail and then coming to a T-intersection with Kennedy Avenue.

Mr. Bassick asked Mr. Novacich if there needs to be a study session to discuss improvements at Autumn Creek and Pickleball Courts. Mr. Novacich said those can be discussed in at a study session before the next meeting.

Mr. Skvarek request the study session be at 6pm and the regular meeting be at 7pm. The Board agreed.

Attorney Bartholomew said he suggests the Board revisit the fee reduction guidelines at the study session.

Mr. Malinowski made a motion for the regularly schedule Park Board meeting on May 4, begin at 7pm, and to have a study session at 6pm. Mr. Skvarek seconded the motion. All in favor (5-0).

THEREUPON, Business from the Floor

Councilman Johnson asked the Board if the shelter is available to the Schererville Lions Club during the Fireworks event. Mr. Barnes said yes.

Mr. Repay made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Skvarek. All in favor (5-0).

Next Park Board meeting will be held on May 4, 2022.

_____

ED REPAY
PARK BOARD SECRETARY

TRUE COPY