TOWN OF SCHERERVILLE SCHERERVILLE, IN
REGULAR PARK BOARD MEETING MAY 4, 2022

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

The Pledge of Allegiance

Park Board President Brad Bassick said he works as a financial advisor for JP Morgan Chase and rents a room at the Community Center at least once every quarter. Mr. Bassick said that Attorney Christian Bartholomew advised him to state publicly that as part of his role professionally he rents a room at the Community Center and because of this any vote that is made in regards to room rentals he will recuse himself, so as not to have any perceived conflict of interest.

Attendance was taken with the following Board Members present: Brad Bassick, Tom Malinowski, Ed Repay, and Nicole Kelly. Staff members present: Superintendent John Novacich, Administrative Coordinator Irene Mireles, Attorney Christian Bartholomew, and Recording Secretary Kristen Bohling. Board Members not present: Joe Skvarek

Mr. Bassick left the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

THEREUPON, Approval of minutes for April 6, 2022

Mr. Repay made a motion to approve the minutes from April 6, 2022 seconded by Ms. Kelly. All in favor (3-0).

THEREUPON, Correspondence NONE

THEREUPON, Reports

ITEM A. Staff

Mr. Novacich said the LED sign at Scherwood Park has been completed, just the landscaping needs to be finished.

Mr. Novacich said the CDBG Project for the playground at Rohrman has been touch and go with the weather. He said a lot of the equipment is up, but there is still more that needs to be put up and the stone has to be laid for the pour-in-place. Mr. Novacich said the bench order is behind. He said it is still on track to be completed this month. He said he is hoping to have a ribbon cutting either early June or after the Fest.

Mr. Novacich said he is waiting for the contractor for the trail project for Pennsy Trail to remove the trees. He said the contractor has done a little bit of work, but are supposed to start next week with putting in the silt fencing for the stone water. Mr. Repay asked if property acquisition was complete. Mr. Novacich said no there is still a couple left on that. Mr. Malinowski asked if there is going to be railing on both sides along Rohrman Road. Mr. Novacich that there will be railing on the ditch side and some spots alongthe road side where it is required.

Mr. Novacich said the water, sewer, and electric for the Splash Pad is done and the equipment is supposed to be delivered tomorrow. He said he is waiting on a revised construction schedule from the contractor.

Ms. Mireles gave an update for Rohrman ballfield and concession from the NSA Tournament. She said the concession made $518.00.

Ms. Bohling gave an update on room rental and picnic shelter rentals reports. She said compared to this time last year, room rentals are up $7,000.00 and shelter rentals are up $1,070.00.

Mr. Novacich said the Cinco de Mayo Party in the Park that was schedule for this Friday has been rescheduled for the following Friday.

THEREUPON, Old Business

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

Phil Lumber, Pastor of Lake Hills Baptist Church, at 9209 W. 85th Avenue, approached the Board to request usage of the basketball courts are Redar Park for a 3-on-3 tournament on Saturday, August 13. Mr. Lumber said they are expecting about 150-200 people. He said the Lion's Club is their food vendor. Mr. Lumber said last year the Park Board lowered the fee to $100.00. Mr. Novacich said according to the minutes from last year the event fee was waived and the basketball court rental fee was reduced from $160.00 to $100.00. He said there was a condition that a police officer be there, but there was not one there. Mr. Lumber asked if they cannot find an officer from Schererville should the find an office from different department. Mr. Novacich said it is just a matter of the presence of an officer being there.

Ms. Bohling clarified that Lake Hills' original request was August 13, but that was the same day as the Park Department's Touch-a-Truck event, so their event is on Augusto 20.

Mr. Repay made a motion to accept the special event request, from Lake Hills Baptist Church, for a 3-on-3 basketball tournament, on August 20, contingent on providing a security officer at the event and to reduce the fee to $100.00. Ms. Kelly seconded the motion. All in favor (3-0).

ITEM B. Serros Property Donation

Mr. Novacich said at the last Town Council meeting the Council approved $100,000.00 donation to Lake County Parks for the Serros property and requested that the Park Board match that donation. He said that in previous discussions the Board had discussed taking the money out of the impact fee. Attorney Bartholomew said he looked into it and he said according to state statute and the local ordinance, in order to use the impact fees for infrastructure the new infrastructure has to be necessary to serve the new development, in the community in the impact zone, from which the fee is collected. He said that this is not an issue, however the second part to that is that it is identified in the zone improvement plan. Attorney Bartholomew said the Board has not done a zone improvement plan for some time and the zone improvement plan that the Board has from 2018 cross references the Master Plan that covered the period 2013-2017. He said that when that master plan was created this particular project was not contemplated. However it did propose the acquisition of some land for neighborhood park uses, as well as acquisition of land and natural areas for a new park along 77th Avenue, which means something was contemplated it just was not apparent on what that would be. Attorney Bartholomew said he believes that there is enough references for the Board to consider this match, the question would be can the impact fees be used for an acquisition by the County versus acquisition by the Town. After some discussion, the Board decided for this topic to be an ongoing discussion and wait on further legal review to make a decision on the match.

ITEM C. Any other from Park Board

Ms. Bohling said that she received the signed least agreement for Schererville Soccer and Mr. Bassick has also signed them.

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. Consider Adoption of Splash Pad Rules and Regulations

Ms. Kelly made a motion to approve the Splash Pad Rules and Regulations with the additions and changes discussed in the study session, seconded by Mr. Repay. All in favor (3-0).

ITEM B. Any other from Park Board

THEREUPON, Business from the floor

Mark Harkenrider, from 6860 Swan Lane, express concern about tax payer money going to the County for a park. He said his house abuts with the section of the Erie Lackawana Trail that the County is supposed to maintain. Mr. Harkenrider said they do not maintain it and as of July of last year the weeds were above his head and the trail is unusable from the first snow until March because of ice. He said that he has not had a good experience with Lake County and he is concerned about them obtaining the Serros Property and not maintaining it.

Mr. Novacich said there should be a study session before hand to discuss Attorney Bartholomew's document about special event fees.

Mr. Repay made a motion to have a study session on June 1, before the next meeting at 5 p.m., with the regular meeting starting at 6 p.m. Ms. Kelly seconded the motion.

Mr. Repay made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Kelly. All in favor (3-0).

Next Park Board meeting will be held on June 1, 2022.

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ED REPAY
PARK BOARD SECRETARY

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