

Town of Rib Mountain
Park Commission
Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Call to order:

George Snyder called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Roll was taken. Members present: Bill Bursaw, Liesle Markovitch, Bert Nitzke, George Snyder and Scott Miles. Duane Zeichert was excused. Scott Schatschneider (Streets & Parks Superintendent) and Becky Paul (Summer Program Director/teacher) were also in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the minutes from April 10, 2012 was made by Bill B. and seconded by Liesle M. The motion passed.

Streets and Parks Superintendent Report (Scott S reported)

- A. A goals and timeline update was handed out.
- B. Playground (monorail) equipment is now completed at Doepke Park.
- C. Park signage has been installed at all Town Parks. The signs list the hours of operation (open from 6 AM to 11 PM).
- D. Lighting for the new flagpole at Doepke Park will be attached to the building. There will be two LED spotlights on the south side of the building. Current (dim) lights will be replaced by LED lights and a light will be added over the new dumpster.
- E. The dumpster enclosure is up. It will be painted and stained to match the shelter and dugouts once the temperature is above 50 degrees. Doors will be installed in the near future and will be locked for greater security.
- F. Doepke landscaping will be done as soon as the flagpole is complete. Liesle D. will do some work and clean-up on the site in the near future.
- G. The flag pole at Doepke Park will be set Thursday.

Summer Program Appointment

Becky Paul, Summer Director/Teacher was present to discuss the hiring of a summer assistant. Pending a background check by the Town, Bill B. made the motion to hire Lauren Marceille. It was seconded by Bert N. and the motion passed. Becky noted that there were already 25 children registered for the summer program.

Liberty Park Playground Equipment

George presented a letter he had received from Lisa Willadsen. Mrs. Willadsen lives in the Liberty Park neighborhood and makes regular visits to the park with her young family. She expressed concern about the quality and safety of the equipment at the park and the fact that so much attention and resources is focused on Doepke Park. Scott S. noted that the Liberty Park playground equipment was installed in the late 1980's with no updates or refurbishing. He also noted that there is no additional funding in the Town budget to replace the equipment at this time. Scott suggested that a request be put into the next borrowing note for the project which would be submitted in 2013 with funds available in 2014. Bert N. supported the idea from the letter that so much attention is placed on Doepke Park. Scott S. noted that as a 40 acre park, Doepke needs the most attention and resources of our other parks. He noted that the land at Liberty is owned by the Sanitary District and that has impacted decision making in the past. He thought a reasonable amount to replace the Liberty Park equipment would be in the \$40,000 range. Bert N. asked about a playground development fund that was provided by all new developers. This fund was modified several years ago and no longer serves that purpose. Bert N. also asked about the donations that supported Doepke Park's development making other Town dollars available for a Liberty project. Scott S. explained that there were no additional funds available for playground development. Liesle M. asked about funding sources before Doepke Park was established. George S provided us with the history of the Rib Mountain Carnival that provided funds for the Town on an annual basis. George S. requested that a committee be set up to discuss plans with Mrs. Willadsen and others in the neighborhood and to meet with a representative from the playground company that completed Doepke's new equipment to develop a plan and report back to the Park Commission. Liesle M and Scott M. volunteered work on this project.

WYB&S Contract Endorsement

A copy of the new WYB&S contract with the Town of Rib Mountain was included in our packet. George S., Scott S. and Gaylene R., plus the Town's attorney had reviewed it and recommended it for approval. WYB&S had also reviewed it. There was discussion of the violation of federal statute about the flag at the baseball diamond that remains up all year. It is unlit and does not abide by flag protocol. Liesle M. made a motion to approve the contract contingent upon the addition of flag protocol language being included in article II.D. It was seconded by Scott M. and the motion passed.

(Article II. D. states: “WYB&S specifically agrees to comply with applicable federal, state and local codes, statutes, laws, regulations and ordinances, and to obtain all necessary permits.” This motion would add language that would include proper displaying of the American flag on that site.)

Flag pole Discussion

There was a lengthy discussion about the process by which the Town Board approved the flag pole despite the Park Commission’s tabling of any action so that we could look at other options. We discussed the significance of the donations brochure, whether action on the flag pole was on the Town Board agenda, as well as the idea that the Park Commission had not expressed any concerns with the project at our March meeting. Upon revisiting the topic in April, new questions developed and other options were being considered. The Park Commission felt that we had not fully communicated that position to the Town Board. (The resignation of a Park Commission member was a result of the flag pole decision.) We understand that all final decisions rest with the Town Board and it would have helped us if we had known that this was as Scott S. explained that it was a “high interest” item for the Town Board. Better communication on the Commission’s part would have helped and we will attempt to do a better job in the future.

Doepke Park Historical Marker

George S. explained that he had talked with a Doepke family rep about putting the historical plaque inside the shelter, in other locations (the back of the Doepke signage) and the wording of the plaque. No alternative seemed acceptable. Bill B. stated that since the Town had purchased the land, it should be able to determine the appropriate location of any signage. Bert N. asked if they should use the donation brochure to find an alternative that would be acceptable to the Town. Scott S. checked on the cost of signage for the back of the Doepke Park signage. It would cost about \$200 (well below the \$460 donation) and would be permanently attached to the back of the current sign. The wording would be:

“The Doepke family farmed this parcel of land, as well as the acreage directly south of the park, from 1803 until the death of Fred Doepke in 2008. At that time, the land was purchased by the Town and named Doepke Park.”

A motion was made by Bert N. and seconded by Scott M. to approve posting of a plaque on the back of the current signage with the above noted language. George will inform the Doepke family and the Town Board of our decision. The motion passed.

Resignation

Shelley Hertz has resigned from the Park Commission. She has served for many years and was instrumental in maintaining tennis courts throughout the park system. George S. thanked her for her years of service and asked us to bring names of interested individuals to our next meeting. Bill B. noted that the last applicants may still be interested and should be contacted. Bert N. suggested that the opening be posted on the Town Facebook and web page.

Non-profit status

No report.

Financial Statement

George reviewed the totals through the first quarter. No real areas of concern were noted. Scott S. mentioned that the new monorail that was installed at Doepke Park was less expensive - \$900 was saved.

Open Discussion

It was noted that the Doepke Park shelter is very busy throughout the summer months. It also has a posting for the Humane Society run. Bert N. asked if the Fire Dept could also post their run event at Doepke.

Bill B. stated that along the Bone and Joint trail there is an invasive species – Garlic Mustard plants – that must be removed. Scott S. had a crew there working on pulling it out so that it does not spread.

George commented that in the discussions with the WYB&S group, they stated that they would clean up the building materials at Doepke Park within two weeks.

Adjournment

Bill B. moved for adjournment at 6:34 PM. Liesle M. seconded it and the motion passed.