

**Town of Rib Mountain  
Park Commission  
Tuesday, July 10, 2012**

**Call to Order:** Chairperson George Snyder called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. Roll was taken. Members present included Bill Bursaw, Mai Herr, Scott Miles, Bert Nitzke, George Snyder and Duane Zeichert. Liesle Dille-Markevitch was excused. Gaylene Rhoden, Town Administrator, was also present. George introduced and welcomed new Park Commission member Mai Herr to the group. Her term will run until July, 2019.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion to approve the minutes from the June 12, 2012 meeting was made by Bill B., and seconded by Bert N. The motion passed.

**Administrator's Report:** Gaylene described the process used in the narrowing of candidates for the Superintendent of Streets and Parks position. Thirty-three applications were received and it was narrowed to four that were given interviews and written tests. It is hoped that a new Superintendent will be named by the Town Board at their next meeting.

**Humane Society Fun Run Request:** The Humane Society has requested special permission to reserve Doepke Park on May 31, 2013 for its "Run For the Lives" Fun Run. The permission is needed this far in advance to help publicize and organize the event. The Humane Society plans to rent the shelter for the event which will run from about 8 AM - 1 PM on Saturday. A motion to approve the use of Doepke Park was made by Scott M. and seconded by Bill B. The motion passed unanimously. Gaylene will notify the Humane Society of their approval and help finalize details with the group.

**Liberty Park Playground Equipment:** George briefly described the letter and e-mail that had been sent by a parent about the Liberty Park playground equipment. Recently, the resident's son had been injured while playing on the equipment. George described the meeting with Gaylene, Lana Lee from Lee Recreation LLC, the Town's insurance agent, Scott Miles, Lisa Willadsen (town resident) and himself during June to review the problems. Gaylene R. outlined the concerns with the equipment which is old and

outdated. She explained that Lana Lee noted that there were numerous playground items that were no longer in compliance with safety codes – swings were too high and too close to a concrete picnic table; sand can no longer be used as a base; the bridge was unsafe with sharp metal edges and was uncoated or unprotected. Our insurance agent described other items that he felt were unsafe which include the uncovered swing chains and the hard metal bars that were not padded or coated. Gaylene had asked Lana to give us several proposals. (Lana's company installed the Doepke Park playground equipment and is known to do quality work.) Gaylene put together several options based on available funds and the fact that if ordered by July 31<sup>st</sup>, there would be a 30% discount for the Town.

Park Commission members discussed the options. The base of rubber pellets, although preferred by some, was deemed too expensive and was not included in the estimated costs. Gaylene also thought the Town crew could help Lana's company with the installation saving even more money for the Town. There was a question raised about the census data on that neighborhood and how many children reside there and would use the new equipment. Gaylene noted that the census for Rib Mountain was questioned. She also noted that neighborhoods with parks that are well cared for are more attractive and appealing for families who might be looking for a home in that area. She also described the construction and improvements to the Sunrise Drive overpass/bridge that will give more access to walkers and bikers who will be able to move from homes south of Hwy 29 to Liberty Park more easily.

Other members talked about the safety concerns with the current equipment and how Liberty Park attracts many people for its tennis courts, basketball court, baseball diamond, soccer field and shelter. It is not unusual to see grandparents bringing their grandchildren to Liberty Park. (Lana's proposals include equipment that is designed for children between 5 and 12 years old.) Finally, the issue of Sanitary Department land was raised and Gaylene said she would discuss any approved plans with Darrin Westover.

Bill B. made a motion to purchase new playground equipment for Liberty Park providing it is acceptable to the Sanitary District. Scott M. seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Bert N. made a motion to select Structure 2 – option A. The motion was seconded by Bill B. This proposal includes:

Base structure	\$15,136.00
Extra play animals	\$ 1,486.00
(30% discount)	-\$ 4,986.60
Freight	\$ 1,000.00
Wood fiber mulch	\$ 3,300.00
Replace swing set	\$ 1,330.00
Plastic border timbers	\$ 1,920.00
Supervised installation	\$ 750.00
Misc concrete	\$ 500.00
TOTAL	\$20,435.40* (recalculated total)

Motion made by Bill B. to approve spending \$20,500 on new playground equipment for Liberty Park. Mai H. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (Gaylene will check with Lana to see if a swing for handicapped children can be included in the swing set cost.)

**Non-profit status:** Decision from IRS still pending.

**Financial Report:** No Report.

**Summer Program Update:** Duane Z reported that he had visited the summer program and was impressed with the children and staff. He reported that as of Monday, 909 children have attended the program (compared with 725 at the same date last year). Daily average is 63 with a disparity between morning (average 16) and afternoon (average 50-60). The fact that many children attend summer school during the morning accounts for this difference. Becky (summer program coordinator/teacher) will attend one of our meetings to discuss some ideas as to how to deal with this issue. Over 98 children registered for this year's program (compared with 81 last year) even with the changes of charging a higher fee and no family discount. Numbers are up and Duane reported the kids were having a great time!

**Open Discussion:** Bert N asked why there were differing rental rates for Doepke Park. George and Gaylene explained that some groups are non-profit and some are not town residents.

Motion to adjourn was made by Bill B. and seconded by Mai H. It passed.