

November 2017 Minutes

Members:

- Present: Reba Casler, Rick Homkes, Matt Johnson, Jill Newby, Erica Parvin, Laura Redding, Ashley Wyrick
- Absent: Beth Davis
- Guests: None
- Meeting started at 5:30 PM on 11/6/2017

Topics:

- Treasurers Report: Quick update and discussion about fund balance. Homkes reported that Kieser Consulting has sent in another draw on the RTP project stating that they are 79% complete on project.
- Possible Donation: Redding reported that there may be a donation to the Park Fund by a business. It may be in the \$2K range and Don Parvin has requested that a plan be put in place if it does occur. Discussion on possible projects, including replacing the fence around Brady Park and replacing the infant / toddler swing in Brady Park with a new 2-up piece of equipment. Redding requested that everyone on the board think of other things that could be done and come to the December meeting with ideas and a plan.
- Retreat: Homkes reported that 60 – 80 community volunteers including the Retreat organization, IDNR, Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, and Chrysler planted ~120 trees in Kokomo last Saturday to replace trees lost in the tornado. These trees were placed on private property.
- Park and Tree Board Rules: Discussion held about the three different ordinances (one repealed) that set up the Tree Ordinance and the Park and Tree Board. Homkes reported that he had scanned the pdf's into Word and formatted the old ordinances so that two could be discussed, one for the board and one for the tree ordinance. In addition to formatting, small changes have been made like adding a treasurer's position on the Board. Newby will take the lead in reviewing and it will be discussed more at the December meeting.
- Park and Tree Board Meetings Redding reported that Don Parvin requested more notice of the public meeting. Discussion then held about what day and what time would be best to meet. Several mentioned that Monday at 5:30 was not convenient. Motion by Wyrick, second by Homkes to change the stated day / time of meetings to First Tuesday of the month at 6pm starting January 2018. Motion passed unanimously. Further discussion about December 2017 meeting and decided to change December meeting to Tuesday at 6 as well.
Action Items: Homkes will contact Megan Reel about putting notice on the electronic sign. Redding will contact Beth Davis about the change.
- Park and Tree Board Officers: Redding reported that Council had requested Board officers and members be ready for December meeting. Discussion about who would be willing to serve in what capacity. Consensus reached that the Board would recommend to the Council the current eight members with officers as follows: President – Jill Newby, Vice-President – Rick Homkes, Secretary – Erica Parvin, Treasurer – Ashley Wyrick.

- Possible Grant Opportunity: Homkes informed the Board that there is a possible grant opportunity from Bayer CropScience. It is called Feed a Bee and would support the planting of native plants for pollinators. Homkes said that this money could provide flower beds adjacent to the RTP trail (He first used the term bump outs but was corrected). The deadline for applications is mid-December. Grants of \$1K, \$2.5K, or \$5K can be requested. Extra consideration would be given to grants that were cooperative in nature and that included a promotional campaign about the benefits of pollinators. Homkes has talked to Emily Roark of Master Gardeners about design and Trina Evans of the Library about publicity. Both are supportive. Homkes asked for the support of the Board to continue. Discussion was held about flower beds, bees, and bee stings. Board consensus was to support Homkes moving forward.
- Town Park: Newby updated the Board on the new equipment coming into the park. It is still on track for an 11/27/17 installation start date. The town employees will pick up and the unit, probably by renting a trailer. In addition, a dumpster will have to be provided for all of the packing materials. The town employees will also rent one for the installation. Newby said that she would try to be there for the installation. In addition, Newby mentioned that she had picked up the mats from AAASateofPlay and delivered them to the town.
- RTP Stakeholders Meeting: Homkes, Newby, and Parvin reported on the RTP Stakeholders meeting held 10/23. Dave Kieser kept the meeting on track and all agreed to move forward with the legal right of ways. The minutes were reviewed and corrected. Action items reviewed. One action item was to talk to the Hale family about the project adjacent to them. Casler said that she knew Karen Hale and offered to talk to her about it. Homkes gave Board members an hours log for in-kind support documentation.
Action Items: Casler will talk to the Hale's.
- Community Center Windows: Casler reported that he had met with Don Parvin, Rob Hewitt, Craig Thompson, and Mike Collings at the Community Center with Park Avenue. The problems and damage was shown. Park Avenue said that they would fix the problems and repair the damage.
- Community Center Rentals: Parvin and Redding reported that the Community Center had several rentals this month, more than normal. Discussion followed on whether the rental price reduction and simplification had something to do with it. Homkes reported going to an Eagle Scout ceremony the previous Sunday and that it was decorated nicely and worked well for the ceremony. Casler reported that the building was cleaner after the boys scouts left than when they came – excellent cleanup.
- There being no more business the meeting was adjourned at 6:30.

Minutes taken by Rick Homkes, Board Vice-President.