



## April Regular Board Meeting Minutes

April 2, 2024

### Members

- **Present:** Jill Newby, Reba Casler, Rick Homkes, Janna Hyman, Cheri Helmberger, Jeremy Burns, Pat Reel (Town Council Liaison)
- **Absent:** Erica Parvin
- **Guests:** None
- **Meeting Started:** 6:00 pm

### Topics

- **Minutes:** Reba made a motion to approve the Minutes as presented. Jeremy seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 6-0 vote in favor.
- **Treasurers Report:** Rick reported the Playground Fund has a balance of \$202,745.58.

### Old Business

- **Community Center Park Playground:**
- **Fundraisers:**
  - **Kids Helping Build the Playground Sign:** Ongoing to public and schools. Park Board agreed to continue the fundraiser through April 5, 2024.
- **Corporate Donors:**
  - **Martin Marietta:** Jill received word that M.M. would give us a discount on stone. Jill is contacting Kokomo Gravel and Michigantown for quotes, and possible in-kinds.
  - **Kings:** Rick is working on a plan to collect a donation.
  - **Howard County Commissioners:** March Regular Town Council Meeting, Commissioner Jeff Lipinski awarded the Park and Tree Board a \$50,000.00 donation from the County.
  - **Davidson's:** Jill contacted Rhiannon Thompson who donated \$13,093.82 for in-kind use. Davidson's monies will be used to excavate the playground building site. For a second bid Pat suggested Stevens Bulldozing. In-kind needed for trucking stone.
  - **Huston Solar and Electric:** Lucas Rhees is working with Huston for an in-kind.



- **Greg Aaron:** Greg continues to be invaluable. Answering questions in a reasonable time frame, and his willingness to research for answers.

### Town Park

- **Basketball Backboard:** Rick reported a missing bumper on the town's basketball goal's backboard. Josh will review the camera.
- **Gaga Pit:** Rick reported the ball holder for the pit isn't strong enough to avoid bangs and dents. Good News, thank you Ben Newlin for purchasing, labeling, and adding new balls to the Gaga Pit.

### Other Old Business:

- **Compost at Water Treatment Plant:** Carter's have requested an easement be saved for them to access the wooded area which they own.
- **Rush to Russiaville Craft Fair:** Park and Tree Board Table to be available for 2024.
- **Gene Parks Fun Run, and 5k:** Saturday 9:15am, Fun Run sponsored by RCO. Ainsley's Angels will be participating in the 5k. The runs will end at the site of the new playground. Laurie Seaman has donated a tent, and we will have a table set up from where we will pass out playground information along with small gifts and treats. Workers needed, Jill, Jeremy, and Janna volunteered.
- **Ball Park Opening Day:** April 20, 2024. No report from Erica on a raffle basket. Discussion that we should have permission from Softball League because this is a major fundraiser for them.
- **Western HS Seniors' Community Service Day:** May 14 is the date set with May 15 as a rain date. Jill asked the board for possible project ideas, and for volunteers to help with the day.

### New Business:

- **Adult Changing Table:** Jill reported that Kristi High had spoken of Ainsley's Angels purchasing a changing table for the ADA restroom to be built at the Community Center Park.
- **Milburn Donation:** The Milburn family has expressed wanting to donate to the Playground project in Kent's name. Suggestions were made to dedicate the Pavilion path to Kent and Martha, and to do some idea searching at Caldwell's.
- **Memorial Donation:** Peggy Hollingsworth donated \$500.00, to the Playground Project, in memory of Susan Stratton.
- **Public Meeting Discussion:** All present agreed to be pleased with the flow, and positive atmosphere of those in attendance. Jill opened with a general welcome,



and introductions of both board and council members. Turning the floor over to Janna to comment on the fundraising process, and then to Rick who covered the Who, What, Where, When, and Why of the project. Jill then opened the floor to public comment, which are listed in the minutes taken by Darlene Homkes. Minutes are required to be sent to the DNR as part of the LWCF requirements, for the matching grant.

- **Meeting Adjourned:** at 7:20 pm. Motion to adjourn made by Reba, seconded by Jeremy. Motion carried with a 6-0 vote in favor.

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