

Wednesday, September 4, 2024

President Wahlig called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Attending was President Wahlig and members Adams, Carpenter and Poor. Also attending was Event Coordinator Tabitha Griva, Superintendent Matt Hanna, City Attorney Kim Shoup, Mayor Dave Martin and Angola Softball League Representative Joe Fee.

The minutes of the August 7, 2024, meeting were approved with a motion by member Adams and seconded by member Poor. All were in favor.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**YMCA/City Agreement-** President Wahlig thanked Mayor Martin and Attorney Shoup for joining them to discuss the agreement. Supt. Hanna asked Mayor Martin to fill the Board in on what has been happening with the park. Mayor Martin explained that the original intent was for the YMCA to fundraise to build a park, and the city would manage the operations of the park. Since then, the Steuben County Community Foundation has taken over the fundraising efforts and been quite successful. Currently 4.8 million in funds have been raised. The project has been broken up into phases so that the project can move forward while the remainder of the funds are raised. The YMCA has also come back stating that they do not want to own the park once it is built, they would like the city to own it since they are operating it. Martin pointed out that he would like to see the project completed prior to the Park Board taking ownership. That way we don't have to turn it into a public works project. Because this project has been broken into phases, there is a possibility that part of the park could open to the public prior to completion, therefore the need for the operating agreement with the parks is necessary. Martin asked that the Board give Superintendent Hanna permission to sign the documents on behalf of the park board. President Wahlig asked Supt. Hanna if the questions he presented to them have been answered. Hanna said that he and Mayor Martin worked through those, and he is happy with the agreement as presented. Member Carpenter made a motion to allow Supt. Hanna to move forward signing the operating agreement between the YMCA and the parks with one discussed change to the agreement. Member Poor seconded the motion. Discussion regarding some of the Boards concerns with the agreement being one sided, with the parks taking on most of the responsibility. Motion passed three ayes, one abstained from voting.

**Special Olympics Fundraising Event-** Joe Fee stated things have been moving forward with the fundraising event. There have been food donations, Trine Sororities will be running games as well as teachers volunteering, a dunk tank will be available with police and fire, and bounce houses. There have also been some sponsors for the event including Wenzel's, Joe Hysong, & REMAX. Fee said baskets should be dropped off to Tabitha sometime next week for the silent auction. Fee mentioned teams are not filled but sign-ups could come at the last minute. Fee mentioned he has set up a band also. Griva asked Fee where he planned to have the band play. Fee answered that he would have them play on the stage. Hanna explained if the stage is involved, he would need to get permission from the board. Hanna explained we've allowed use of the stage if the event meets our mission statement, we were partners and if it does not affect any reservations. Griva mentioned there is no reservation for October 5<sup>th</sup>. President Wahlig asked the board if they all agreed to allow use of the stage. The board all agreed.

**The Hubie Ashcraft Band-** Griva reported there were 1200 people in the park according to June Julian with the Steuben Count Tourism Bureau. She did not have numbers back yet on concessions.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Mason Dixon Line-** Griva mentioned The Mason Dixon Line concert will be this Friday. Concessions by Beached Boys Grill, Kra-Tib and Chapmans Brewing Co, car show and bounce houses all start at 6pm, music will begin at 7pm.

**Yellow Frame Project-** Griva mentioned this is part of our Art in the Parks. Our first event will be held September 26<sup>th</sup> with a "Senior Paint" partnering with The Yellow Frame project. Griva said her and Colleen have started the scheduling for all the different varieties of classes including pottery, theatre, dance, poetry and photography.

**Night of Worship-** Griva said Night of Worship will be held September 21<sup>st</sup> 3pm-9pm in Commons Park.

**American History Fest-** Hanna mentioned Tom Fredrick has partnered with The Legion, using their 501c3. Hanna explained he asked him to provide him with the insurance and he has yet to respond. Hanna mentioned he would try reaching out again, just communication has been horrible. President Wahlig suggested speaking to him regarding the future, and having all this information turned in by a deadline. Hanna agreed. Hanna said he will have something put together for the future listing expectations to have before the event and the day of the event by a certain date to continue this event.

**2025 Budget-** Hanna explained he was sorry he is just now getting this out. Hanna reported the only things that have changed are wages and benefits and capital outlays. Hanna explained the Tree Memorial Structure that we will be starting in 2025, vehicles include the dump truck to be replaced, park equipment the annual mower trade and lastly the 2014 gator is due to be replaced. President Wahlig asked the board if they would like to move to approve the 2025 budget. Member Poor motioned to approve. Member Carpenter seconded. All in favor.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

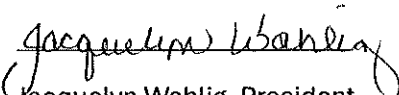
**Other-** Mayor Martin also asked the Board if they were still open to the possibility of the city selling the two acres on the corner of Mill and Williams St. This topic has been brought up by the nursing homes on more than one occasion. Supt. Hanna said all we do is mow it, he feels as though it either needs to be sold or allow the parks to develop. The Board reached an agreement that if the nursing home wanted it for parking, it should be sold to them. Mayor Martin thanked the board for their response.

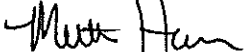
**Joe Fee Requests-** Fee stated that a veteran approached him wanting to know why there wasn't a flagpole over by the ball fields. He said he has found someone that would be willing to donate a flagpole to put by the fields along with two solar lights. President Wahlig asked who would be replacing the flag when it wears out. Hanna stated that it would be a reoccurring cost as we go through around two a year. Matt mentioned he could gather some information on cost annually and a location and get back with Fee. Fee also mentioned wanting to put an information shadow box on the new shed. Fee asked if he were to build one and present it, if the board would consider. Hanna

responded that he would not want Fee to take the time and do so, if the board does not like it. Hanna mentioned he would be willing to do some research on ordering a couple to place at the shed and friendship playground. Fee stated he had one last request on an idea for raising money toward the ball fields. Fee asked if it were possible to sell the trash cans to local businesses as a sponsor to paint and advertise their business or organizations to raise money for the softball field account. This would involve the community while also updating the trash cans. Fee also mentioned Wenzel's would be willing to donate trash can lids for these as well. Hana mentioned this would be something that would have to be taken under advisement for the board to discuss these matters.

**Firemen's Park Expansion-** Hanna explained in this year's budget we have the money for firemen's playground expansion. He said Bob and himself have been working with miracle playground in the past but have talked to another lady from Lagrange who has come back with two proposals under the budgeted amount they both thought would work great for Firemen's. Hanna explained we budgeted \$50,000.00 and this lady came back with both proposals at \$44,000.00. Hanna presented both layouts to the board and asked the board which they would prefer. The board all agreed on layout 2.

No further business, meeting adjourns at 11:26am.

  
Jacquelyn Wahlig, President

  
Matt Hanna, Secretary