



City of Westfield  
Parks and Recreation Department  
Commission Meeting  
June 20, 2016

Commissioners Present: Kenneth Magarian, Kimberly Irzyk, Martin Nunez, Vincent Olinski, Dawn Sienkiewicz, Sara Unger and Renee Wroth

Commissioners Absent: Robert Veronesi

Staff Present: David Billips, Director of Public Works/Parks and Recreation Dept. Head

Meeting called to order at 7: 01 p.m. with Chairperson, Ken Magarian, presiding.

Motion made by Kimberly Irzyk, motion seconded by Vincent Olinski to accept the minutes of May 16, 2016. Per Ken's request to change, line item # 3 to "Westfield" Kiwanis. All in favor  
Motion passed

Public Participation:

- 1 Mariah Strattner, Treasurer and Edward Phillips President of Westfield Dog Bark Friends.
- 2 Tom Sawyer
- 3 Cheryl Crowe
- 4 Ken Diegle, Westfield Little League President
- 5 Lori Szepelak, Westfield Newspaper reporter

New Business or Items for Discussion:

1. Ken welcomed Maria Strattner and she is here tonight regarding the water hydrant that is located outside the fenced in area at Arm Brook Park. They are requesting to possibly put an extension on the hydrant so it can reach inside the fenced in area. People are complaining that they have to leave the park and bring water back in and it would be easier if they can get water from inside the fence. She stated that this was the original request from the Westfield Dog Bark Friends and was wondering why their request was not honored.
2. Dave Billips responded that he will look into it and will talk to the engineer because the reason they put it where is now, outside the fence is for future

planning of the park. He also mentioned this water line is fed through the public line and his concern is that it could be contaminated inside the fence. He also stated that Jim Blascak met with his water department crew up at the park. His concern was the fire hydrant should be accessible at all times.

3. Ed Phillips, President of Westfield Dog Bark is requesting to place signage down Lockhouse Road so people know where the park is located. He also gave them a proposal of a sign 10" x 36" with a back point and reads "Westfield Dog Park" with vinyl lettering that he would like to place at the entrance of the fence or on the city property so people know it is a dog park. He says he receives complaints because people drive by the park and then have to turn around. Ken asked if Westfield Dog bark Friends are willing pay for the sign, if approved. Ed Philips responded they have the funds. He also showed them a picture of a little wooden bone sign that they placed on top of the bulletin board inside the fenced in area that reads "Welcome to the dog park."
4. Renee stated that a similar sign is on Russell Road for Tekoa Park. It gives the public the directional area of where the park is as you drive on the road.
5. Kim was in favor of a directional signage driving on Lockhouse Road, if we can find a suitable location.
6. Dave responded that he would look into who owns the property on the road that he is requesting to place a sign. He will also check the sign ordinance.
7. Dawn informed Dave Billips the property area at Arms Brook Park is under the jurisdiction of the parks and recreation department. We already did the research before the dog park went in.
8. Ken welcomed Tom Sawyer and he is here tonight with two permits to use Park Square on Tuesdays and Saturdays for families to offer "open mike" and small-scale performances. He used to offer open mike in local bars a few years back and he thought this would be a great idea to bring it outside to Park Square. He wanted to know if he could offer a small event by himself, or if he has to, he can offer with the new organization on behalf of "Art Works City Center" He introduced Cheryl Crowe who is part of this organization.
9. Cheryl is in favor and responded that we "Art Works City Center" already had a few music bands performances and we want to expand the talent to the community because we have some fine musical artists and they would like the opportunity to come out and play for the community on Tuesdays, If Tom cannot get approval on his own he is welcome to join our group, as he is already a supportive member.
10. Tom Sawyer reminded the commissioners that these events would be small scale not like Westfield on Weekends and other large venues. We would like to have local performers get out and expose their musical talent and even folks who are poets and offer "open mike" nights. We are requesting to use the Gazebo during inclement weather and he believes it now completed. His question is can he offer this proposal under his name in the permit alone, or does he need to hire a police officer. He stated he no liability insurance and does he need to have a porta potty for these events. He anticipates a crowd of twenty to thirty people, not a big crowd. Ken asked about the dates and social media. Tom Sawyer responded he is requesting Tuesday evenings times 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. from July through

August. On his second request, permit for Saturdays his goal is to open it up for families. Same type of acoustic music, and “open mike” He would advertise with face book and social media not the newspaper. He does not have actual dates for Saturdays.

11. Davis Billips informed commissioners the gazebo is now completed at Park Square; it just has not been advertised yet to the public.
10. Ken welcomed Ken Diegel, President of Westfield Little League and here is here tonight for approval of the commission to put new LED lights at Papermill and backfields at Sadie Knox Playground. The kids have been fundraising by a calendar raffle and our goal is to have these areas lit. They fundraise \$ 20,000 a yr. in the last two years the kids raised \$ 40,000. We want to spend the money these kids raised. We know we have a few neighbors that may have a concern and we may have to hold a public hearing. We would like approval and then move forward to the next step. Commissioner and Dave Billips were impressed with the money they raised.
11. Ken Diegel also went over a couple of concerns at the Sadie Knox playground neighbors from Oakdale Ave. called the police because we were parked by the back parking lot. Eversource the electric company gave them approval to park on their property and even opened the lock for them on opening day. Another concern was from neighbors at Cross Street Playground ball field; apparently, balls are going into their yards or hitting the houses. Westfield Little League fundraisers have put a concession stand at Hampton Ponds playground, scoreboard at Papermill and bathrooms fixed. They also want to change the sizes of some fields to make them dual-purpose fields for older kids 18 yrs. of age at Hampton Ponds Playground.
12. Sara Unger reminded commissioners that Westfield United Soccer put lights in we approved the proposal and they installed them working with gas and electric. She does not have a problem with Ken Diegle’s request for lights on the two fields per his estimate/proposal he handed out this evening. Kim is suggesting we move forward and allow Westfield Little League to make these improvements to the fields.
13. Dawn went over the sign city ordinances guidelines and commissioners signage from sub-committee meeting. Reminding commission what everyone agreed upon in case we have another request. Ken thanked her for her presentation.
14. Renee Wroth read the use of area permit and from her legal experience; she would like to change the wording, of the “release of liability.” Have Tom Sawyer complete another permit with the corrected wording after we change it. (Add updated use of area permit to Agenda next month)
15. Vincent Olinski is in favor as long as Tom Sawyer has all the criteria and if he needs a police officer on site for events, then to contact them.
16. Kimberly is suggesting we have Tom Sawyer tryout “open mike” on Tuesdays, see how the event goes, and then do a follow up for his requests, with a new permit on Saturdays with dates listed. We need the dates incase someone else wants to reserve Park Square.

17. Sara is hesitant to allow one group to have access to all dates on a particular day of the week, and is requesting that Mr. Sawyer list the specific dates. Commissioners agreed.

Old Business:

1. Westfield Kiwanis Club- Park of honor. Ken is suggesting to table the request to use Park Square until we hear further.

Items for Action:

1. Motion made by Vincent Olinski to table the Parks of Honor -Westfield Kiwanis request until we have a permit in place or revisits the request if it should come up again. Motion seconded by Sara Unger.  
Martin Yes, Sara Yes, Vincent Yes, Dawn Yes, Renee Yes, All in favor.

Motion passed

2. Motion made by Vincent Olinski to approve the permit for Tom Sawyer for Tuesdays as long as he follows the guidelines, and signs the new permit form after the release of liability wording, has been revised, and follows all criteria and notifies the police department.  
Martin Yes, Sara Yes, Vincent Yes, Dawn Yes, Renee Yes, All in favor

Motion passed

3. Motion made by Kimberyl Irzyk to table the second permit for Saturdays "open mike" at Park Square for Tom Sawyer until it is reviewed again with the new revised permit and he completes the actual dates and times.  
Martin Yes, Sara Yes, Vincent Yes, Dawn Yes, Renee Yes, All in favor

Motion passed

4. Motion made by Sara Unger, to allow approval of new lights for Westfield Little League per estimate/ proposal at Papermill playground and Sadie Knox Playgrounds two backfields as long as Ken Diegle follows all criteria regarding a public hearing if needed. Motion seconded by Renee Wroth.  
Martin Yes, Sara Yes, Vincent Yes, Dawn Yes, Renee Yes, All in favor

Motion passed

Reports- (See attached)

1. Ken Magarian read summer staff hired from Jim Blascak's report. Due to his absence. (Peg stated Dave Billips has signed off on all staff with the Personnel Dept.)
2. Dave Billips stated the budget hearing is this week and the Mayor cut a half a year of the deputy superintendent salary position. He tried to explain to city council how important this position is needed. He has talked to the Law department, Personnel, and Parks and Recreation Department and explained to commissioners the department was created by the State; this is why we could not do a full consolidation. His goal is to advertise the deputy superintendent position in January. He has the job description. He explained he has four years left before he retires and he would like to move the natural resource department with parks and recreation and have thirty staff. Right now, you have two employees in the parks and recreation dept. He praised Steve Wingate, who has had more work done with the staff keeping these parks maintained and is a hard worker. He actually is out in the field doing the work with the

employees to help them keep up with the demands of the maintenance of the parks, due to shortage of employees. He should not be doing this work just supervising. He mentioned Peter Miller, Community Development Director has \$ 750,000 in bond money that could be available to help get this department going. He reminded commissioners that we need to take care of these parks and keep them maintained properly.

3. Dave updated commissioners on the falling fencing at Half Mile Falls and Women's Temperance parks that was installed under the state and he is suggesting to the City Engineer to use black iron fence; however, the city engineer is suggesting another material due to the expense. The cost is \$ 230,000. We can fix it for now. The commission agreed with Dave regarding the black iron fence and asked Dave if the commission has a say in voting on the black iron fence material at these parks, since they are under the parks and recreation jurisdiction. He is working with the Law department, and told commissioners he is grateful for their support in his decision.

Motion made by Kimberly Irzyk to adjourn, motion seconded by Renee Wroth  
Motion passed

The meeting adjourned at 8:35p.m.

The next meeting is July 18, 2016

Documents:

Report by Jim Blascak

Ken Diegle, Wesfield Little League estimate proposal of lights

Ed Phillips, picture of dog park sign

Reviewed by Martin Nunez, Secretary of Commission

Summary of public comments on remote participation provided by:

Peg Goralczyk, Parks and Recreation Department