

**Date: February 10, 2016 Time: 5:04 P.M.**

**Board Members Present:** Chris Martin, Mike McCord, Beth Myers, Lynne Ness, Duane Ullom

**Also Present:** Rich Brewer-Parks Administrator, Kathy Scott-Parks , Vicki Ward-Parks Activity Director, Carolyn Holcomb-Parks Office Fill-In, Dean Vietti-Dykeman Golf Course Manager-PGA Pro, Tyler Ness, Mike Prentice, Johnny Quinones-Code Enforce, Brandon Collins, Krista Slusser, Mitchell Kirk-Pharos-Tribune, Dave Morris

**Agenda Items:**

**1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance:** Rich Brewer-Parks Administrator conducted the meeting until after election of Park Board Officers.

**2. Mission Statement:** Read by Chris Martin-Park Board Member.

**3. Organization of the Logansport Parks & Recreation Board for 2016 (action):**

**a) Election of Officers/Proposed Slate-**

- i) President: Beth Myers
- ii) Vice-President: Lynne Ness
- iii) Secretary: Duane Ullom

**Park Board Members were all in favor of the above elected officers.**

Beth Myers Park Board President took over tonight's meeting at this time.

**b) Establishment of Board Committees:**

- i) Finance: Lynne Ness
- ii) Golf: Duane Ullom
- iii) Park Development: Chris Martin
- iv) Personnel: Lynne Ness
- v) Policy: Duane Ullom
- vi) Aquatics: Mike McCord
- vii) Penman Building Committee: Mike McCord

**\*\*Beth Myers-Park Board President will serve on all the committees as well.**

**4. Approval of Minutes: December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015 regular meeting: (action)** with no changes or modifications the minutes stand approved as presented.

**5. Old Business: No Pending Actions.**

**6. New Business:**

**a) Update of All Leases:** Rich informed the Park Board that he has talked with the City Attorney and she would like to review all the leases before any action is taken and will start on them tomorrow. Beth Myers-Park Board President feels we are at risk as none of the leases are signed with any organization. Beth would like to get them signed for this year and any changes that need to be made can be done for next year. There are nine leases that haven't been updated and Rich has computer copies. Beth would like this to be taken care of ASAP.

**b) Date for Executive Board Meeting:** Beth Myers-Park Board President would like all Board Members to stay after tonight's meeting so they can pick a date to meet for the executive meeting. Beth will have the press release to go.

**C) Proposed Schedule of 2016 Regular Board Meeting:** Board Meeting dates were in Board Members packets and will be held on the second Wednesday of each month. **Lynne Ness moved to approve the Park Board Meeting dates and Mike McCord seconded. Park Board Members present were in accordance with the approval.**

**7. Golf Course Manager's Report-Dean Vietti, PGA Pro:**

**End of the Year Finance Report:** Last year was a pretty decent year for the golf course and financially we were right there with a break-even point. In December they purchased a mower for almost \$27,000.00 (was a good deal). In 2015 in May and June they had a lot of rain but, they had a good fall so financially they were where they thought they would be. Last year the golf course spent close to \$70,000.00 in capital equipment and they won't be doing that this year (plan not to). Hoping to do some projects in the clubhouse like taking care of the windows (we have 1960 windows). Dean is thinking of doing all new windows or blocking some of them up. Would like to have some screens put in so they could let the breeze in when nice out instead of using the air-conditioner. It was put in the 2016 budget to make payments or like a loan also budget for 2017 and beyond. Plans are to open the course March 1<sup>st</sup>. Last year they bought 16 sets of batteries and may have to buy a couple of batteries this year. The course has 40 golf carts with 8 of the carts using old sets of batteries in them. Most of those carts don't go out twice a day and are good for 18 holes. The 8 carts are used for tournaments, double shot guns starts or if really busy they are last ones used. They have some batteries that are weak but we do have some spares. Dean doesn't feel they will

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buy any batteries to start the year. The oldest carts are 2010 and were bought in September 2009 (30 carts were bought). It is getting tougher renting carts if needed for tournaments.

Right now the golf crew is cutting down trees (have around 100 dead trees from the Emerald Ash borer). The Street Department has been helping and they have taken 30 down.

#### **8. Park's Administrator's Report-Richard Brewer:**

**A) End of Year Budget Statements-**Rich Brewer-Parks Administrator informed the Park Board Members the latest budget sheets were for November 30, 2015 and was put in the member's packets.

Beth Myers informed the Board Members that she had given them the proposed 2016 budget and it isn't official yet but will be this month. Once the budget is official it will look like what was in the Board Member's packet. We will also be able to access it on SharePoint on the website for city and council people employees. Beth wanted to make sure that we had a pool budget (\$60,372.00). When this is official we should see everything updated.

**B) End of Year Pool Report:** We didn't get the pool back officially until the very end of the year. We started getting bills and we didn't have a budget to pay these. The City Council and Mayor Franklin decided in 2015 to take the pool over and do the renovations. They set up the renovation budget to take care of the expenses and the parks had nothing to do with this. (Rich had many conversations starting in March 2015 with the Administration about forming a pool operating budget for 2015. No action was taken. It is Rich's contention that since the Parks Dept had no budget for pool operating expenses in 2015, we can't pay any pool bills for 2015 out of the current year's budget). Rich has talked with Mayor Kitchell, Clerk Treasurer Cox, and Board of Works about this issue and they will help us resolve unpaid 2015 bills without affecting our 2016 budget. Beth made the Board Members aware we need to find the old resolutions as we can't pass issues unless we have them to back up what took place in 2015. Hopefully within the next month we will be able to locate the resolutions and leases.

**c) 2015 Annual Report:** Rich put this report in the Board Members packets for them to review.

#### **D) Administrator's Monthly Report:**

**A) Maintenance Department-** Our Parks Crew has been taking care of our parks throughout the city and they are looking really well.

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**B) Budget Transfer-** Rich touched base with Lynne Ness about questions about transfers from 2015 and Rich also stated these issues are addressed on the last page of Rich's report.

**e) Update on Website and Park App:** We are establishing a daily review of the website to keep up the corrections, additions, and deletions that will help us promote the Parks Department. On February 19<sup>th</sup> Rich and Vicki Ward-Parks Activity Director will have a webinar with Kirsten Gibson with Reach Media Network to help them hone their skills on the app to make more customer friendly.

- Beth Myers-Park Board President made aware we have smart phone app and you type in google play or whatever and Logansport Parks & Rec will pop right up. The app was put in 2014 and hasn't been updated since Janet Fawley left. We need to utilize this. Lynne Ness question if we have enough staff to address what needs to be addressed and Rich feels we do but, if not we will have to address this issue.

**f) Update on Moving to the Penman Building:** The move has been completed and Rich, Kathy, and Vicki are now under one roof and are across the street from Huston Park. The telephones, computers, and copier are now working. We have an issue with the ADA accessibility to the west of the building. Beth questioned about Kathy Scott-Parks Administrative Assistant being in a temporary office and when will she be able to move to a bigger room? Rich commented that depends when we actually get the building back as it is still under the city's ownership. Presently that office space is occupied by Metropolitan Title and they will be there at least until April. The decision hasn't been made if the city wants keep some offices as incubator space. Beth also questioned what drove the move and with it not being handicap accessible to go there. Rich informed everyone that Mayor Kitchell said he would like us to move there as we would be getting the building back shortly. We actually have no paperwork to this effect and moved into the Penman Building without any paperwork.

#### **9. Visitor's Comments:**

- Brandon Collins-228 Humphrey Street president of Youth Baseball came before the new Park Board Members to make them aware of what has been going on with the baseball league. Brandon has been president since November 17, 2015 and presented to the Park Board Members at that time the financial status of the baseball league. Brandon wanted to get to the

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bottom of finances so they wouldn't make those mistakes in the future. The league in 2015 started out with a debt of \$7000 and then from the Ohio Valley Regional Tournament last summer an additional loss of \$6000 (possibly from poor concessions management, lack of participation in fundraisers and overall poor management). The hole we are in currently is about \$26,500 deep. Brandon Collins has spoken to a local attorney, accountants, and their tax prep person. After taking their input they decided to merge with Logansport Babe Ruth and they will operate under Logansport's Babe Ruth federal tax id number. There will have to be a name change to Logansport Community Baseball and doing business as Cal Ripken and Babe Ruth. The boards to each league will be keep separate and current members voted in will stay in those positions. In doing this they created a community baseball league for kids ranging in age 4 all the way up to 15 all in one organization rather than two separately ran and non-communicating organizations.

- They moved the fence back on Metz's field to make a larger field and moved the bases (this was \$130 dollars). The reason for this is the kids at age 12 leave little league and go to Babe Ruth and it's like a major league stadium to them. They have opened up communication lines with the high school and Brandon has talked with Coach Jim Turner in regard with them merging together and once they merge it will open up the lines of communications with the high school programs (a no brainer).
- The Logansport Community Baseball has put together an executive board who will oversee and advice Babe Ruth and Cal Ripken boards and kind of make sure things are being done properly from a business aspect. This board will consist of the current high school coach, current city Babe Ruth president, the current city Cal Ripken president, and two community seats (one is Derreck Parkevich, the new executive director of the Cass County Family YMCA, Tyler Ness, and a LHS Baseball Coach. The five members are Coach Turner, Brandon Collins, Mike Prentice-Babe Ruth President, and Parkevich and Ness. These guys are like a big brother and they are to make sure things are being done properly and to give an outside loo on what is going on. Bottom line the new group has implemented things, made some changes, and did the merger and has another board to help to make things better for the kids and for the community and Logansport Youth Baseball will be successful again.

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- Mike McCord asked if they would have a treasurer that does the books for both leagues. Brandon stated that Babe Ruth and Cal Ripken boards would have their own president, vice president, members, secretary, and treasurer. As far as each board they would have their own meetings and funds except when they go to purchase things they will purchase as a group. When they go to donors or businesses they will be the Logansport Community Baseball (boards will work together).
- Lynn Ness questioned if they go to a business and they get \$500 how do they decide who gets what. Brandon has found out if they get a donation that donor usually will specify what they want done with their money and they have to respect that but if they don't specified they will put it in a general fund for the Logansport Community Baseball and say Babe Ruth and Cal Ripken have this project the board will say which project needs to be taken care of first. Brandon feels from him to the players, to the parents, and to the whole community they have to start looking at this as a baseball community.
- Mike McCord asked Brandon again as far as the financial end when you have one league that has had some financial problems how do not have that happen again. Sometimes you get a lot of volunteers in concession stands. You think you should be making money and you aren't because someone is taking money or something. Brandon stated we have a problem, we are \$7000 in the hole so how does the community board figure on fixing this for them. The group before the community board has implemented to do things differently that weren't being done previously and as an example Brandon has explained to the girl that will be manager of the concession stand that at the end of the night or anytime the money is pulled out of the drawer there will be two people that will count that money and initial it and also the representative for the board will also initial it. When Brandon or the treasurer goes to get the deposit for the next day there will be two initials on it verifying the amount. Will it eliminate anything, but it will hopefully make it harder for someone to do what we all figure could be done in these situations. From Brandon's experience and what people have told him there was a serious lack of organization and accountability in regard to finances with that league before and that was

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with fundraisers, concessions and with anything. Each treasurer will send electronically a monthly balance statement or financial statement to the Logansport Community Baseball Board and at least on a monthly basis they will know where the money is going and coming in at. Brandon wanted the Park Board to know he is an open book and will tell what he found or put a finger on it or what not and be happy to meet with the board anytime. Cal Ripken is \$26,500 in debt not Babe Ruth as they have a few hundred dollars in their account. The league should have around 300 kids total.

- Beth Myers commented so she understood things right that the Logansport Community Baseball team is made up of Cal Ripken and Babe Ruth. So there is no longer a Logansport Youth Baseball. Brandon stated she understood what was said.
- Chris Martin asked if anyone (public) could attend the meetings. Brandon stated not the executive meetings but the Babe Ruth and Cal Ripken Board Meetings are open to the public. Brandon has published his phone numbers and will be happy to field any questions to anyone.
- Lynne Ness questioned that the instructional situation has not been in the past for years but it seems like the coaches were more interested in winning than teaching the kids the fundamentals of the game. Brandon made know that they have had two coaching clinics that have been put on by Cory Cripe-LHS Baseball Coach (Cory is a Board Member on the Cal Ripken also). Cory will use his wisdom and put clinics together for this very purpose. It is mandatory to have so many coaches clinics and whatnot for the coaches to get better in these areas.
- Mike McCord went back to the finance end of this and stated that they need \$88.33 per player just to come back and pay the debt and are they looking towards the Parks Department or City of Logansport to help dig them out of this hole. Brandon commented there are some communications going on right now giving us some avenues that they can be assistance and those negotiations are going at this time. There are some donations being done with businesses since the league has reassured them that they are moving forward and not go down the same path as the league before them. These donations will help with some projects that they don't

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have the money for but, not necessarily get us out of the debt. Looking at the debt and knowing what Brandon knows and looking at the bank statements and by putting pieces together that he can put together he is confident that by the end of this baseball year they will be pretty close to being a wipe out of this debt and by next year absolutely. Brandon feels this should be run like a business and has brought this to the table. Brandon also made known that they are working with vendors that haven't been paid and so far the vendors have been willing to work with them (some vendors have not seen a payment for well over a year).

- Mayor Dave Kitchell made the new Park Board Members aware that they are referred to as the "Dream Team" and they should take this as a compliment. Dave is glad that they are all here and taking part and he couldn't be happier for the department with having on the board, Duane Ullom and Mike McCord having a baseball background and Beth Myers attending a game (and her dog catching a ball) and Lynne Ness has a great gene pool to draw from. Dave is glad they all agreed to serve on the board as he knows they do have some issues to deal with.

Dave made the board aware that they will be working on the utilities but because they are presently in the middle of a power purchase agreement right. He would like to have a cost of service rate study to determine what is fair to the commercial, residential, industrial rates. Dave would like to explore the possibility of a fourth tier for charities and non-profits.

Dave made the Park Board aware that the pool wasn't in our inventory for 2015 but it is for 2016. The history is that there are some utility issues with the water tower. He also stated there are some property lines that don't match up with what they should and need to be on park inventory. We will look at this situation and get them straightened out. A resolution will need to be passed to this effect. Dave made the remark that Rich and he have talked about a lot of issues regarding the Parks Dept (really a laundry list). Rich has been working very hard on these before the new Park's Board was put in place.

Dave knows the Board Members have day jobs and have a lot to do but, if they have any questions or issues please call him or e-mail him. Dave wanted to get people in place on the Park Board that would do an excellent job and he feels everyone here will do just that.

- Dave talked with Dave Workman today and the Park Foundation is excited that the Penman Building is getting back on the park inventory. The plan is to have a ribbon cutting with the Chamber at some point and to get the board all there it will be after school hours.
- Beth Myers made the Park Board aware that they were given in their packets a list of their contact information on the board members and wanted to make sure it's correct and saw there was no e-mail for Lynne Ness. Lynne's e-mail is [lynne@secfedbank.com](mailto:lynne@secfedbank.com) and Duane preferred to have his e-mail Comcast used and Mike McCord stated his cell phone is the best way to get ahold of him. Beth can't be reached by her phone until after 1:30 p.m. as she had students and would prefer after 3:20 p.m.

#### **10. Board Member's Comments:**

- Chris Martin is real excited to be on the Park Board and is his first time to be on a board. Looking forward to serving.
- Mike McCord is on the Park Board representing the Logansport School Corporation and right now we have about 67% poverty in our school so the parks do play an important part in the summer time and is nice to have the pool back because a lot of these kids don't have the ability to travel to Lafayette or Kokomo. It is nice to have summer recreational programs here in Logansport. There are a lot of interesting opportunities between the schools and the parks department in the fact that the schools were providing lunches and maybe even breakfast for some of the kids in low income. So if we had a summer rec program maybe we can find out where to distribute meals to these kids. There might be a way the schools could help. Mike is glad to be on the board.
- Duane Ullom is excited to be on the board and there are a lot of opportunities here and reaching out to the school there is a lot that our parks and our recreation offers that we could give back to the schools. Being a teacher Duane feels there is a lot of interface that could happen and closeness to the facilities that we could use and a lot of opportunities to explore in the next year and expand the programs.
- Lynne Ness feels the parks are our jewels (what come first the chicken or the egg) and we have quality of life, people want jobs to come to Logansport and jobs will come when we have good quality of life. People

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don't want to see that portion. They want the jobs first and our parks are a way to enhance the quality of life. The kids need to be outside and you don't see that as much anymore and they do need to be outside and get some of their energy off so Lynne is looking forward to promoting our parks and getting people involved.

- Beth Myers thank all the new Park Board Members for accepting their position on the Park Board and we will have an interesting year and she looks forward to the next meeting.

**11. Adjournment:** With no further business the meeting was adjourned by Beth Myers, Parks Board President at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathy Scott  
Parks Admin. Assistant