

Coon Valley Park Board

7/23/09 Minutes
Prepared By Clay Riness

Present at board meeting: Sandy Rundahl, Leon Borck, Roger Niedfeldt, Clay Riness, Willy Urbanek, Gary Kauser

Absent from board meeting: Karl Hendrichsen
Honored Guests: none

1. Approval of 5-27-09 Minutes
 - a. Motion to accept Leon; second Willy. All ayes - motion is carried.

2. Budget and Financial review
 - a. Baseball Field Costs – Apparently, there is no separate budget for the baseball field this year. Since the Village Board did not budget for fuel (for mowing), we have been informed that we are currently over budget by \$1084. The Park Board questions whether this figure accounts solely for fuel...and, feels that it seems woefully high. The Park Board officially requests an itemized breakdown of the expenditures which make up this figure. Willy intends to visit the village office and ask Renita for more information in this issue and report back to the Park Board.

(Secretary's Note: This figure would mean that more than \$250 per month was spent to date solely on fuel for mowing the park. Although the Secretary is admittedly no math wizard, he does know something about lawn tractors, and he is quite sure they get better gas mileage than that.)

3. CV Veterans Memorial Park Fan Page Demonstration – Clay
 - a. Since we were not able to procure the password to access the CV Park wireless network, we were unable to view the page at this meeting. Clay will contact Jay and, hopefully without incident or arrest, secure that top secret information for the next meeting.

4. Tour Of Park
 - a. No need for tour this meeting

5. Status Of Pending Projects
 - a. Rock Pile And FEMA Funded Projects – The rocks have been removed. Mr. Kauser raised a question regarding where the rock pile was removed to, and who authorized this. *(Note: The rock was purchased and delivered under FEMA grant money...and therefore should accounted for. If, in fact, the rock was given away (as is rumored), then it would have been a good idea to first see if it was usable or could be put in storage for village needs.)*

Further, the contractors were let go before some work that was needed and planned for was finished. Neither the Park Board President nor any of the Board members were contacted or asked to be involved in these decisions. Now that the contractors have gone with their proper equipment, it will be far more difficult for village employees to finish the list of jobs properly. The Park Board wants to know by whose authority these decisions are made, and perhaps, *why is there a Park Board*, if not to be involved in these important park-related issues?

- b. Southwest Corner Of Park – It has been suggested that the corner by the willow tree, south of the highway, be left unattended to grow wild. State and Federal funding requires that we upkeep these areas, and requires periodic photographic evidence of ongoing upkeep. The Park board is concerned about the consequences of leaving this unattended and wants to definitively know the reasoning behind such a plan. Because the Park Board is in full agreement that the obligation should be met, we *strongly recommend* continuation of upkeep.
 - c. Horseshoe Pit – Still not done... Materials are purchased and stored. Village Board tabled the project with questions regarding labor costs. Park Board recommends that the Village Board procure appropriate labor, approve the project and *get it done*.
 - d. Anderson Family Monument – Village Board tabled issue at their last meeting. Park Board once again *strongly recommends* that the job get done. Not to do so will undoubtedly risk offending the family, as this monument, commemorating the generosity of the family for its contributions to the park, is long overdue.
6. “Current Thoughts On Our Park” Update – Clay
- a. The letter went out in the last water bill to all village residents, was published front page in the Westby Times, and was published online on Clay’s Blog.
 - b. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive with one exception, an anonymous woman who was “offended” that we were “begging for money” while our village employees, she accused, are “too lazy to do their jobs”. The Secretary engaged in a civil online dialogue with her and discovered that she seemed to have a beef with the village employees, not the park. After some online discourse, the woman resorted to name calling and refused to respond further. (*Note: The entire drama as it unfolded can be read on Clay’s blog, The Weary Wolf Journal...simply type into the blog search box: “Current Thoughts On Our Park”, and read the comments.*)
 - c. Clay noted that although no one has come forth with an anonymous \$40,000 donation for the park, the letter accomplished what it was created to do, get people thinking and tap into the spirit of the grass roots mentality. The future will show as to whether lovers of the park will step up to the plate and swing the bat.

7. Old Business
 - a. none

8. Buildings And Grounds
 - a. Graffiti has been abated
 - b. Wood chip pile currently in Roosevelt Street lot will go around the trees after proper watering
 - c. Shrubs near south bathroom need trimming and this job is scheduled for next week
 - d. Gazebo staining is on the schedule for second week of August
 - e. Sand on path is being removed so that a contractor can come and lay a new layer of seal coating. As usual, there are budget issues. Original estimate for seal coat (two years ago) was \$13,000, but the newest estimate is approaching \$50,000. (*That silence you just heard was the sound of the Secretary's heart stopping briefly.*) The issue is being addressed with FEMA to see if more money can be made available.

9. Tools And Equipment
 - a. All is in good order

10. Village Board Update – Karl
 - a. N/A as Karl is absent

11. CVABA Update – Roger
 - a. Youth field proposal went to the Village Board and was approved.
 - b. Light tower maintenance was discussed by the Village Board and word is still pending.
 - c. Baseball season is coming to an end and tournament time is upon us. There is a tournament scheduled for Labor Day weekend.

12. Concerns – Sandy
 - a. No further concerns from the babe in the blue coat.

13. New Business
 - a. none

14. Adjourn
 - a. Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, August 27, 8 pm
 - b. Motion to adjourn Leon; second Willy All Ayes – Motion is carried