

Parks Committee Meeting – July 29, 2010

Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m.

Kathy Rhoads and Sue Cox were absent.

(The minutes prepared from a tape recording. A copy of the tape is available at Village Hall.)

Bonnie Gordon was sworn in as the new member, replacing Jim Thigpen who had resigned.

The Circus was in town. The village received a very nice letter from Lewis & Clark Circus Company which Jim Lovejoy read into the minutes.

Jon Sobczak gave the Parks Department report for the month ( a copy of which is made part of these minutes) Jim Lovejoy questioned where the birdhouses were located. If anyone can find all 9 – not 12, he will buy them a pizza. Jon continued with the remainder of the Parks Department report.

Village is losing several trees – being replaced with rocks. The village forester, Russ Leister will be on board soon.

Roger Kilgore commented relative to the rocks that had been moved to the front of village hall. Lengthy discussion ensued relative to decision making, better use of village employees' time; receipt of complaints from village residents; permission and authorization; proper procedure, etc. Jim Lovejoy replied he was only trying to beautify the village.

Bonnie Gordon offered a suggestion that perhaps people should put their complaints in writing and submit to the village.

Jon secured quotes on seal coating the village trail system.

1. Buckeye Seal Company, 66,027 square feet - \$4,290
2. Patterson – out of Creston – 6,014 yards - \$3,640

Seal coating Loehr – 2,532 sq. ft. – 1,620 parking lot

Bonnie Gordon questioned seal coating done in 2008 by Buckeye – difference in cost of approximately \$200. Jon explained difference is cost of petroleum going up – same equipment, ODOT specs, and same seal coat.

Jon explained he thought he should give Patterson a chance to bid as they were doing all of the work for the Village of Creston.

There was a discussion between Jon and committee members relative to an area on NW side of the trail that was sinking. Jon discussed in detail a couple of ways to correct this

problem and indicated it will only get worse if it is not repaired. The owner of some adjacent property had done some work he wasn't supposed to do which contributed to this problem. Seal Coating people will not guarantee this area.

New Business:

Bonnie questioned relative to an area along the church which was wet. Jon indicated this was no longer a problem as they had put in a catch basin.

The difference in the square footage relative to the seal coating was questioned. Jon explained one was in square feet – the other yards. He also stated the low area on the trail should be repaired prior to seal coating.

Jim stated he had some questions from Kathy Rhoads. One was the property across from Cy Hewitt which he called Parcel No. 1. There was a discussion as to the zoning, different possible uses, fact that it is a sub-standard lot, marketing issues. Discussion continued relative to making a possible parking lot with river rock or stone but this could be a possible zoning conflict.

Jim Lovejoy stated the forester legislation will be presented at the next council meeting which will be August 9, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. The new forester will need to be present at this meeting.

Jim Lovejoy stated that a list of Park projects needs to be compiled and prioritized. Barb Swartz stated the budget could be 10% less for 2011. Jim stated that they were going to work on a one year budget and a five year budget, especially for capital expenditures.

Barb stated CCA & the County Auditor are projecting a drop in revenue of approximately \$24,000 to \$26,000 for next year. She should have firm numbers in August.

Jim stated projects for next year should include a new mower, the lift in the garage and a part-time employee. He indicated the employee are worn out. If one should get sick or injured they would really be hurting.

He stated a Parks budget work session would be held in August. They should develop a firm list and know how much money they will have to work with.

Barb Swartz stated the Parks budget was in the best shape of all budgets. Jim indicated he was tired of working on a shoe string – he was a spender. Barb indicated the electric charge for Parks through June was \$37.87. She doesn't know what they are doing, but it is reduced substantially from last year so keep it up.

Jim stated to Roger Kilgore that they needed to get together to do the annual evaluations. Jim thanked Jon and his crew for the work they are doing and especially for the Gary

Eicheler dedication. It was very well done. Bonnie Gordon commented that the entire event was very well put together.

### Privilege of the Floor

Bonnie Gordon provided information relative to Run for the Trails. It will be September 6<sup>th</sup>. They're expecting a great year. They will have special events including a cookie baking contest. She stated residents had baked cookies in prior years for the Run so they were going to have the runners vote on the best cookie and the winner would get a trophy or something. She questioned whether this could be put on the Village website; possibly in the BOPA newsletter.

Richard Becerra questioned whether there should be written guidelines for the use of the Gator and anyone riding on it. Comments were brought up relative to liability issues; whether the release forms had been presented to Bill Young for review and approval. Jim Lovejoy stated he believed in KISS – keep it simple, they were just out there trying to have a little fun and everyone signed the release.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:56 p.m. – Motion for adjournment by Bonnie Gordon; second by Roger Kilgore.

# JULY PARKS REPORT 2010

Parks dept. has been mowing all parks along with village council bldg and the library once a week along with trimming and weeding as needed.

The parks dept. has cut the following delinquent properties this month: parcel # 012-21A-13-220 / # 021-21A-13-219 / # 012-21A-16-139 / #012-21A-16-138 / # 012-21A-16-159 along with the Autumn meadows subdivisions lot no. 1, 2, 30, 33, 34, 35 these have been turned into the zoning inspector's office.

We placed 9 blue bird houses out in leohr park mainly around the wildlife areas.

We trimmed all of the lower braches off trees at leohr park due to them hanging so low and hitting the mowers, we also took down the large dead ash tree along the trail & roadway and replaced it with 3 large boulders/rocks.

We cleaned up all of the flowerbeds around the downtown area pulling all weeds and putting new mulch down including the council bldg.

We continue to pick up the trash barrels at all parks three times a week due to the increased parks use.

Dale Sidle the owner of valley view spray service made the second application 7/12/10 to the village

A<sup>n</sup> 8/23/10

**concentrating on the problem areas for mosquito control through the village.**

**We set out 6 more trash barrels around the park for the circus we had minimal damage to the lawn.**

**We placed three large boulders/rocks at the council bldg.**

**Set up Stan hope park for the GARY EICHELER memorial service.**

**Clean up storm damage at all of the parks.**

**Paid all bills for the department.**

**Respectfully submitted by  
Jon sobczak**