

**Fair Grove District Park Board Meeting Minutes**

**The meeting was held at 81 Orchard Blvd.**

**September 25, 2023**

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**Meeting called to order by Chairman Icenhower at 6:01pm.**

**Roll Call:** Tonya Vickery-absent, Rachel N. Cooke-present, Regina J. Cooke-present, Jerra Icenhower-present, Becky Carr-present, Brittany Counterman-present, Stacey McCormick-present.

**Approve Agenda:** Add discuss and/or approve google space. Add discuss and/or approve office space. Add Discuss and/or approve monitors for the concession stand. Add Discuss and/or approve gravel addition for walking trails.

R.N. Cooke made a motion to approve the agenda with additions. B. Counterman seconded.

R.N. Cooke-yes, R.J. Cooke-yes, Icenhower-yes, Counterman-yes, McCormick-yes, Carr-yes

**Public Forum:** Jamie Martin, on behalf of project graduation is wanting to pair up with the park board and make a haunted trail. Jamie believes project graduation and the park board could use each other to help bring in more people to both events, the haunted trail put on by project graduation and the trick or trail put on by the park board. Jamie said there are about eighty (80) plus seniors that could help with both events. Project Graduation wants to use the wooded area to set up a haunted trail and have the trail run on September 28, 2023, and September 29, 2023, beginning at dark and running approximately until 9:00-10:00pm.

B. Counterman spoke with McPhail, and he let her know in past years the haunted trail had started at the gravel by the parking lot and ran through the wooded area leading back to the bigger trails. Counterman mentioned letting Project Graduation use some of the scary props. When R.J. Cooke attended the Project Graduation meeting September 12, 2023, she let Project Graduation know there are some scary props that might be available for them to use. Project Graduation would like to use all the wooded area to set up the Haunted Trail. B. Counterman said the events committee is planning to use chips and capri suns that were left over from the party in the park along with getting hotdogs to serve to the community. B. Counterman said the churches in the community would set up tents and hand out candy. She is going to reach out to other community members and businesses to see if they would be willing to set up a tent and hand out candy as well. B. Counterman is wanting to set up an area for a firepit to have s'mores available and hot chocolate. This would all be set up down in field one like previous years.

Motion made by McCormick to allow Project Graduation to use the wooded area to set up a haunted trail and charge admission price. B. Counterman seconded.

R.N. Cooke-yes, R.J. Cooke-abstained due to money being involved and having a senior in Project Graduation, Icenhower-abstained due to money being involved and having a senior in Project Graduation, B. Counterman-yes, McCormick-yes, Carr-abstained due to money being involved and having a senior.

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### **Old Business:**

Party in the park report, around three hundred (300) kids attended. There was lots of positive feedback from the community. The park partnered with People feeding people and they cooked and served the pulled pork. Lots of donations were given by the community. There was \$550.00 given in monetary donations, with the \$5000.00 that was approved to spend by the board, The events committee had \$5550.00 to spend only spending roughly \$4,700.00.

B. Counterman said she has been trying to contact Total highspeed for internet service, however when she calls, she gets a recording and must leave a message. She stated she has done this several times now and has not been contacted back. B. Counterman and Vickery had spoken about the issue B. Counterman was having. Vickery let B. Counterman know she has some contacts at Total Highspeed she is going to try and get in touch with and see if they can help get internet set up for the park. The city uses Total Highspeed for the office and Verizon for the patrol cars. Carr is going to attend the board of alderman meeting on Tuesday September 26, 2023, and ask if we could possibly piggyback off them for internet use.

### **New Business:**

#### **Committees:**

Icenhower has created a communications committee. Vickery will oversee this committee. R.N. Cooke expressed her interest in the by-laws committee. She has moved from sports to by law. R.J. Cooke expressed her interest in the events committee. She is moved from by-laws to events.

There are a lot of miscommunications going on with the concession stand. This discussion is tabled until the October meeting as M. Mullis needs to be present. Matt is not in attendance as he is at the football games. Carr did ask why she couldn't just do the shopping herself instead of having to go through others that have a credit card. B. Counterman explained Carr can give her the grocery list and she can place an order through the Sams app and Carr, or any other member can pick it up. B. Counterman did suggest maybe trying to get a Sams credit card to use for the concessions, as that is where most of the purchases are made. Carr is going to ask the aldermen about getting one when she attends there meeting.

Committees are being over stepped. Board members do not agree on specific things happening in the concession stand. Name calling is being made by board members to other board members. Some board members believe certain members are trying to step in and take over all roles of the park instead of working together.

R.J. Cooke stated she agrees with the committees, however, maybe ask each member what they are interested in. If there are more than three (3) members interested in the same

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committee, then get all board members top three choices and rotate so all members have a chance to be a part of all committees.

B. Counterman stated she went down on Sunday to set pulled pork out, but instead set out hotdogs. She realized her mistake and corrected it but need to defrost the pulled pork as it didn't have enough time to thaw and that's what she was doing when Carr came to set up the concession stand for Mondays games.

Carr stated she done inventory on Friday and Sunday. When she was there it was in fact the pulled pork set out and not the hotdogs like B. Counterman stated. When she arrived at the concession stand on Friday, B. Counterman was cooking food and trying to run and take over the concession stand so she went home. Carr stated she was called petty and hostile and want something done as it states in the by-laws name calling is not permitted. Carr also stated there are members texting each other things about the board that is not permitted to happen.

Icenhower stated if we can't let go of somethings happening and all get along, we will fail as a board. Icenhower does believe there has been a lot of miscommunications and it will all be addressed in the October meeting. Icenhower stated she is going to call Carr about setting up and running the concession stand, this communication will be done by phone call and not through text, so that there is no misinterpretation.

Calendar of events has been posted. Icenhower would like to get a calendar out months in advance so the community can plan for events going on and have a chance to rearrange their personal schedules if need be and they choose.

### **Halloween Event: Fall into fun.**

October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023, from 5:00pm-8:00pm

The Events Committee plans to bring in vendors to set up tents. They are going to ask the local churches and businesses around town to set up and hand out candy. The committee is going to ask Peace Chapel Church to use a bounce house for the event. The Committee is going to have hot dogs, chips and drinks, as well as having a tent to hand out candy. They are going to ask some businesses in Springfield about donation for a giveaway. The committee would like to have a budget of \$1000.00 for the Halloween event. They had roughly \$800 left from party in the park and are asking for an additional \$200.00 to go with it.

Motion was made by McCormick to put an additional \$200.00 with the money left from party in the park, giving the Events Committee a total of \$1000.00 to spend for Fall into fun. R.N. Cooke Seconded. R.N. Cooke-yes, R.J. Cooke-yes, Icenhower-yes, B. Counterman-yes, McCormick-yes, Carr-yes.

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The Events Committee also wants to do a hayride; however, it is a very big liability for the park, and the individual driving the hayride. K. Counterman is going to looking into her insurance and the events committee will be looking into the park insurance to find out if the hayride can be done.

### **Employee Reports:**

McPhail spoke with Overstreet at the High School and asked what the school has done about having standing water on the fields. McPhail was given Advanced Turf Solutions. McPhail provided a bit. It's been suggested to do Soil on first. The cost of the soil is \$1490.16, Then adding the Conditioner in the spring. The Broadstar is to help prevent weeds/grass. For a total of \$5519.36. The Conditioner will need to be done every year. All of it would need to be redone about every 4-5 years. This would need to be done for both field 1 and field 2. Bases are way off on both fields, so they need to be pulled anyway and reset.

**Google Space:** Icenhower would like all board members to have a google space to put all park related items. Sports, meeting minutes, events etc...there will be a place to go back and look at previous years or even new members in the future. Icenhower stated she believed it was \$6.99 per month for each board member to have it. A member from the historical Society let us know, that is what the Historical Society uses, and it doesn't cost anything. Icenhower is going to look into it and see about getting it for the board members.

**Office:** B. Counterman discussed with McPhail adding two temporary walls, with two access points in the concession stand. If we do add two walls to make an office space in the garage of the concession stand it will cut down the space, we have for storage. McPhail is going to spray again for spiders. Icenhower would like for the board members to meet at the concession stand to clean out the garage and go over making an office.

**Monitors:** There was an issue with a child trying to read the menu boards and figure out what they wanted to order from the concession stand. Another person thought the child was taking too long and asked them to step aside. Board members feel if we had monitors with the menu on it, everyone would be able to see easier and make a smoother ordering process for everyone. McCormick is going to research TVs and bring information to the October meeting.

**Gravel for walking trails:** K. Counterman would like to add gravel to the trail making it easier to do a drive thru and it makes the trail a little longer. K. Counterman brought a map to show what she was talking about. Will get a copy of the map to place with meeting minutes if gravel is approved.

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**New Business:** Carr stated that she would have like to see the community help design the logo for the park. The Logo is tabled until the October meeting.

Carr found kids on top of the dugouts and doing flips off the dugouts. Carr asked the kids to not being doing that as they can get hurt. McPhail is going to be placing cameras and signs out letting everyone know cameras are in place around the park.

**Employee Report:** K. Counterman has a class October 20<sup>th</sup> at MSU for grant writing. She has also been working on the Fall into fun event. Trying to help monitor social media. Icenhower wants to set out some guidelines that everyone must follow in order to continue being on any social media the park has, as there have been a some negative, mean threatening things towards the park board. R.N. Cooke and R. J. Cooke did let K. Counterman know they did not appreciate the message that was sent to all board members. K. Counterman is not in charge and had no right saying what she did, they suggested maybe taking it with a different approach. Carr and R. N. Cooke believe comments should not be removed from the park social media pages, whether it be good/bad criticism or even a community member complaining and saying things they shouldn't be saying. There is not a problem with the community giving good/or bad feedback/criticism, however, threatening messages will not be tolerated.

McPhail: Rep and Sow donated pumpkins for the entrance to the park, MFA donated straw bales for the entrance for the festival. Historical Society placed barricades and fence and made sure the vendors were parking where they were supposed to as to not tear up the grass in the park.

Thank you from the Lions Club for allowing the use of the parks building to do bingo during the festival.

M. Mullis: All shirts for flag football have been handed out, cheer shirts and bows have been handed out. Soccer shirts will be ready tomorrow. The Concession stand was slow at the games tonight. A Couple of parents are not happy with only playing five (5) games for football. Mullis is going to add another game in for all teams. The kids are having a great time and love playing. M. Mullis seen Florez at the festival. Florez asked if he could come help with the soccer program. M. Mullis let Florez know he is more than welcome to come and help. M. Mullis has gotten a new computer, so he is working on getting team snap set up and going.

**Treasure Report:** As of August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, there was \$191,524.04 in the account. \$14,766.03 was brought in, \$4,366.06 from sales tax, \$7,898.07 from Greene County tax, \$191.90 from interest, \$2,310.00 from football/cheer. Bill paid in the amount of \$5,352.80. Water bill, credit card, utilities. Open balance on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, was \$182,110.81.

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City Treasure sent an email to B. Counterman about maybe investing some money in CDs. CDs are for 12 months with 5% interest. Minimum is usually around \$1000.00 to set up. The CDs are tabled until the October meeting.

Dittman had been voted in as the new treasure, however resigned due to personal reasons. B. Counterman has continued to do the treasure reports and take care of the bills. B. Counterman stated she needs to step away from the treasure as she is not able to keep up with it. Vickery had mentioned before she could take over the treasure, however she is not in attendance, R.J. Cooke believes Vickery should be in attendance before having that roll placed on her. B. Counterman has agreed to keep the roll until Vickery returns at the next meeting.

Motion made by R.J. Cooke to approve the Treasurer Report. Carr Seconded

R.N. Cooke-yes, R.J. Cooke-yes, Icenhower-yes, B. Counterman-yes, McCormick-yes, Carr-yes

The Board is still looking for new members to fill the empty spots on the board.

**Meeting Minutes:** R.J. Cooke made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023. B. Counterman seconded. R.N. Cooke-yes, R.J. Cooke-yes, Icenhower-yes, B. Counterman-yes, McCormick-yes, Carr-yes

**Adjournment:** The next board meeting was scheduled for October 9, 2023. There is also a project graduation meeting the same night. Three members of the board would not be able to attend the park board meeting, leaving the board without a quorum. Therefore, the next park board meeting will be October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 6:00pm.

Motion made by R.J. Cooke to adjourn at 8:53pm. B. Counterman seconded.

R.N. Cooke- yes, R.J. Cooke-yes, Icenhower-yes, B. Counterman-yes, McCormick-yes, Carr-yes.

**Regina Cooke (Secretary)**