

MINUTES
BEN GEREN PARK BOARD MEETING
March 9, 2009
12:00 Noon

The regular meeting of the Ben Geren Park Board was held at 12:00 noon, March 9, 2009, at the Ben Geren Park Community Building, 7200 Zero, Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Present were:

Mr. Wayne Hancock
Mr. Bud Harper
Mr. Eddy Beshears
Mr. Jerry Neel

Absent were:

Mr. Frank Glidewell

Others present were:

Mr. Jerry Roberts, Assistant County Administrator
Mrs. Sue Reed, Sebastian County Comptroller
Mr. Joe Gaa, Park Administrator
Mr. Bobby Faulkner, Park Maintenance Supervisor
Mrs. Paula Vincent, Administrative Secretary
Mr. Joe Mundy, 3rd Vice President, Ben Geren Softball Association
Mr. Dan Bardin, Wanna Be Racing
Mr. Rusty Garrett, Times Record

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 Noon by Mr. Wayne Hancock, Chairman.

There being no corrections or additions to the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 2, 2009, Mr. Bud Harper moved and Mr. Jerry Neel seconded that they be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

The first item on the agenda was the Monthly Financial Reports. A total of \$22,666.19 for the Golf Course and \$100.00 for the Front Side was transferred to County Treasurer for January 2009 and a total of \$28,738.48 for the Golf Course and \$90.00 for the Front Side was transferred to County Treasurer for February 2009.

The next item on the agenda was briefing on golf course marketing plan.

Joe Gaa comments: A major objective for 2009 is more marketing and golf courses that are successful are using internet. Our March Newsletter, which went out by e-mail, and Calendar of Golf Events were included in the packet. We are looking at radio marketing and newspaper marketing.

The next item on the agenda was Park Administrator Report by Mr. Joe Gaa. Six goals from Strategic Planning Focus Groups were distributed. The Strategic Plan is going very well.

Spring is here. Softball has started. Joe Mundy has been tutoring Bobby and his staff in how to maintain softball fields. A soccer tournament was held over the weekend.

Bud Harper comments: Is impressed with participation and input that has been received during the Strategic Planning process from all of the folks involved in athletics in this area, from Schools, Cities, Boys & Girls Clubs.

Under old business, the Park Board received a facility upgrade proposal for Wanna Be Racing from Dan Bardin in June of 2007. A memo from Joe Gaa follows up on this proposal outlining work that has been completed, work in process, and scope of work to be completed. Dan Bardin shared some background on the old track which preexisted his occupation of the facility. Judge Hudson, Bobby Faulkner, and Dan met and agreed that the County would remove the old track. The track has been removed and a 500 square foot shale path has been provided for the movement of go carts to and from the shop. Dan understood that this would be a paved road. It was moved by Mr. Bud Harper and seconded by Mr. Eddy Beshears that the consensus of the Park Board is to approve Joe Gaa's Scope of Work with the following addition to Item #3: "The Park Administrator and County Judge will work with the go-cart operator to reach a tentative partnership for providing pavement." Motion carried unanimously.

The first two items on the agenda under new business were a Special Event request from KISR for their Kite Flight and Car Show on March 28, 2009, from 9am to 4pm at Pavilion 2 and a Special Event request for the Fort Smith Memory Walk on June 6, 2009, from 7:30am to 1:00pm at Pavilion 3. Mr. Eddy Beshears moved and Mr. Jerry Neel seconded that both of these Special Events be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

The third item under new business was Special Event Policy. We have had a Special Event Policy in effect for quite some time. This Application Form was created in order to better coordinate with them to insure that the park is ready for them and we are ready to deal with what might be left behind as far as trash and cleanup. Park Board is being asked to approve this form under the existing policy and to consider how they want to see these each month, every event application in total written form or a calendar with the option for discussion of any event requested. Mr. Jerry Neel moved and Mr. Bud Harper seconded that the Park Board approve the Special Event Application Form under existing Special Event Policy and that a Special Event Calendar be included in the packet each month. Motion carried unanimously.

The fourth item under new business was Tennis Complex Update. A Tennis Complex Court Reservation Form has been developed. Joe Gaa does not feel comfortable soliciting proposals at this time. He does feel comfortable coordinating special events at the facility. The facility is deteriorating. Mr. Eddy Beshears moved and Mr. Jerry Neel seconded that usage of the courts be coordinated out of the Park Office without a usage agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Joe Mundy commented on the softball transition, i.e. light usage, restroom availability.

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Mr. Bud Harper moved and Mr. Eddy Beshears seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Vincent
Administrative Secretary