

MINUTES
BEN GEREN PARK BOARD MEETING
May 11, 2009
12:00 Noon

The regular meeting of the Ben Geren Park Board was held at 12:00 noon, May 11, 2009, at the Ben Geren Park Community Building, 7200 Zero, Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Present were:

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

Absent were:

Others present were:

Sebastian County Judge David Hudson
Mr. Jerry Roberts, Assistant County Administrator
Mrs. Sue Reed, Sebastian County Comptroller
Mr. Joe Gaa, Parks Administrator
Mr. Steve Nicholls, Golf Professional
Mr. Bobby Faulkner, Park Maintenance Supervisor
Mrs. Paula Vincent, Administrative Secretary
Mr. Joe Mundy, 3rd Vice President, Ben Geren Softball Association

The meeting was called to order at 12:05pm by Mr. Wayne Hancock, Chairman.

There being no corrections or additions to the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 13, 2009, Mr. Frank Glidewell moved and Mr. Bud Harper seconded that they be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

The first item on the agenda was the Monthly Financial Reports. A total of \$174,016.94 for the Golf Course and \$8,825.19 for the Front Side was transferred to County Treasurer for April 2009.

The next item on the agenda was briefing on golf course marketing plan by Steve Nicholls. Annual ticket sales began April 1. Sales for April 2009 were \$92,157 compared to \$78,178 for April 2008. Of the 140 that have been sold, 29 are new people. Our May newsletter offers one free seat on a cart for 9 holes, a \$7 value. Fourteen golfers are enrolled in the Get Golf Ready program, which began May 7. A Free Clinic is scheduled for May 23 under the direction of Steve Nicholls, PGA Golf Professional.

The next item on the agenda was Parks Administrator Report by Mr. Joe Gaa, included in the packet in writing. It addresses the Strategic Plan.

The only item on the agenda under old business is Strategic Plan Update. Joe Gaa talked about the process of Strategic Planning in securing outside people to do it, they give us a report, we look at it and put it on the shelf and never do it. He remains committed to the process to work hard with the Judge to make sure it gets done. The Park Board was asked for comments on the final presentation of the Strategic Plan. Wayne Hancock said the presentation went well, the students were knowledgeable, we have a road map and now need to walk the walk. Eddy said the students did a good job and presented good ideas. All it takes is money. When asked for things that jumped out that were positives or negatives, Wayne commented on the difference between Burns Park and Ben Geren Park budgets. We are spread pretty thin and do an incredible job with no more money and people than we have. Judge Hudson pointed out the tennis complex is in poor condition and added that all three Sebastian County Parks are run down and in need of attention. There are many projects for the Quorum Court that need funding in the County. Bud felt one of the better things from the meetings we have had is the suggestion that we make a commitment to a footprint of the property we have and apply our plan to that. We cannot do it all at once, but we will know the location of each planned section that we will eventually have as funds become available.

The two items on the agenda under new business were approval of Special Events on the calendar for May and June.

Judge Hudson presented a plaque to Wayne Hancock in appreciation for his 10 years service on the Park Board. His term ends May 31, 2009.

Frank Glidewell asked if money contributed to a Friends of the Park program can be placed in a special fund. Joe Gaa will research options.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Vincent
Administrative Secretary