

MINUTES  
BEN GEREN PARK BOARD MEETING  
August 10, 2009  
12:00 Noon

The regular meeting of the Ben Geren Park Board was held at 12:00 noon, August 10, 2009, at the Ben Geren Park Community Building, 7200 Zero, Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Present were:

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

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. Bobby Faulkner, Park Maintenance Supervisor  
Mrs. Paula Vincent, Administrative Secretary  
Mr. Kim Thompson, Ben Geren Softball Association  
Mr. Rusty Garrett, Southwest Times Record

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 noon by Mr. Frank Glidewell, Chairman.

There being no corrections or additions to the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 8, 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 \$87,708 for the Golf Course and \$18,925.86 for the Front Side was transferred to County Treasurer for June 2009. A total of \$108,121.91 for the Golf Course and \$15,434.06 for the Front Side was transferred to County Treasurer for July 2009.

According to Mr. Joe Gaa, a midyear review showed June 2009 revenue ahead of expenses by about \$40,000 compared to an \$11,000 deficit at the same time in 2008. At the end of July, Ben Geren Miniature Golf has gross revenue of almost \$29,000, expenses of \$7,600, and net revenue of about \$21,000. The County began operating the Miniature Golf facility in August 2008.

Judge Hudson commended Joe Gaa on his initiative in taking over Miniature Golf. Mr. Frank Glidewell complemented Steve Nicholls on the ASGA Tournament August 8-9.

The Agents for signing checks on the Ben Geren Regional Park checking account need to be

updated. Mr. Jerry Neel moved and Mr. Eddy Beshears seconded that Judge David Hudson, Mr. Gerald Roberts, Mr. Jerry Neel, and Mr. Eddy Beshears be authorized agents on the Ben Geren Regional Park checking account and that all agents exercise all of the powers listed in the resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was Parks Administrator Report by Mr. Joe Gaa. At their June meeting, the Quorum Court appropriated \$133,500 for rural parks. A National Invitational Softball Tournament was held the last weekend in July. It attracted teams from six states, and approximately 1,500 people in the park. The fall sports season will be starting soon. Ben Geren Softball Association will have a tournament August 15, Sebastian County Girls Softball Association league starts Labor Day weekend, Soccer league starts around September 1, and their big tournament will be the last weekend in September.

There were no items on the agenda under old business. Judge Hudson is pleased that the trees planted in the park two years ago are living and growing. He would like to see more planted in 2010. He also stated that the 2010 proposed budget is in progress, working toward a draft.

The first item on the agenda under new business was approval of Special Events on the calendar for August.

The second item on the agenda under new business was 2010 Budget Priorities. Joe Gaa reported that the park staff had assembled a list of budget priorities for 2010. Included for the park are strategic plan implementation, continue softball reorganization, update usage agreements, aquatics facility, sports facilities (tennis, softball, soccer). Golf course priorities include improvement of greens quality, sand quality and storage, improvement plan for cart paths, golf cart replacement plan, develop large pavilion.

Judge Hudson, Joe Gaa, and Bobby Faulkner took a field trip to Burns Park in North Little Rock to look at their facility. It was a learning experience. We are looking at the possibility of a future partnership in Midland Park for a caretaker similar to what we have in East Sebastian County Park.

Mr. Jerry Neel has noticed improvements on the golf course, i.e. water in the ball washers is being changed more frequently and regularly, carts are being kept clean. According to Joe Gaa, this is due to the addition of more golf course rangers who are picking the driving range, keeping the ball dispenser more full, washing and parking carts.

Mr. Jerry Neel moved, Mr. Eddy Beshears seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Vincent  
Administrative Secretary