

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

The regular meeting of the Ben Geren Park Board was held at 12:00 noon, October 12, 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
Mr. Joe Gaa, Parks Administrator
Mr. Steve Nicholls, P.G.A. Golf Professional
Mrs. Paula Vincent, Administrative Secretary
Mr. Joe Mundy, President Ben Geren Softball Association
Mr. Kim Thompson, Secretary Ben Geren Softball Association

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 p.m. by Mr. Frank Glidewell, Chairman.

There being no corrections or additions to the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 10, 2009, and September 14, 2009, Mr. Eddy Beshears 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 \$97,744 for the Golf Course and \$15,350.49 for the Front Side was transferred to County Treasurer for August 2009. A total of \$61,787.70 for the Golf Course and \$8,278.10 for the Front Side was transferred to County Treasurer for September 2009. Looking at revenue/expense analysis, in August 2009, we were \$94,000 in the black which is the peak. In September, we were down to \$86,000, which is still a good place to be. Item on Quorum Court Agenda for October include: 1) Add \$5,900 to budget for insurance reimbursement that was paid twice, 2) Request to spend \$7,500 from Capital for a reel grinding machine. Maintenance is also working on concrete sand pads which will improve sand quality for greens aerification.

According to Mr. Joe Gaa, the last day open for Ben Geren Miniature Golf was October 4 and a preliminary end-of-year report indicates that it will make approximately \$28,000 profit for the 2009 season. Mr. Frank Glidewell commended Joe for the decision he made to operate the facility and the good job he has done.

The next item on the agenda was Briefing on Golf Course marketing plan by Mr. Steve

Nicholls. An October Calendar of Events, Golf Specials, and Entry form for Judge David Hudson's Golfer Appreciation Fall Scramble are included in the Park Board packet. The October Newsletter was sent out by email. Limited specials include Monday Senior Day (62+), 18 holes including cart for \$25, and Friday All Comers, 18 holes including cart for \$27. Ongoing promotions include Cheaper by the Dozen (35 sold), Six-Pack (21 sold), and Play by the Hour (250 sold). Tournaments for the month are shown on the October Calendar. The Judge's Scramble has been rescheduled for November 7. The Golf Course Maintenance Staff is in the process of aerifying greens.

According to Joe Gaa, Golf Course Marketing has improved this year, thanks to the efforts of Steve Nicholls. Joe commended Steve for the good job. Other maintenance projects are replacing shale on cart paths that have washed out and repairing water leaks.

Judge's Comments: Irrigation leaks will be ongoing given the age of the golf course. He would like to see the development of a long-term maintenance plan item listed by priority. The Assessors Office has recently aquired aerial topographical pictures of the County that were flown in January. It would be beneficial to have current pictures of the entire golf course.

Mr. Joe Mundy stated that the Ben Geren Softball Association is finishing their 2009 season and looking forward to the 2010 season.

The next item on the agenda was Parks Administrator Report by Mr. Joe Gaa. A winter projects list for the Park Maintenance Staff is in progress. It will be discussed with the Park Board in November. Vendor usage agreements will be reviewed for the 2010 season. Joe will be at the National Recreation and Parks Association Annual Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, October 12-16.

The only item on the agenda under old business was Strategic Plan Update. The power point presented to the Quorum Court and Strategic Planning Committee is included in the Park Board packet. Work is being done on Interlocal Agreement with City of Fort Smith. Judge Hudson feels that University of Arkansas Fort Smith and Fort Smith Public Schools are likely partners.

The only item on the agenda under new business was Special Events Calendar for October.

According to Judge Hudson, the Aquatics Feasibility Study will be done by Larkin Aquatics and Sub-consultant Ballard King.

Mr. Jerry Neel moved, Mr. Eddy Beshears seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Vincent
Administrative Secretary