

MINUTES  
BEN GEREN PARK BOARD MEETING  
September 10, 2007  
12:00 Noon

The regular meeting of the Ben Geren Park Board was held at 12:00 Noon, September 10, 2007, at the Ben Geren Park Community Building, 7200 Zero, Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Present were:

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

Absent was:

Mr. Bud Harper

Others present were:

Hon. David Hudson, Sebastian County Judge  
Ms. Sue Reed, Sebastian County Comptroller  
Mr. Steve Nicholls, P.G.A. Golf Professional  
Mr. Bobby Faulkner, Park Supervisor  
Mrs. Paula Vincent, Administrative Secretary  
Mr. Joe Mundy, 1st Vice President, Ben Geren Softball Association  
Ms. Mary Crider, Times Record

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

There being no corrections or additions to the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 13, 2007, it was moved by Mr. Frank Glidewell and seconded by Mr. Eddy Beshears that they be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

The first item on the agenda was the Monthly Financial Reports. A total of \$90,158.84 for the Golf Course and \$3,995.48 for the Front Side was transferred to County Treasurer for August 2007. Mr. Steve Nicholls noted that August revenue for 2007 increased over 2006. Mr. Frank Glidewell noted that year-to-date rounds for 2007 are 4,000 below 2006.

The next item on the agenda was briefing on Golf Course marketing activities by Mr. Steve Nicholls. The September and October golf calendars were included in the packet.

- There have been 29 Triple 5's cards sold at \$150 each.
- The marketing letters offering buy one get one free have about a 60% return rate.
- Several tournaments are scheduled in the next two months.
- Silo greens are being aerified today with 1/2" holes. The plan is to deep tine Magnolia and Willow the next two days.
- There were 96 players in the City Championship.

The only item under old business is Mr. Frank Glidewell's suggestion at the August meeting that the park board consider an unlimited annual ticket for 2008. Mr. Steve Nicholls and Mr. Tom Minton are researching this suggestion. No further discussion is necessary at this time.

Mr. Frank Glidewell suggested looking into the cost of putting nitrogen in the golf cart tires to stabilize air pressure.

The only item on the agenda under new business is briefing on 2008 Park Budgets. The park staff and the County Judge's staff are working on 2008 budgets.

Judge Hudson shared with the board that Mr. David Burton spoke to the Quorum Court about the park water facility issue as far as demolition of the pool and the options on the bath house. He has done some research and has good experience. The Quorum Court allocated \$150,000 in 2007 toward a grant. The decision was made not to submit a grant application this year. Judge Hudson is recommending that the Quorum Court put an allowance of \$150,000 in the 2008 budget for operating costs for a water facility and see if the budget can be balanced. The only revenue available for a major project would come from sales tax money in 2010.

The Quorum Court will be asked to authorize money in the park's 2008 budget to update the master plan. Judge Hudson feels that a public opinion survey in some type of organized fashion is desirable and will help everyone.

The County can do the demolition on the pool without any additional money. The pool bath house is an aging facility. Judge Hudson recommends a partnership with the soccer association to improve their complex.

According to Mr. Rusty Myers, a 20% matching trails grant has opened through the Highway Department. The Quorum Court approved putting in a grant application to expand existing trails. The application has been submitted.

Judge Hudson has talked to Mr. Steve Nicholls about assuming more responsibility for the golf course as Director of Golf working with the Golf Course Superintendent. It is the opinion of Mr. Frank Glidewell that if a water facility is added, the Park Administrator position should be filled. The addition of a water facility is too much responsibility on existing staff.

The East Sebastian County Park project is almost completed. Mr. Randy Cothran and his staff have done a great job.

Ben Geren Park Board  
September 10, 2007  
Page 3

Mr. Wayne Hancock expressed kudos to Mr. Bobby Faulkner for the success of the trees planted in the park. About 200 of the 2,400 trees have been lost which is a good survival rate.

The park staff is closely monitoring golf course revenues and expenses trying to keep the operation within our cash flow.

The last item on the agenda is park revenue reports which are included in the packet. Judge Hudson and Ms. Sue Reed have been discussing developing a financial report in order to pull the data into a standard format. Some of the time frames in the agreements do not work with the County budget cycle and need to be adjusted. We need some kind of consistent policy for financial reporting and budget.

The next park board meeting will be held on Monday, October 8, 2007, at 12:00 noon. It was moved by Mr. Wayne Hancock and seconded by Mr. Frank Glidewell that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Vincent, Administrative Secretary