

MINUTES  
BEN GEREN PARK BOARD MEETING  
April 14, 2008  
12:00 Noon

The regular meeting of the Ben Geren Park Board was held at 12:00 noon, April 14, 2008, at the Ben Geren Park Community Building, 7200 Zero, Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Present were:

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

Absent were:

Mr. Jerry Neel  
Mr. Bud Harper

Others present were:

Hon. David Hudson, Sebastian County Judge  
Mr. Tom Minton, Assistant County Administrator  
Mr. Joe Gaa, Park Administrator  
Mr. Steve Nicholls, P.G.A. Golf Professional  
Mr. Bobby Faulkner, Park Maintenance Supervisor  
Mrs. Paula Vincent, Administrative Secretary  
Mr. Mike Henson, 1st Vice President, Ben Geren Softball Association  
Mr. Joe Mundy, 3rd Vice President, Ben Geren Softball Association  
Ms. Mary Crider, Times Record

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

There being no corrections or additions to the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 10, 2008, Mr. Frank Glidewell moved and Mr. Eddy Beshears seconded that they be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

The first item on the agenda was the Monthly Financial Reports. A total of \$48,135.56 for the Golf Course and \$562.50 for the Front Side was transferred to County Treasurer for March 2008.

The next item on the agenda was briefing on golf course marketing plan by Mr. Steve Nicholls. A March newsletter went out with an offer to buy one round and get one round free on a weekday. Forty have been returned. Leagues and tournaments are ongoing. A copy of the April newsletter is in the packet. We did an ad in the Times Record announcing our fees and annual tickets. The Golf Course Rate Comparison was updated. Three courses have increased their fees. Media day will be Friday, May 2, 2008. Annual ticket sales are \$8,000 ahead of last year. Sixteen have been sold to people who did not have one last year. There are 28 who have not yet purchased and intend to. Steve is making plans for the Nationwide Qualifier on Monday, May 5, 2008, getting vans for getting golfers off the course in the event of inclement weather. Twenty-five new Yamaha golf carts have arrived and are in service.

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The only item on the agenda under old business is Softball lighting update. Mr. Joe Gaa said we hope to start the bidding process soon. There were some poles that needed to be taken down. They have been taken down. We are trying to see what will be best in the short and long term and are gathering data in preparation for the bidding process. Joe is working with the softball association to understand the data, how many teams, schedule, starting times, etc. Mr. Joe Mundy said they have received some negative feedback from teams because of the lighting. They do not know the impact it will have this season.

The only item on the agenda under new business is Midland Park Proposal. The Hackett Suburban League has requested to use Midland Park ball field to practice and play Sr. and Jr. Babe Baseball, Minors and Majors Baseball, Girls Softball, as well as Coed and other softball games. They will maintain the field inside the fence, put in base lines, and provide liability insurance. At the recommendation of Mr. Joe Gaa, Mr. Eddy Beshears moved, Mr. Frank Glidewell seconded, that we work with Hackett Suburban League toward a use agreement and proper insurance. Motion carried unanimously.

Judge Hudson stated that an opening ceremony for the East Sebastian County Park building is forthcoming. Mr. Joe Gaa is looking at an agreement with Lavaca Athletic Association.

In response to a question about promoting the Ladies Golf League, Mr. Steve Nicholls said that the league is growing. Steve did a rules seminar the first day of their season and an instructional session on the tee with them. Existing company leagues continue to return each year.

The last item on the agenda is park revenue reports that are included in the packet. The Judge's office and Park office is interested in coming up with a standardized financial reporting form and activity reporting form.

Mr. Mike Henson provided a written proposal on fencing to Mr. Joe Gaa for consideration.

It was moved by Mr. Eddy Beshears and seconded by Mr. Frank Glidewell that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Vincent  
Administrative Secretary