

Ferdinand Park & Recreation Board Minutes

Wednesday, April 6, 2016

Ferdinand Park and Recreation held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 at the Town Hall with Mike Steffe, Matt Weyer, Dolores Boeglin and Tom Lueken in attendance. Also at the meeting were Chris James Town Manager, and Beverly Schultheis, Town Clerk.

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting in March were read and approved with a motion by Mike and second by Matt. Minutes of the special meeting on April 23 were also approved with a motion from Mike and second by Matt.

Catherine and Dan LeBlanc with the Rosenvolk committee, were present to explain the layout of the proposed Rosenvolk Renaissance which they are wanting to hold in 18th St. Park in October. The board had many concerns on this and questions which needed answering.

Concerning liability issues Mr Leblanc said all liability would be covered by them and also each vendor would be carrying their own liability insurance.

The tents that will be erected are not for camping but for demonstrations. They are expecting a large number of students to attend. So far they have heard from 18 schools that are interested in attending. This will cause a problem for parking of buses. Originally they wanted to park buses on the parking lot, but members of the board felt this could also be a problem. Mr. LeBlanc said they would look into possibly seeking parking elsewhere such as factory parking lots, 5th St. Park, etc. Will get back to board on this. Most students should be dropped off by noon on Friday. Hours of operation will be from 9 a.m. To 10 p.m. on Friday; 10-10 on Saturday and 11-6 on Sunday. They are estimating that 9000 people will be attending in the three days. Set up will need to begin a week prior to the event in order to work out any problems that will occur so it runs smoothly. They will also need to address handicap parking.

The only overnight guests in park will be for security, which they will provide. Horses will be housed at the 4-H grounds. The board asked Chris James to check with town's rule on overnight camping and to handle.

The encampment area will be set for 6 horses for the jousting demonstrations.

Food vendors have all been made aware of the fire restrictions. It was brought to their attention that the weather may be cool and wondered what was being done about that possible problem. Mr. LeBlanc stated they would have caldrons scattered around the area where people could go to warm up. He assured the board these would be on tripods and would not touch the ground. He will contact the fire marshal on this. He stated the reason they needed electricity was for the masquerade ball. Chris was asked to have underground utilities GPS'd.

The archery demonstration is being done by 15-21 year olds from North Carolina, who make all their own equipment. The board was concerned about safety in using bows. Mr. LeBlanc said he thought he would possible redesign the area so shooting with be done up the hill. Also he stated that the bows were low impact which also cuts done on possible safety issues. He said this group travels all over the

United States doing demonstrations, and this is their way of raising funds.

Any platforms that are to be installed will not be raised, only leveled because of the uneven terrain. They have ordered 12 portable restrooms but were not exactly sure where they would be located at this time, but thought spaced around area rather than all in one place would be a lot better.

Fencing around the area will be 7 ft. high and would be more solid than last year. They said the wind was a problem with the fencing last year and flapped in the wind.

When asked why they did not return to the Convent grounds like last year, he stated there were several problems. First was the renovation of Benet Hall. Since new owners have this the grounds around there could not be used and also equipment and construction would be safety hazard. Also the terrain was not good, and the schedules of the Renaissance and the Convent's scheduled events were a problem. They hope to have a permanent place in the future to hold this and make it an annual event.

Ground repair was another big concern. He stated they will repair any of the grounds and had used Drew Durcholz last year for this and said their goal is to leave the park as it was before the event. He said they will have a large dumpster on site and will place smaller receptacles throughout the area which can be emptied throughout the event.

When asked how the proceeds are used, he stated mostly for education i.e. if a child would win an event such as spelling bee but did not have transportation to move on they would provide. Or possibly a football team that could not afford uniforms, they would help with that. Who receives funds would be voted on by their Board of Directors.

The board agreed to table this until June meeting and at that time the LeBlancs will have more details worked out. The board will also have a lease agreement for them. The board cautioned them to be very mindful of the trees and not to use them to anchor signs or anything.

Following this Kim Collignon, and Beth Fleck along with Girl Scout Troop 19 were present to outline their plans for a dog park in 18th St. Park. Members of the troop are Philicity Collignon, Amy Nelson, Alexis Lasher, Rachel Borman, Laney Vaughn and Leslie Jochem. The board was very impressed with their presentation. (Copy of the Outline is on file). They had chosen two locations, one behind the community center and the other between bathrooms and basketball court. They had estimates for fencing, plan for card system for security, along with rules for usage. The Troop had visited other parks to get some of their ideas. Signage was also included in the demonstration, along with maintenance issues. Each member of the troop was responsible for a section of the plan: location and sketches of proposed site; fencing, security, signs and rules, lighting and water, waste bag dispensers, and maintenance. On some issues cost estimates were also included. The troop is working on their Silver Award. It was a very impressive demonstration and any questions asked by the board were answered by the Scouts not the leaders.

When asked about financing the project, it was stated that there will be more fund raisers, they have about 1600.00 toward the project at the present time. They will also be seeking corporate sponsors. They have 2 ½ years to complete the project.

The board made a motion to tentatively approve location 2 between restrooms and basketball court and asked the girls to possibly look into ways to get a survey out to see how favorable citizens are to the park and what would be a good annual fee for using it.

Next item on the agenda was the Old Town Lake project. Matt reported he has received all the paperwork Scott Tretter had from the previous attempt at getting a grant, that time through RPT. He stated that at the special meeting Lisa Gehlhausen felt she just could not have the time to do the application justice this year. He then stated that a meeting was held with Marc Rape and Amber Porter of Strand Associates about writing the grant. Both said there would be no problem meeting deadline since so much information was available from last application and could be used for the Land and Water Grant. In an e-mail to Dolores, he said cost would be 4800.00.

Dolores was asked to contact Marc Rape about his thoughts on demolishing the building and to also contact Lisa Gehlhausen about a Brownfield grant.

The board approved moving forward with grant application subject to the town council's approval and cost not to exceed 5000.00.


Monthly financial report was approved with motion by Mike and second by Dolores.

Tom reported 5th St. shelter house is moving along very well and is setting end of May for finishing.

Ray Major was present and asked the board if they had any objection to a group of volunteers helping with some things in the park such as mulching. The board was very glad to have any help they were willing to provide.

Tom stated he wanted to hire Colin Daunhauer for summer work. Mike made a motion to approve with second by Matt.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m. Next meeting will be Wednesday, May 4 at the Town Hall.


Dolores Boeglin, Secretary