

December 7th, 2022

President Wahlig called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Attending were President Wahlig, Vice President Selman, Members Poor, Adams, and Carpenter. Also attending was Cynthia Church, Amanda Quaderer and Elizabeth Church with Promise Land, Superintendent Hanna, Asst, Superintendent Bobby Allshouse and Event Coordinator Tabitha Griva.

The minutes of the November 2nd, 2022, meeting was approved with a motion by member Carpenter and seconded by member Poor. All were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Tree Memorial Program- Hanna mentioned discussion in the past regarding what we wanted to do when it comes to the Tree Memorial Program. We will eventually run out of space. Hanna asked what we could possibly do in the future if we were to decide we wanted to keep the program going. If the program were to end, having an area where it will not be forgotten. Hanna asked the board if they wanted to investigate something that would be easier to maintain, like what has been talked previously. Hanna reported that there is maybe a little over a year left on the existing tree, so a decision will need to be made soon on what we wanted to do. President Wahlig stated she would like to pursue with keeping it going. Griva stated she liked the brick idea that some places have done for memorials. Hanna mentioned rebranding the program if need be. Member Carpenter explains he has seen a few brick memorials and we would have plenty of room to make that happen. Allshouse explained there has been multiple bricks around here but get tore up from the weather. Allshouse suggested a marble wall to be engraved into could be a possible idea. Hanna stated he would like to make everything as maintenance free and friendly as possible with all the projects we will have taken place in the future. Matt stated this could be a memorial that turned in to more of a community memorial program area rather than a tree memorial program. Member Carpenter asked if vandalizing would be a problem doing something like this. Allshouse answered they have had no problem with the existing trees. Matt stated we do have a little more time to think about this, there is around thirty spaces left. Hanna stated he would like us to be prepared in having something to transition in to. We will need to rebrand and explain to the community why we would be doing this.

NEW BUSINESS

Pavilion Rental Rates- Matt explained we have not done anything with rates for a while now. Hanna reported that he went through and added twenty percent to the city resident rate, the nonresident rate would be a standard twenty percent more than the city resident rate. The Government 501c rate is half the cost of the nonresident. Matt explained he changed additional fee rates as well. Increasing the fee from \$25.00 to \$50.00 just covering the increase of cost of work force. Matt asked the board their thoughts. Vice President Selman agreed everything has increased. Wahlig suggested that Firemen's Park has been majorly updated and should be increased more than what Hanna has listed with the twenty percent. President Wahlig also mentioned the Timber Frame could be increased to \$300.00. Member Adams asked Hanna what other parks were charging for their facilities. Hanna answered he has not investigated other rates just because we have not changed the rates in years. Matt explained if this is something that causes our rental to be less in 2023, we can go back and review the rates again. Member Carpenter explained he would not like to see any change effect the rentals but understand we are still cheaper than the surrounding area rentals. Matt reported that we will be only renting the Commons Hall facility once a weekend. There are times people do not clean up and it would be rented at 9AM the next day. Maintenance is needing time to clean it for the next reservation. Matt suggested when the upstairs is complete the downstairs can be rented only as a full day and upstairs can be a half day rental. Matt stated he will make the updated changes and submit to council.

Winter Projects- Hanna explained the staff has been talking about how to renovate Commons Hall upstairs. Matt stated an idea would be to take out some of the wall and put double doors in just to separate the rooms. Matt explained one room to eat in, with laminate flooring and the south end creating a carpeted area for meetings, movies etc. President Wahlig asked if we should laminate the whole upstairs. Hanna explained for the meeting side with

carpet will help with sounds and echo. Hanna stated the guys can start taking the wall out anytime. Member Carpenter makes a motion to pursue with the upstairs of Commons Hall. Vice President Selman seconds. All in favor.

Allshouse mentioned the floor that was done in the basement of Commons Hall is all scuffed, scratched and not holding up to what they expected. You can see every little mark and we should have gone a different route to keep it looking to our standards. Allshouse mentioned he contacted Northern Industrial Flooring who did the break room in the office, because they did such a great job, and that floor has held up very well. Northern Indiana Flooring suggested to go dark rather than light with specks. Allshouse reported he was given a quote of \$9,800.00. Member Carpenter asked if this was a commercial type of floor. Hanna answered yes, its industrial flooring. Hanna stated he has money left in this year's budget to cover this project rather than next year's budget. Member Carpenter makes proposal to accept the floor changing in Commons Hall downstairs. Member Poor seconds. All in favor.

Allshouse mentions the pine trees up by the Timber Frame on the west side of the parking lot are getting out of hand. Bobby mentions he would like to clean them up about 2-3 feet from the bottom. Then mulch around them with the chippings we already have.

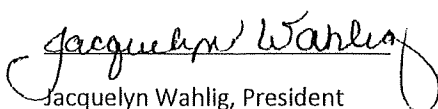
Allshouse explained up behind the tree memorial, we are not able to maintain between the fence and trees anymore. This will open the area, too many leaves and mulberries are gathering in between. Vice President Selman stated she knew exactly where bobby was talking about, and it would look so nice to clear it out.

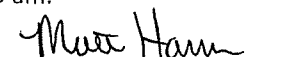
Griva stated she has a rough draft of the 2023 event schedule. If the Park board would like to look it over and let her know of any changes that should be made by the next park board meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS-

Promise Land Playground Equipment- Amanda explained Promise Land works with individuals with disabilities. Promised land is a nonprofit organization that host events for special needs individuals out in the community that will include the whole family. Cynthia explained Promise Land is now funded through grants and private donations. Full potential is a Medicaid waiver company to hire direct staff and help fund the non for profit, to be able to host the events. One of the only companies in Indiana working with children under the age of eighteen. Amanda stated one of the concerns these parents have is not having playgrounds and parks they are able to take their children to because of their special needs. Amanda stated she would love Promise Land to partner with the Parks Department in getting some playground equipment so ones with special needs are able to enjoy the parks as much as others. Elizabeth mentioned Firemen's Park being across the nursing home, if we were able even put in a wheelchair swing, the nursing home residents would be able to incorporate the swing as well. Member Poor stated he has seen a few special needs structures and equipment in downtown Fort Wayne parks and looks to get a lot of use. Member Poor asked how expensive the equipment would be and is it more expensive than traditional equipment. Cynthia explained that it they would need to write grants to help pay for the equipment. Amanda stated she would like to see getting even just one piece of equipment that they could help fund to see ones be able to utilize. Elizabeth states she would like to collaborate with the Parks Department as they've heard of new equipment was going to be put in at Firemen's Park. Member Carpenter asked how they plan to raise the funds to. Elizabeth answered they would plan to hold a fundraising event and reaching out to the community. Member Carpenter stated that they could reach out to the YMCA regarding the new YMCA splashpad project. A playground will be part of this million-dollar project, and this is great information they could pass on for something needed in the community. Hanna explained they do plan to have aspects for sensory and ones with disabilities, but they could give more specifics to the YMCA of what can be put in that would be truly accessible. Hanna mentioned we will be involved with this YMCA project as well and to not hesitate to keep coming to us with ideas.

No further business, Meeting adjourns 11:39 am.


Jacquelyn Wahlig, President


Matt Hanna, Secretary