



**PARKS
DEPARTMENT**

Town of Cicero Park Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 11/7/2024 at 5:00pm

- I. **Call to order:** Meeting was called to order by Mr. Strong at 5:02 pm. Ms. Millis conducted roll call. Park Board members were present or absent as follows.

Present: Dan Strong

Absent:

Amy Wolfe

Mary Devlin

Greg Bowman

- II. **Declare a Quorum Present:** Mr. Strong declared quorum with four members present.

- III. **Others Present:** Jim Hunter, Parks Superintendent

Sarah Millis, Parks Administrative Assistant

- IV. **Approval of Agenda:** Ms. Devlin motioned to approve the meeting agenda, Ms. Wolfe seconded, motion carried 4-0.

- V. **Approval of Prior Minutes:** Ms. Wolfe motioned to approve October meeting minutes, Ms. Devlin seconded, motion carried 4-0.

- VI. **Old Business:**

- a. **Gas Tank Update:** Mr. Hunter has been speaking with the Gasoline Equipment Company as well as the Town Council. Mr. Hunter believes the Town Council's consensus is to do the project, but incorporate the costs with another town project, possibly in the form of a bond. It is looking like this will happen around the January/February time frame. The actual replacement of the tank will likely be in the fall of 2025. The cost will likely increase by 10-15 percent by the fall of 2025. Mr. Hunter will be speaking with the Town Council at the next Staff Meeting in hopes of getting the tank ordered soon since it is a 22 week wait to receive it.
- b. **Park Tours:** Mr. Bowman completed a park tour with Mr. Hunter last month. Mr. Hunter strongly encouraged the rest of the board to take part in one as well.



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- c. **Berry Comm Update:** Mr. Hunter has still been talking with Berry Comm to get the connection completed at Community Park. They are currently trying to work out pricing for monthly costs.
- d. **Fence Update:** The Parks Department has completed replacing all of the baseball fence at the old diamonds which was around 2,000 feet of fencing. They also completed installing the new fence for the new dog park which will be opening in the Spring of 2025. Mr. Hunter stated that the Town Council approved the replacement of the fence along the trail by the old diamonds, which will most likely be a Spring project.
- e. **5 Year Plan Update:** Austin Hochstetler from Zec Eight Insights has submitted the updated 5-year plan to the State for approval. Approval will likely take a few months.
- f. **Haunted Trail:** The Haunted Trail had over six thousand people attend between the two nights of the event. Between sponsorships and donations, they raised \$18,941.11.

VII. **New Business:**

- a. **Purchased Benches for Pickleball:** The Parks Department and Friends of the Park purchased 4 new benches to be placed in the joint Tennis Court/ Pickleball area.
- b. **Pickleball Light Discussion:** Mr. Hunter has been approached by the Cicero Pickleball group asking about getting lights installed at the courts in Community Park. Mr. Hunter gave a brief history of the group to the board and explained that the group initially raised 25,000 dollars in donations to help the courts be installed. Mr. Hunter stated that the Pickleball group has told him that they have no problem raising the money for the lights to be installed at the courts and do not think they will have an issue raising it at all. Mr. Hunter explained that he is not against the lights, but he does have a couple of concerns such as would the Parks Department receive complaints from the citizens who live on Stringtown Pike, will there be other individuals wanting lights in other areas of the park such as the ball park or basketball courts, and who would be covering the monthly costs for electric. Mr. Hunter said that he has spoken with other Parks Departments throughout the county, and most of them recommended against lights and that many of them do not have lights either. The Pickleball group bought light poles but many of the will not be able to be used due to the condition of them. The group also did get a quote for the lights, and it would be \$8,000 just to do the smaller pickleball area (3 courts). Ms. Wolfe stated that if the group is willing to raise the money and pay for them then it would be hard to say no to the idea, however there are more costs that would need to be figured out first. Mr. Strong wants more information on the look of the lights and poles themselves and how they would look in the park. Ms. Devlin suggested getting firm numbers on every part of the project including the trenching for burying the electric line, the monthly costs, and costs of new poles. Ms. Devlin brought up the fact that there are really only 6 months a year that are prime playing time and that during the summer months, lights would not be needed due to it staying light so late. The Board is going to take the idea under advisement, but told Mr. Hunter to get firm numbers for the entire project and they will rediscuss at the next meeting.



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- c. **Christmas Festival- November 30th:** The Christmas Festival will be held at Community Park for the first time. The Friends of the Park group will be running this event. There will be a parade, tree lighting, wreath auction and many vendors.
- d. **2025 Boat Dock Rental Rates:** Ms. Millis discussed the Park's current boat slip rental rates and compared them to the Morse Marina rates. This year the rates were \$1650 for Cicero residents and \$2200 for non-residents. Mr. Hunter recommended possibly raising the rates \$100 for residents and \$50 for non-residents in an effort to slightly lessen the gap between the two rates currently. Ms. Devlin initially suggested raising the rates to \$1800 for residents and \$2400 for non-residents. She stated that if the marina is going to be run like a business, then we need to look at supply and demand. The current waitlist for the Red Bridge slips is 294. Upon further discussion, Ms. Devlin recommended raising the resident rate to \$1900 and the non-resident rate to \$2500. This would still be under the predicted rates that the Morse Marina would have for 2025, and it would bring in \$15,700 more in profit. Ms. Devlin said that based off of the amount of money spent on repairs and general maintenance on the boat slips, the price for the slips should be increased. Ms. Wolfe and Mr. Bowman both stated that they agree with Ms. Devlin on the price she recommended. Mr. Strong suggested that the increase should be more incremental, and maybe only giving a \$100-\$150 increase. The Board then agreed to the resident rate of \$1900 and non-resident rate of \$2500 and told Mr. Hunter that those numbers are their official recommendation. Mr. Hunter will be taking those numbers to the council for their thoughts.

VIII. **Miscellaneous:**

- a. **Declare a Quorum Discussion:**

IX. **Motion to Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Devlin, Ms. Wolfe seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm by Mr. Strong.

X. **Signatures on Previous Meeting Minutes.**



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XI. Signatures of Board

AYE

NAY

_____ **Dan Strong** _____

_____ **Amy Wolfe** _____

_____ **Mary Devlin** _____

_____ **Greg Bowman** _____

Attest: _____

Jim Hunter, Parks Superintendent

Sarah Millis, Parks Administrative Assistant