

**PARK AND RECREATION BOARD  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MAY 5, 2010**

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The Parks and Recreation Board met in regular session on May 5, 2010 at 7:18 p.m. in the Veteran's Memorial Park Depot, West Warren Street, Germantown, Ohio.

**ROLL CALL:**

The following members were present at the Call to Order: Mike Engler, Tom Geglein, Darrell Rhoades, and Jenifer Shyrigh.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Steve Mersch and Ryan Waits were absent.

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Also present were Anna Sizemore, Village Manager, Terry Johnson, Ben DeGroat and several visitors.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mr. Geglein moved to accept the April 7, 2010 minutes as submitted, second by Mr. Engler.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Geglein, yes; Mr. Rhodes, abstain; Mrs. Shyrigh, yes; Mr. Engler, yes. 3-yes, 1- abstention. MOTION CARRIED.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:**

Bob Neff announced he would be retiring from the Parks and Recreation Board after 32 years of service. He presented the letter he gave to Council.

He stated he would be turning the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade over to Mrs. Sizemore and Mr. DeGroat. He briefly went over the details to the Parade and stated he would still like to have his truck as part of the parade.

He went on by saying his family and he are very upset about how the mowing contract went this year. He has received at least 20 calls about how bad the mowing is this year in the parks. The call that concerned him the most was from the Chairman of VV Base informing Mr. Neff that there were 5 guys mowing Kercher Park. At this rate the expense has doubled. (He had 17 zero turn mowers mowing the parks.) He is very concerned, because there were 6 people mowing the park and it is still not done. His son told him that he paid \$126,000 in taxes last year and he is one of the biggest taxpayers in the Village and the Township. He will be looking really hard at where his tax dollars are going. There are at least 50 divots in the turf from people pulling back to hard on the new zero turn mower and there are two trees that have dead grass all the way around them. With the specs he gave, you cannot have more than a 100-

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pound mower to go around these trees more than two or three times. The canopy is too thick and it will not dry out. He will be as involved as he ever was. He announced all his accomplishments and all the committees he has worked on. The reason he did not say anything until tonight was because he did not want to jeopardize the misappropriation of public money. He did not want to take away from the School levy or the Police/EMT levy. He is going out to Kercher Park tonight to watch his grandson play T-Ball. He spoke with one or two Council members and their impression was that these bids were going to go out. It is real clear that Mrs. Sizemore will do whatever she wants to do, even if it goes against the direction of the Oversight. When Bob McClain was the Township Trustee we got things done. If Bob McClain was still the Trustee the soccer complex would already be done. He cut that tape and all he got from you was red flags. The auditors said this. The attorney said that.

Ben DeGroat stated that Bob Neff just said he knows how to do everything. He stated that Bob Neff was saying it was his fault behind his back, but not to his face tonight.

Bob Neff stated that Ben DeGroat had a chance to take over the mowing and he went around 15 elected officials to do it. You and Mrs. Sizemore both. The Council said they told you to bid it out.

Ben DeGroat asked if Bob Neff was kidding.

Bob Neff stated that he had Ben DeGroat tell Mrs. Sizemore to buy two zero turn mowers, and Mrs. Sizemore listened to him.

Mrs. Sizemore stated that Bob Neff was mistaken and she was not going to argue with him.

Bob Neff stated that he was a concerned taxpayer and did not approve of thousands of dollars being thrown away.

Ben DeGroat stated that Mr. Engler complained last year about the doughnuts around the trees in the park.

Bob Neff stated that he fixed it and he was not given a chance.

Mrs. Sizemore stated that if you have any more complaints to please give her a call.

Bob Neff stated that he did not want a job, and that it was a conflict.

Mrs. Sizemore stated that if Bob Neff had anyone else call and complain to please call the Village office.

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Bob Neff stated that he drove by Kercher Park today at 3:30 p.m. and none of the fields are mowed, he always mowed the same day as the games. Veterans Park is used mainly on the weekends. Try to have it mowed on Thursday or Friday.

Mrs. Sizemore stated that they mowed Veterans Park on Wednesday for the National Day of Prayer.

Bob Neff stated that as a rule to mow Veterans Park on Thursday or Friday.

Mrs. Shyrigh stated the Village is trying.

Bob Neff stated that he didn't say they weren't trying. He is not going anywhere, he is here to help. He did a real good job and he was the cheapest around. They were still mowing Kercher Park at 3:30 p.m. and they need to be done by 2:00 p.m. When people get in that park you can't finish it.

Mr. Geglein stated that he usually gets there by 3:00 p.m. and Dennis Wasson is finishing up.

Bob Neff stated that he was not going anywhere and that his number is in the book.

**MEMBER'S REPORTS:**

Mr. Engler questioned if any funds have been taken out of the Park Levy; Mrs. Sizemore replied not a dime has been taken out.

Mr. Engler stated that he was in both the Parks this week and he has noticed dead trees. He suggested having them looked at before they become a liability. Kercher Park also needs some dead wood removed. He questioned if we would be able to have the Metro Parks take care of the dead trees that are hanging over the bike path; Mrs. Sizemore replied that she would contact them.

He went on by saying that he heard about the discussion of collecting yard waste and having the Village chip it up, it would be very expensive. This takes very expensive equipment to do this job. You are talking time and money the Village really does not have to allow people to get rid of their waste. It is nice to do, but it will take some time. If you don't have someone man the drop of site, people put other trash into the brush and that cannot be grinded. Then you have to pay to haul that debris away.

Mr. Engler questioned when the last time Veterans Park had been sprayed, it has a lot of chickweed and thistles. He recommended Mrs. Sizemore do a follow up call to Fair Way.

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Mr. Goglein stated that years ago they were allowed to spray the weeds under the fences, are they allowed to do it now; Mrs. Sizemore replied it is public property and you have to have a license.

Mr. Goglein stated that it is taking a long time to do all the trimming at Kercher Park around the fence.

Mrs. Sizemore stated that a lot of the weed eating that is being done is last year's growth.

Mr. Goglein stated that VV Base should be doing some of the trimming of the fences.

Mrs. Sizemore stated they are taking care of some of their fences at Kercher Park.

Mr. Goglein questioned if Scott Roberts had spoke with Mrs. Sizemore regarding the security cameras at Kercher Park; Mrs. Sizemore replied yes. She added according to the Law Director they can put them up but they become property of the Village and only the Village can monitor them.

Mr. Rhodes questioned who would be opening the restrooms during a community event; Mrs. Sizemore replied that she has that covered.

Mrs. Shyrigh stated that at the last Christmas meeting we talked about getting different groups, such as school groups, church groups or even large families to do donations for a Christmas tree. She is looking into that more.

Jim Lawson stated that Council only allows citizens to speak for 5 minutes at the meeting. Last month it became very clear to him that Mr. Neff is going to be upset over the situation about the grass. He questioned if Mr. Neff is going to be allowed to come to this board meeting every month and berate the Village Manager. If that is the case, he is going to go to Council and ask them to only allow guest to speak for 5 minutes at all board meetings. It is not proper and he does not feel that Mr. Neff should be allowed to be rude to our Village Manager. He questioned how the other Park Board members felt about this situation.

Mr. Goglein questioned if there was a time limit for visitors comments; Mrs. Sizemore replied she would check on it.

Mr. Engler stated that if any visitor gets rude or sarcastic with any of the board members, it needs to be addressed by the Chairman. If any issues are brought up that pertain to Council they need to take it to Council.

Jim Lawson stated that he did not hear anyone stop the comments or call the meeting back to order. The Village Manager should not be attacked like that.

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Mr. Engler stated visitors are taxpayers, and we shouldn't not allow them to come just because they may say something we do not want to hear. If we start restricting the long-term taxpayer, we will have long-term damage on the Parks.

Jim Lawson stated he felt that the Parks looked great last year and they look great this year too. Just because you are a taxpayer does not mean that you can come in here and berate the Village Manager.

Mrs. Shyrigh stated that she was sorry that she did not stop Bob Neff.

Scott Sizemore questioned if Bob Neff's family is upset because they did not get the contract, then he turns around and says they are doing it at cost, then why is so upset that he did not get the contract. Mr. Engler replied that he feels that it is a pride issue.

**VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Mrs. Sizemore stated that the apron at Kercher Park is in process. According to Zimmerman there needs to be an additional 66 feet of curbing and it will cost an additional \$1,100. She told them to go ahead with the additional work.

She went on by saying that she got more examples of Park Rules and Regulations and will have that to you soon.

We have some issues with people driving vehicles out to the playground area at Kercher Park. The Police Department will be monitoring that area more often. She would hate to post more signs but we may have to.

She questioned what would be the best time to start seeding and spraying the Weber Complex.

A brief discussion took place regarding the spraying and seeding. It was determined to seed during the second week of August and start spraying the week after July 4<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Shyrigh questioned if NIC had come out to give a occupancy load on the buildings in the Parks; Mrs. Sizemore replied they are still looking into that.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

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**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Mr. Engler moved to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Kelli R. Sanders-Novak  
Clerk of Council