

AVON PARKS, RECREATION AND BEAUTIFICATION COUNCIL MEETING

May 3, 2017

Avon Town Hall Council Chamber

6570 E. US Hwy. 36, Avon, Indiana

1. **Roll Call** was taken by Director of Public Works, Ryan Cannon. Council members present were Jennifer Thompson, Pat Tutsie, Bill Reed, and Steve Schaecher. Louise Watkins and Craig Emsweller were absent.
2. **Public Comment**
 - a. No public comment.
3. **Election of Officers**
 - a. Officers for the PBRC were nominated and elected during the meeting. All votes were unanimous. Officers will be as follows:
 - i. President – Pat Tutsie
 - ii. Vice President – Jennifer Thompson
 - iii. Secretary – Steve Schaecher
 - b. It was noted that these roles are not official since this is a council and not a board.
4. **Approval of Minutes**
 - a. Minutes from the February 1, 2017 meeting were approved with the following correction:
 - i. In Paragraph 3. A. delete the second sentence and replace with the following:
“New member Jennifer Thompson has a background in Wildlife Biology from Purdue and is very excited to be part of the Council.”
5. **Presentation of Recreation Zone Improvement Plan 2017-2026**
 - a. Chuck Lehman of Lehman & Lehman presented the Recreation Impact Fee (RIF) Study – Final Report (see attached) for the Town of Avon Parks.
 - b. Consolidation of Avon with Washington Township would require rework of the RIF.
 - c. The RIF should be updated every 5 years.
 - d. Bill motioned to recommend acceptance of the RIF to the Town Council (\$1,095 without any escalation fee). Pat Tutsie seconded the motion. Motioned was approved 4-0.
6. **Tree Board Meeting**
 - a. Avon Parks only sold 28 trees this year.
 - b. Originally when this program was started the goal was to plant trees in neighborhoods between the streets and the sidewalks. The program transformed into selling trees to homeowners in the Town and planting them for them at a discounted rate. Over time the costs for the trees have increased and quality level has gone down.

- c. A survey to the neighborhood or better advertisement could help the program.
- d. The Town's only cost is for the labor to install the trees.
- e. The Town has a tree mitigation fund if developers don't plant the trees required by ordinance they can pay the fund.
- f. The program is not currently accomplishing its goal of planting as many trees as possible in the Town.
- g. The trees being sold are close to retail prices, but the town does not offer any warranty. The large hardware stores may have an edge on this program with their warranties.
- h. The spring sale does not do as well as the Fall sale.
- i. It was discussed that the program should be evaluated further to determine if and how it should move forward.

7. Old Business: Park Land Purchase update

- a. The Burnett Property (14.25 acres) is going through its second appraisal. After this has been received and processed, the Town will likely make an offer to purchase the property. This property will provide better access to the Burnett Woods and allow for parking area to be developed.
- b. The Town has declined the Gibbs Park deal from the County. The county wanted to maintain control of how the park would be developed. There are still some alternatives that may develop with this property but not worth mentioning now.

8. Staff updates:

- a. Terri Fisher's last day was today. The Town will start interviewing for a new Park Program Director to replace Terri right away. This may become a full-time position. The Town currently has about 10 resumes that have been submitted.
 - i. Terri and her husband started a business that will participate in the Avon Farmer's Market this year.
- b. The Farmer's Market begin June 6. Council members should sign up to work the market using the link sent by Britt in April.
- c. Rib Fest will be held June 24. Council members should also sign up for this event using the link Britt sent in April.
- d. The trail project had been delayed for some tree clearing. It should be moving full-steam ahead in the next week or two. The trail will connect the Town Hall park to the Washington Township Park.
- e. White Lick Trail 2B will be bid in December. The Town is in the process of buying some parcels of land (9 acres from Donovan and 3 acres from Utterback) for the trail. These parcels are forested areas that require some mitigation to make it new parkland.
- f. The Town Hall Site Plan landscape architect, Context, will hopefully be under contract by the June meeting.
- g. Remediation in the roundabout at 100 South and Raceway Rd. intersection looks good.
- h. Wild flowers are being planted alongside Ronal Reagan from 100 N to Rockville Road. The next 2 miles to be planted will be from 100 N to 300 N in the next month.

9. Other Business/Next Agenda

- a. Council members were asked to consider a naming process for parks and trails for discussion at the next meeting. This could be a great opportunity to get community involved in the parks or to look for some donor opportunities.

10. Adjournment

- a. Bill Reed motioned to adjourn.
- b. Next meeting will be Wednesday, June 7, 2017, at 7:00 pm.