

Parks & Recreation Committee
February 18, 2009 Minutes
Submitted by Ralph Stacy

The Parks/Recreation/Cemetery Transition Sub-Committee met on Wednesday, February 18 at 7 pm at Zionsville Town Hall. Prior to the meeting, Town Council member Art Harris had provided each of us with a list of Zionsville committee/ commission appointments - 2009, email from Roger Burrus. Contact the Parks Department list, Zionsville Parks and Recreation Department 2008 Annual Report, Summary and Detail; Maplelawn Farmstead Inc., December 4, 2008 Update; Zionsville Golf Course, Summary 2008; Zion Nature Center and multiple pages of IC 36-10 entitled Chapter 3, General Park and Recreational Law. We need to read before and discuss at next sub-committee meeting. Both Eagle and Union Township briefly discussed their existing Park Master Plans, which Eagle has provided to the Town a few years ago.

In attendance were committee members Art Harris, Jim Sanford and Ralph Stacy. Special guests were Jeff Glass, President Zionsville Parks and Recreation Board and Tim East, school appointed member of the Zionsville Parks and Recreation Board and Judith Essex, Eagle Township Trustee. Our sub-committee welcomed the Zionsville Parks and Recreation Board members and reviewed and approved minutes of our January 26 meeting. We gave them a copy of Eagle Township report entitled "Information for Transition Committee concerning Parks and Recreation and Cemeteries for Eagle Township and a list and locations of Eagle Township Trustee and Board Cemeteries which numbers 9 if you include Cox Cemetery, located on Holliday Drive and the 3 Schooler graves along Whitestown Road north of Jones Cemetery. Union Township has one cemetery with name and location to be provided. Each township wants to provide legal description, property tax worksheet records, and hopefully deeds to each to the Zionsville Parks Board.

These were questions listed on the Government Reorganization of Eagle and Union Townships and Zionsville Timeline and Tasks List, to be effective January 2, 2010, under IV. Townships 1. Transfer Assets a. Inventory and list name. ????. b. document transfer to Town. ????. 2. Cemeteries. a. Inventory and list name. ????. b. Park & Recreation Board and Department responsible ????. c, document transfer to Town.???? Also under VII. Parks I. Township inventory , a. Transfer assets - document transfer to Town. Answer - Would be remaining cash balances as December 31, 2009 and cemetery records as mentioned earlier. b. Plan for former Township park earmarks, Answer, not sure what this would be. We also gave Parks Board representatives a copy of the 2010 Budget Proposal Timetable and mentioned the March 20 deadline for Zionsville to submit proposed Budget Form I's to Umbaugh.

2. Park Board a. 4 members by statute. Answer, but it was noted that Zionsville currently has five member park board with each member having a vote and all living within the existing town corporate limits. CURRENT PARK BOARD Staggered 4 year terms . positions to be appointed per I-C- 36-10-3-4: Jeff Glass exp Jan '12, R citizen appt by full TC; Ellen Butz exp Jan '13, D citizen, appt by full TC; Tim East no limit-ex-officio position, appt by School Board; Julie Schulte exp Jan '10, D citizen, appt by full TC; Art Small exp Jan'11 R citizen, appt by full TC. b. Intend 2 representatives from all of Eagle and Union Townships. There was a good discussion of different future size board that could consist of 7 or 5 members with both Eagle and Union Township having 1 board member each starting in 2010. It was thought by the group that five board members may be the best size, and there are some adjustments would need to be initiated, but we decided to think about this topic. Maybe start with 7 member board, maybe interim expansion, with opportunity to decrease to 5 if wanted. It was mentioned that maybe the school board and/or library board appointment should be established and appointed by full Town Council. Other recommendations of composition of the new park board: were no term limits, proper number of Democrats and Republicans, with ex-officio member does vote?? c. Transition Committee- draft ordinance for 2 new Board members from Eagle and/or Union. ?????

There was discussion about possible and set park land acquisitions of 36 acres in Union of Caito property development that was a proposed 2006 development south of the airport when the economy improves, 2 land trusts in Union but not much information, Holliday family gift of 50 acres that is not rescindable, and the existing \$1 of the \$6 million park bond that came in under budget. It was expressed that we should define outline of board today, tomorrow and thoughts or suggestions. The Superintendent of Parks is hired by Parks Board and that is mandated by Indiana Code and reports directly to the Parks Board President and not Town Manager. It was discussed that there be a better line of communication between Park Superintendent and Town Manager. The Zionsville Park Board regular meeting is the 2nd Wednesday of every month. Next meeting will be on Monday, March 16 at 8am at the Town Hall with Township Trustees Essex and Ulmer to discuss our topic.