

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
CITY OF AURORA  
June 5, 2008

The Parks and Recreation Board of the City of Aurora, Ohio, met on Thursday, June 5, 2008 at City Hall Council Chambers, for the purpose of holding a regular meeting. Chairman Dennis Kovach called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present : Earl Biederman  
Nina DeWitt  
George Hettinger- entered at 6:45pm  
George Horvat-entered at 6:50pm  
Denis Kovach - Chairman.  
James Vaca  
John Wells

Absent: John Kudley –Vice Chairman  
Marcell Malecki

Also Present: James Kraus – Parks and Recreation Director  
Madeleine Marazzi - Recording Secretary  
Jeff Burke & Bob Ferrante – Aurroa R/C Flying Club  
Bruce Levison/Mark Recktenwald-Mantua Township Missile Agency

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mr. Vaca moved to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2008, Parks and Recreation Board meeting minutes. Mrs. DeWitt seconded and the motion passed 5-0 with a voice vote.

**CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:** - None

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Mr. Kraus reviewed his report see attached.

Mr. Vaca requested signage be posted at the parking lot at Fire Station #1 to have no skateboarding in the parking lot. Due to pavement work being done to the front of the station the fire vehicles need to use the back door to exit. This could be a dangerous situation if skateboarders are using the driveway instead of the skate park. He also requested to have signage for no parking for recreational use at the fire station; parking is limited and must be saved for the station use.

Mrs. DeWitt stated she had received a two request for the dog park. One was to have more benches installed and the other was to have more gravel and less sand at the entrance of the park. Mr. Kraus stated the benches are expensive and not in the budget for this year. Mr. Vaca suggested Geauga Lake park be contacted for their benches, or possibly donations from Lowes and Home Depot.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**a. Kiwanis Moore Park:**

Retention basin: Mr. Kraus stated the retention basin grading is almost done. The sod from the high school football field will be used in the retention basin. Finishing work along the path and parking lot will be worked on next to get ready for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities.

Parking lot: Mr. Kraus stated the parking lot and path should be completed the second week of June. Mr. Kraus stated the original drawings and specification for the parking lot called for a certain amount of fill. As the excavation was started they realized soil conditions were not as good as what they had hoped. More fill was needed which changed the price that was quoted. The city worked with the company and the city staff loaded as many asphalt grindings as the city had and put in as much as three feet across with the exception of one area that was 6 to 7 feet. There will be an additional expenditure that an appropriation will be asked for in the neighborhood of 10 to 15 thousand dollars. This is a lot less than if the company had used their grindings. This allowed us to put the parking lot in the way it was engineered.

Field #6 – Mr. Kraus stated this field could be possibly started in August and be ready for the next baseball season.

b. Sunny Lake: Mr. Kraus stated as contracted, Enviro Science held the fish eradication at the end of May. Ohio EPA, was there documenting the fish, and a representative from Ohio Department of Natural Resource. The fish was removed for two days with an estimate of over 30,000 thousand fish were removed. The chemical was only harmful to gill breathing animals and the dam outlet was closed during this process. The chemical will dissipate as the lake fills and hopefully the lake will be restocked within 6 weeks.

c. Aurora Astronomical Society – Building on Chesnes Property - Mr. Kraus stated nothing has changed since their last proposal. Mr. Kraus stated he has contacted the individuals with options.

d. Healing Garden – Sunny Lake – Mr. Kraus stated nothing new at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

a.Ray Harmon farm field usage. Mr. Kovach stated at the last meeting there was not a full board to review the field usage asked for by the Aurora R/C Flying Club and Mantua Township Missile Agency. He gave the opportunity to the members that were not here to ask questions of Mr. Burke, Mr. Ferrante, and Mr.Recktenwald. After discussion the following motion was made.

**MOTION:** The Parks and Recreation Board moved to recommend the usage of the Ray Harmon farm field on the east side by the Aurora R/C Flying Club and the Mantua Township Missile Agency.

Mr. Horvat moved: Mr. Vaca seconded and the motion passed, 5-0, with a voice vote.

Mr. Biederman was concerned about the residents in the area being notified about these clubs being in the area. Mr. Kraus stated letters would be sent to the area residents.

Mr. Biederman stated the Historical Society and the city in the past had talked about preserving the Harmon property as a historical site and was concerned about using the property for these clubs. Mr. Hettinger stated the property Mr. Biederman was referring to was the Margaret Harmon property which he was in full favor of preserving, since it was the original site of the first settlement in Aurora by the Harmon family.

d.Hartman Property Conceptual Master Plan Design Services: Mr. Kraus passed out a memo with proposals for the development of a master plan for the Harmon property. Work completed would include: site visits, research and analysis, concept schematic preparation and refinement, concept design development, cost estimate and material research, attendance to necessary committee and council meetings. Mr. Kraus recommended selecting Charles Frederick for the project.

**MOTION:** The Parks and Recreation Board moved to recommend using Charles Frederick for Hartman property master plan development at a cost of \$3,630. Funds to be appropriated from the Public Space Fund 6300.

Mr. Horvat moved: Mrs. DeWitt seconded and the motion passed 5- 0 with a voice vote.

g. AHS Tennis Court: Mr. Kraus stated he is working on an agreement between the city and the school on the renovation of the tennis courts. Nothing is new at this time due to the schools being busy with the renovation of the high school football field. Discussion was held on the placement, costs and who would be paying for the reconstruction.

Mr. Kovach recommended a hold be put on this until the girls varsity field moved forward.

### **MISCELLANEOUS:**

Mr. Biederman stated as a member of the Greater Cleveland Audubon Society to speak with Charles Frederick who will be developing a master plan for the Hartman property. This has been raised before for as a good neighbor consideration. A lot of money has been spent on the adjoining property and would definitely like to be included as a possible continuation. Mr. Kraus stated Mr. Biederman would be included in the talks with several other people on the discussions.

Mr. Vaca stated the parking lot at Picnic Lake park needs signage or marked lines for more parking spaces. He would like to see head in parking towards the hill for the second row.

Mr. Kovach passed out information from Cuyahoga Valley Countryside Conservancy as a possible use some of our properties as agricultural, including having areas to grow produce for sale at farmers' markets. He asked the Board to look over the information as it is getting more popular and we have the facilities to try it as a community effort. Mr. Kraus stated the Cuyahoga Valley Countryside Conservancy have properties that they own in the park which are conducive to various types of farming and are on protected lands that might be historic. The Conservancy picks certain properties every year to rehab the buildings at certain standards, and they put together three proposals which they put up for lease. They send out requests for proposals and in those proposals would be what exactly would be planned for the property, then an evaluation process for each proposal. The Margaret Harmon property could possibly be used in this way in the future. It would be a great way to have the property rehabbed and to operate it as an historic attraction.

Mr. Biederman stated with the new administration we have with the greater Cleveland Audubon Society, they are ok with skirting the Aurora Audubon Sanctuary property, with bike paths. Mr. Kraus stated part of the recommendation that came out of the master plan was the development of a connectivity plan, sidewalks, bike paths, paths etc. Council approved at their last meeting, having the Planning Commission be the vehicle for that plan with the Parks and Recreation Boards input as well. There will be a joint meeting between the Planning Commission and the Parks and Recreation Board in the future to talk about where paths should go, whether it's bike paths, sidewalks, walking paths etc. Mr. Kraus asked the Board to think about where they think things should go to explore at the joint meeting.

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Mr. Vaca asked that signage be considered when the path is completed at Kiwanis Moore Park for the skateboarders not to use the path to skate board on and to use the skateboard park. Mr. Kovach suggested we add this to the park ranger's duties for a few weeks to get them acclimated to the rules.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Vaca moved to adjourn: Mr. Wells seconded and the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

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Mr. Kovach – Chairman

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Madeleine Marazzi – Recording Secretary