

Thorntown Park Board Meeting Minutes

February 28, 2022 – 6:00 PM

Location: Town Hall

Attendance: Derek Babcock, MJ Fairfield, Lisa Vitaniemi, Dax Norton, Koren Gray

President Derek Babcock called the meeting to order at 5:56 PM.

Approval of Minutes

Derek Babcock moved to approve the minutes of the January 24 and February 11 meetings. MJ Fairfield seconded. Minutes approved. Derek had provided signed copies of the minutes to Koren Gray for the Town Council.

Dax Norton, Town Consultant

Dax Norton, town consultant spoke to the board about future park and recreation plans and advised of next steps.

Derek moved that Dax contact CRG to invite them to come to evaluate the park. MJ seconded the motion. All in favor.

Old/Continuing Business

Farmer's Market - The Lion's Club park would be a great spot. We would need to contact them to see if possible. <https://indianaowned.com/> is a resource for finding local owners for possible vendors. Dax and Derek will work on plans.

Park Fence - Discussion about fence repair as soon as weather is better. Discussion regarding letter to homeowners. Derek will attend the Utility Board meeting on Friday, March 4 to request tree trimming as an option when letter is sent to homeowners with adjoining park property.

Mats & Little Library – to be installed during Spring cleanup day April 2.

Indiana Parks and Recreation – Lisa advised that she and MJ have registered for membership in the Indiana Parks and Recreation association in order to further our knowledge and resources on park administration. Derek did not wish to join at this time but will rely on communication regarding findings.

Links on Website – Dax agreed to add links to the park's Facebook Page and to the Big 4 Trails page to the town website on the Park Board page.

Cameras – Derek is still working on installing the camera software to his computer. He also advised that he is working on a policy and procedures handbook. It was agreed that

in the event of vandalism or other such situations the police would be notified immediately and handled through them rather than the park board.

Little League – MJ advised that he and the Little League president have discussed the placement of the shed. MJ will measure and walk off the area where the batting cages are currently located to see if the shed can be placed there. Amy Noonung, town attorney, has written the contract with the Little League. She is waiting on additional information that MJ will provide regarding the shed. The contract should be signed and presented to the next Town Council meeting.

Park duties – Derek will visit Chuck and Trudy tonight regarding the continuation of their services in opening, closing, maintaining park restrooms, trash removal as well as any other duties they have been performing.

Tennis Courts – The tennis courts are in need of repairing. Dax will contact a company to inquire.

New Business

Park Spring Clean Up Day – It was decided that we would have a spring clean up day at the park on April 2, 2022 with the rain/weather date being April 9, 2022. Lunch will be provided. Dax volunteered to contact Chick-Fil-A for possible donations. The board agreed to buy the lunches if not donated. Motion will be made closer to the time if needed.

Derek will put together a plan for the spring clean up day. Derek volunteered to contact US Aggregates regarding pea gravel donation. Dax volunteered to contact home improvement stores for paint donations. Derek will bring his trailer and tools, but all participants may bring tools. Lisa will create a flyer and send to Derek for publication. Lisa will add info to Facebook page.

A donation of children's books for the little library will be included in the clean up day.

Trail signage – Brief discussion held regarding trail signage. The board needs to look into wayfinding signage. Dax informed there are grants for things like that. It needs to be clear where to go when exiting the south end of the trail to get to the north section. We also need to get the information regarding the connection between the two trailheads to provide for the art project. Derek will contact Melanie Gall to inquire.

Horseshoe Pit/Tournament – It was decided that the horseshoe pit area should be fixed up and prepared for use. To encourage use, a tournament will be scheduled for the summer. A suggestion was a competition between the police and fire departments and turn it into a park fundraiser.

Summer Programming – Lisa asked if we could invite Wes Mikesell to our March meeting to brainstorm summer programming. MJ agreed to contact Wes.

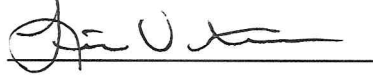
Town Council Meeting – At the town council meeting on March 21 present the Little League contract, information regarding park clean up day and park board updates.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM

Next meeting is March 28, 2022 at 6:00 PM. Meeting will be held at the Town Hall.



Derek Babcock, President



Lisa Vitaniemi, Secretary



MJ Fairfield, Vice President

