

**Village of Marshall
Parks Committee Minutes
Monday, March 5, 2012**

Chairperson Hensler called the meeting to order at 7:00pm Members Present: M. Hensler, J. Stransky, C. Diedrick, J. Cripps, B. Arnold, and E. Lemke. Members Absent: S. Tweed Others Present: Mark Shepler – Village Board, Shawn Arnold – Village Board, Boyd Pierce – Marshall Fire Department, Matt Hendricks – Parks and Recreation Coordinator, and Shawn Korth – Administrative Assistant.

1. Update Converse Natural Playground. Discussion: Mr. Hendricks gave a brief update on the progress of the plan to put playground equipment in Converse Park. Mr. Hendricks has been working with others to complete the RFP and hopefully, next month, will have different options to present to the committee. Mr. Hendricks discussed grants that they are currently waiting on that would help with the funding of this project. One of the grants was the MCF grant, which the Village is in the final 12 that has the possibility to receive the grant. Another is the Kaboom grant, which will be submitted by March 15th, and Mr. Hendricks still needs five letters of recommendation from the Parks Committee to submit with that grant. At the April meeting Mr. Hendricks would like the committee to select a RFP/team. All the vegetation that Mr. Hendricks and Doug Millin received through the Urban Forestry grant will be planted in April.
2. Marshall's Dog Park. Discussion: Mr. Hendricks has received information that dog feces are a problem of concern in Langer Park. He explained that they are not only a problem in Langer Park but also in other parks. Mr. Hendricks would like to maybe try to minimize this as much as possible. He explained that there is an area behind the Fire Department/EMS building that is unusable for anything else and would possibly like to look at this as a dog park. Mr. Hendricks explained that they would probably be looking at around \$8,000 to produce fencing, signage, benches, parking lot, and fecal dispensers. People have been asking for a place to take their dogs since there are more people in Langer Park due to the disc golf course. Committee members questioned how much the park would cost to maintain and where that money would come from. There was a discussion on fees and how something like this would be funded. Some members feel it's not fair to use tax payer's money since everyone in the Village doesn't own a dog. There was also a concern of liability issues when it comes to the park. Some members asked if that space would provide a big enough area for a dog park. For right now the Committee definitely would like signage posted in the other parks to remind people to clean up after their pets, and leave the discussion of a dog park for a later date.
3. Langer Park, discussion and recommendation on whether or not to charge for facility use. Mr. Hendricks presented the idea of possibly charging for use of Langer Park specifically the Disc Golf Course. He doesn't recommend they do so this year if they decide that is the route they would like to go. Feedback from the Committee suggests that although someday that may be an option, now isn't the best time and they all agree at this time everything should be free. Mr. Diedrick presented the idea to possibly charge for special events at the park such as tournaments and things like that. The Committee also presented the idea to put donation boxes around the park just to give people the option to pay. This way people don't feel pressured and can leave whatever amount they so choose, if they choose too.

Mr. Hendricks also wanted to inform the Committee that the park is in need of a controlled burn for the good of the park and they are looking at doing that this spring sometime.

4. Conceal and Carry policy in Marshall Parks. Discussion: Up to this point the Village hasn't discussed anything on the conceal and carry laws in regards to Village Parks. Mr. Pierce asked if there was a direct law with being able to conceal and carry while consuming alcohol. The question was quickly answered that you cannot open carry while consuming alcohol. Mr. Hendricks also discussed other aspects of the law. He explained you cannot post "no open carry" to a whole park. You can post certain parts such as bathrooms, shelters, and buildings. During events, if there is a controlled entry

and exit point, you can post that specific area. Mr. Pierce asked about posting the baseball field in Fireman's Park for High School baseball events. After a discussion it was thought that it couldn't be posted because there is no controlled entry and exit point and the diamond isn't located on school grounds. They are going to follow up with the Village attorney to confirm this and would get back to everyone later. The decision by the Committee was to not regulate conceal and carry in any of the other parks. The Committee decided they would have to meet again before the Marshall Fireman's Festival to determine what their options are concerning the conceal and carry law.

IDENTIFICATION OF TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

A motion was made by Arnold and seconded by Stransky to adjourn the meeting.

Adjournment 8:25pm

Submitted by,

Shawn Korth
Administrative Assistant