

## 21 January 2017 Swansea Park Board Meeting Minutes

Norman Lehr Bldg, Mel Price Park

Members Present: Paula Brandkamp Dan Baudendistel David Cheves Mike Koeneman  
David McGhee Diane Wickline

Village Liaisons: Marilyn Neumeyer Chief Johnson John Budde Guest: Brian Dulsky

President Mike opened meeting with Pledge of Allegiance at 7:05 am., followed by discussion of Agenda Items.

Approval of 3 December 2016 Minutes: Correction to minutes: Dan was present. Paula did not participate in the music volume research with Dave M. Motion to approve corrected minutes by Dave M, second by Paula. Approved.

Santa House Operations Recap 2016: Marilyn thanked Paula for filling in when she was ill. 48 Santa hours paid: \$396; 368 children visited Santa; 397 photos taken; proceeds from photos and donations: \$1,996; income less expenses: \$621.71. New cameras are needed before 2017 Santa House begins. Having Paula's laptop for viewing photos was a great help in speeding photo selection.

Thanks to John for putting covers over the doors. They are now fastened into the door frames so the windows won't bend.

Thanks from the Village for \$150 donation to the Family Christmas Program. All funds went to the program – none for administrative expenses.

Thompson Center Rental: Dave M and his DJ friend used a phone app to try and check noise decibels. They didn't have proper equipment and were unable to get a useful reading. John spoke as a nearby resident. DJ noise is way too loud when windows are open.

Regarding improper use of facility, i.e., charging admission, too many people in building for safe occupancy--Mike asked Chief Johnson if we could repurpose the building as most trouble comes from non-residents. Chief said he could help with background check of renter if situation warranted. Marilyn proposed possibly lowering the rental fees, but keeping the deposit high and strictly enforcing the terms of having deposit returned. Chief suggested changing wording to say music is allowed, except for bands or DJs.

Park Rental Fees: Paula and Dave M provided a Facility Rental Proposal for the members. Suggested changes were to lower rates at Thompson Center to \$100 from \$120 for without kitchen; and lower with kitchen fee from \$160 to \$150. Deposit amounts remain the same. Brian suggested implementing credit card processing that would hold deposit until after the event.

TWM Building Project: Currently, there are no rentals from November thru March. Building needs to be winterized. John will bring cost projections to February meeting. \$35,000 memorial donation was received to be used for the TWM building. Marilyn said the Patriots have approximately \$28,000 that could possibly be used for drop ceiling or large ceiling fans. There will be a meeting in the next several weeks to determine if the Patriots will remain active or dissolve. John also said that more parking is needed and the adjacent field area is being kept open for that project. Brian offered his help to Marilyn for fundraising suggestions without a large scale event as the Camelot Auction.

New Business: Rotary would like to use the Thompson Bldg for its weekly meetings every Thursday morning. Mike suggested trying it for a year and limiting the cost to a monthly fee. More information is needed.

Unfinished Business: None

Update from Brian: Still working with community leaders to go ahead with expansion. At this time, funds aren't available. Swansea needs to reseal its portion of Richland Creek trail.

Centennial Park will have a volunteer day on Saturday, March 4, from 9:00 till noon, to continue with clearing out invasive plants. Proposal to be presented to Township Board for putting in a nature play area.

From Chief Johnson: 911 Consolidation – One of the worst laws in our State. Fee increase on calls while service is decreased. Law forces county call centers to consolidate, i.e., from 8 to 4. Several years ago, Swansea helped St Clair County increase to eight centers. In spite of Swansea already being equipped with NG technology, having personnel on duty 24 hours to take calls, the new law prohibits non-emergency dispatchers taking 911 calls. The consolidated centers can't give individuals immediate help. No person answers. The caller must leave a message and in some instances, it has taken 15-20 minutes to get a person to respond. We are consolidating with Belleville and we have a very good working relationship. Swansea has six 911 responders. Our center people turned down other jobs to stay here.

Don't hesitate to notify our police of a situation. Per St Clair County, if someone comes to us relating an event, we have to call the center and wait for them to call back to say okay to dispatch our officers. This bill was hidden within another bill, so it passed without voters' knowledge.

Regarding police presence in our parks, officers randomly patrol parks during and after hours. Don't hesitate to inform our police of a situation.

General Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None.

There being no further business, motion by Dave M, second by Diane, to adjourn at 8:35 am.

Submitted by Diane Wickline

FINAL