

## THE PERU PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

July 12, 2012 Meeting

The Peru Parks and Recreation Department met at 7pm on Thursday July 12<sup>th</sup> with the following members present: Mark Hall, Pete Ulery, Sharon Edwards and Charles Wagner. Also in attendance was, Cheryl Lee, City Councilwoman.

President Mark Hall called the meeting to order. The minutes were read. A motion was made by Pete Ulery to accept the minutes as presented, the motion was seconded by Charles Wagner. The motion passed.

The first order of business for the evening was Ruth Fruth representing Leadership Miami County. Their group is proposing building a couple "ga ga" pits in 1 or 2 of our parks. The pits would be free to the Parks Department. We would just need to maintain them. They cost about \$500.00 each and will be donated by Ivy Tech and Hickory Creek Nursing Home through fundraisers. The injury rate is low for this activity and the kids love them. One concern would be the children would get splinters but Mrs. Fruth explained that the materials would be treated. After much discussion and enthusiasm for this project Maconaquah Park (lower portion) and the Riverwalk were considered possibilities. Mark said that we would need to ask our lawyer about the liability for these pits. This would be a Class 15 project and Mrs. Fruth pointed out that the obesity rate in Miami County is 30%. Another alarming fact about Miami County is that we rank 78 out of 92 in Health Behaviors and Health Factors. A GA GA Pit is a dodge ball game typically played in an outdoor low walled octagonal court. Due to the fact that the Parks Department is limited with monetary resources, this project will be a welcomed addition to our parks. Mrs. Fruth passed out literature and we thank the Leadership Miami County for their proposal. Sharon Edwards made the motion for the construction of 2 GaGa pits to be located at Maconaquah Park and the other one to be located on the Riverwalk. Pete Ulery seconded the motion, the motion passed. The Board will need to approve the exact location of the Ga Ga Pits and the Leadership Miami County need to consult with Park Superintendent before building the pits. We are hoping to get them in by August.

The next guest of the evening was Mike Kuepper who was representing Trails for Rails. He announced that his group was unable to get the \$150,000 grant that they had applied for the connection of West City Park to our Riverwalk. He is suggesting that we work together to work on the connection. He had a map that he shared that showed us some property that the Parks Department and the City could work on to make a trail near the West City Park. He knows a person that owns a small strip of land (18 feet) that he would donate to continue the trail. Mike is asking for help from us and the city for the use of manpower, equipment for moving dirt and rocks and in general make the connection safe. Mike said there is probably enough dirt there already but we would have to move rocks and dirt and that is where he needs are help. He is proposing a nice shallow ramp to connect West City Park and the bike trail. Mark told Mike to work with Kenny Bengé for help in getting the dirt out of the area. Mike announced that this addition has to be ADD approved. Mike also said that there is a proposal to create a bike path from Peru to the Denver pike.

Adrian Roach, Golf Course Grounds Superintendent reported that we are in a water shortage emergency due to the drought. We are to cut our water usage 10-15%. We are going to cut the water on the tees and greens to every 3<sup>rd</sup> day. Hopefully, we will not get to a water emergency because some of our grounds are already showing stresses. We have 6 JAG employees working this summer and they have been working on sand traps. He said that he has been working on getting the leaks repaired. He closed his presentation by saying that everyone should hope for rain soon.

Kenny Bengel, Park Superintendent reported that the members of the LDS Church cleaned up Miamisfort, painting in the fort area and cleaning the light globes. He also reported that Kevin Cadwallader donated a red oak tree, which has been planted. He said that he has been working with the mayor in watering the plants down town. He shared that he has also had many water leaks in the park. There are 5 water leaks and he obtained an estimate of \$6,100.00 to set up a new water system. We have \$14,000.00 left in a Miamisfort fund and Kenny would like to use it to buy sails for shading there. He has 5 JAG workers who are clearing brush, painting manhole covers, painting picnic tables, pressure washing and cleaning the floors of the pavilions. Mark requested that Kenny deliver 4 or 5 picnic tables to the alley behind the circus building for Circus City Days. Charles commented about the board's budget and funding issues. He said that the City of Peru is not interested in securing a bond. Soon there will be a retiring debt and that bond is a 6 year bond. Charles ask if we could get some money through that bond. We will have to have further discussions about the bonding issue but Mark reminded us that the Park Board is responsible for applying for possible grants. Charles thinks that this would be a good avenue for money for the improvements that we want to make in the future. He shared budgets from Tipton, Frankfort and Logansport. Charles talked about how we could get money from grants.

Pete Ulery spoke about a possible skateboard park that is an idea suggested by Mr. Vanbalen. Mr. Vanbalen is willing to help with this project and Pete will discuss this project with Dave.

Mark reported that the purchase of CSX property is making progress.

Charles said that the Peru School system may develop a soccer field on the Riverwalk.

We do not have the deed for the property that we are going to sell to the Evan's.

Concerning the possibility of the Babe Ruth taking over the Men's Softball field, it is still an option. We are needing an answer.

*There being no further business, Charles made the motion to adjourn and Pete seconded it. The motion passed.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Edwards, Secretary*