



June 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes

Members:

- Meeting started at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, 6/5/2018
- Present: Reba Casler, Rick Homkes, Jill Newby, Laura Redding, Ashley Wyrick (late)
- Absent: Erica Parvin, Matt Johnson
- Guests: None

Topics:

- Minutes: No minutes available.
- Treasurer's Report: Report postponed until after Wyrick arrived from game, then reviewed by Wyrick.
- RTP Update: Newby reported phone discussion with Dave Kieser. Since the bid is still being negotiated, no notice of award has been given to the contractor (Davidson). After award, a preconstruction meeting will be needed. Kieser said that these could be finished in June and construction started. Per the IDNR, the water fountain was part of the scoring and must be included in the project. This came in at \$11K, much above the \$5K estimate. By removing the dog watering bowl (see below), it would be reduced by \$800. Benches are in the project and one member of the community said at the Russiaville Community Outreach meeting that she wanted a bench to sit on so she would buy a bench as soon as we gave her the cost. Homkes reported that six change donation boxes have been set out around town.
- RTP Costs: Homkes reported that there is a budget shortfall of \$22.5K on project. This is a result of having an all asphalt trail longer trail, under budgeting the amenities (especially drinking fountain), payment by the Town for the archeological survey, etc. Discussion of how this could be made up.
Action Item: Motion by Homkes, second by Redding, to take \$10K from Gene Parks fund to help pay for the trail. Discussion followed that the trail is a great use for the Gene Parks money to help seniors and children and that an additional payment will be coming in June / July from the CFHC. Passed 4-0.
- RTP Dogs on Trail: Discussion about whether to allow dogs on the trail, how to provide waste bags, and where to dump. Homkes mentioned that a scout contacted him about having an Eagle Project associated with the trail (this is in addition to the possible horseshoe pit Eagle Project). Overall consensus was that dogs should be allowed on the walking trail, and that the Park Rules should be modified if they currently prevent them.
- RTP Fundraising: Good discussion on how to raise additional monies and who to talk to. A list of possible donors was made up. Use of an introductory letter with letterhead and map of trail made by Redding. Discussion centered that there would be no trail, bench, etc. naming, but that a plaque would be OK (e.g. "Bench donated by XXX company"). Further discussion will take place.
- Bee Grant: Homkes reported that the flower planting is scheduled for Saturday 6/16 at 8ish. Emily Roark from Purdue Master Gardeners is trying to get volunteers. The three beds have been staked by Darlene and Rick Homkes and marked by Mike Collins. These locations were



previously approved by Don Parvin as part of a walk through with Homkes. There was initially a plan to kill the grass with herbicide, but concern over residuals means that the plan is now to have Collins scrap the grass off and remove it. Claude Vawter will then rototill the three locations. Homkes has purchased tarps so that mulch can be staged next to the beds before planting day. Water will have to be provided for the seedlings. Redding asked about the trees and shrubs and Homkes reported that he had not yet ordered them.

Action Item: Homkes will continue to coordinate the planting and will check on the tree / shrub availability.

- Community Center Weeding: There was concern about weeding the landscaping and circle at the CC. Newby went with granddaughters recently and did some weeding, but more needs to be done. There were also two students from WHS that weeded during community day. Discussion of who could weed and when.

Action Item: Wyrick volunteered to prune the knockout roses if others could continue to work on the weeds.

- Community Center Windows: No action by the window tinting person. Since there has been no contact, Casler asked if the \$2500 donation for window treatment could be used to cover part of the RTP shortfall.

Action Item: Newby will talk to Jeff Stout about redirecting the money

- Park Signs: Newby reported that the recommendation has been taken under advisement by the Council.

- Russiaville Town Park ADA Entrance: The ADA entrance has been complete and looks good. Discussion resulted as to where to take the funds.

Action item: Motion by Homkes, second by Wyrick, to recommend to the Council that the cost of the entrance (including sidewalk) of ~\$1600 be expensed to the Park Rehab account. Passed 4-0.

- Swing mats have been ordered and should be ready Thursday for pickup. Short discussion of how to do this.

Action Item: Casler will work with Newby to arrange pickup. If that fails, they will contact Homkes or Redding.

- Town Park Ash Trees: The three options given by Homkes to the Council last month were taken under advisement. Redding does not want to lose the shade. Redding and Newby were interested in knowing the odds of survival with the injection method.

Action Item: Homkes will contact Makayla Lucas.

- Budget: Wyrick and Homkes discussed the requested 2019 budget. Preliminary feedback from the Council is that the recurring expense allocations are doable but that the \$25K for the CC Playground seed money is probably not because of the RTP budget overrun and street / sidewalk needs.

- Tree City Visit: Short discussion. No action on visit request of Carry Tauscher.

- Officer Responsibilities: Short discussion on responsibilities, including reporting to the Council.

- Census Figures: Homkes handed out a draft white paper on US Census Bureau population estimates. Numbers show that Russiaville had same population as seven years ago. The sixteen other towns charted all show population loss. Homkes asked what other thought was the reason for the relative good estimated. Answers were school system, town reputation, etc.

- Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm



Minutes taken by Rick Homkes.