



## February Regular Board Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2024

### Members

- **Present:** Jill Newby, Rick Homkes, Janna Hyman, Cheri Helmberger via phone, Jeremy Burns
- **Absent:** Reba Casler, Erica Parvin
- **Guests:** Lucas Rhees, Pat Reel (Town Council Liaison)

**Meeting** started at 5:00 pm

### Topics

- **Minutes:** A motion was made by Cheri to approve Minutes and seconded by Janna. Rick mentioned a change in wording. Vote and passed unanimously in favor.
- **Treasurer Report:** Rick reported with recent donations the Playground Project fund now has a total of \$192,000.00.

### Old Business

- **Community Center Park Playground Fundraisers**
  - Project “Kids Helping Build the Playground”: Shearer Printing designed flyers are completed and ready to be bundled in classroom size packets then distributed to teachers at Western Primary and Intermediate buildings. Shearer Printing went above-and-beyond to help us create the perfect flyer and student insert, also Greg Aaron has been an invaluable asset to this project. This flyer will be distributed to the above students and sent home February 19th; this campaign will end March 1st. Principals at both Intermediate and Primary buildings were very encouraging and shared logistics to help make fundraisers successful.
- **Corporate Donors**
  - Martin Marietta: Jill received a phone call from Brent Leinenger. She will send him a flyer also offered to do a project presentation. Brent said he would contact Justin Moos for the exact stone number to be used. The board has asked for an In-kind of crushed stone. Brent is to take this request and information to his corporate bosses.
  - Merrell Brothers: Janna sent a text to [jean@merrellbros.com](mailto:jean@merrellbros.com) and [jonathan@merrellbros.com](mailto:jonathan@merrellbros.com) , but has not had a response.
  - Beck Seeds: Jill will work on getting the form filled out and sent.
  - Kings: No News



- Solidarity CFCU: Jill and Janna met with Jessica Ausbrook today and had a great, information filled, meeting. We have scheduled a second meeting to finish our second application for donations.
- **TIF**
  - Approved financially supporting the building of the Community Center Park Shelter.
- **Howard County Commissioners**
  - Park presentation will be given at the Commissioner's meeting March 4, 2024.
- **Playpros and Greg Aaron**
  - We received the updated playground quote; our last quote had been in 2022. Greg Aaron is an abundance of help with new contacts and opening new doors for financial assistance.
- **Town Park**
  - Equipment Replacement; The new Bongo drum ordered may not be here until June of this year.
  - Basketball Full Court; we have not had any updates on this project.

#### **Other Old Business**

- **Water Treatment Plant**
  - Once a new plant has been constructed recycling and composting will be put where the existing plant is now.
- **Rush To Russiaville Craft Show 2024**
  - The Park and Tree Board has a table reserved.
- **Tree City USA**
  - No updated news.

#### **New Business**

- **Town Council**
  - P&TB received permission to construct a restroom at the Community Center Park. This approval boosts the points needed for DNR.
- **All Season's Construction**
  - Lucas Rhees of All Season's presented to Park Board and Pat Reel the materials list, size of building 10x10x8, fixtures, for the Community Center restroom project. His quote came in at \$32,500.00. This included plumbing lines, electrical work, and foundation.
- **Western Heights Pond Painted Turtle Project**
  - This is the report submitted by Rick.
    - We received a summary of the research done at Western Heights Pond this last summer (June/July). There were a total of 389 captures involving 73 unique turtles (apparently they love cat food and kept coming back to



the traps). The ratio of females to males was 45 to 26 (~1.7 to 1). The number of juveniles was low. Possible reasons were for the low number of juveniles was that they could get out of the trap or they kept in the weeds where the traps were not placed. The graphing of shell sizes show that there were a period of years when juveniles did not join the population, in other words a gap in the population age distribution. Lastly, now that they have a baseline of population numbers and marked shells, they are hoping to come back and continue monitoring next year.

- **Tool Kit from State Health Department on Community Use of School Playground**
  - Tabled until the playground project is further along.
- **Meeting Adjourned 6:20 pm**
  - Motion to adjourn made by Jeremy, seconded by Rick vote passed unanimously in favor.

jh