

## 13 December 2014 Swansea Park Board Meeting Minutes

Quorum/ in attendance: Jim Beimfohr, Larry Kania, Mike Koeneman, Marilyn Neumeyer, Ken Oesterle, Lauren O'Neill, David Seger, Diane Wickline, Trustee Brian Wells, Jaynie Wells, Lee Wissmiller (expressed an interest in serving on the Park Board as a representative of the Rotary.

Location: The meeting was held at the Swansea Norman Lehr Center

Timing: Mike Koeneman, the Park Board President, opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance at 7:00 am. It was closed at 8:00 am, with a motion by Jim Beimfohr, second by Marilyn Neumeyer, and all in favor. The discussion, including public comments, involved the following:

Approval of 8 November 2014 Minutes: motion by David Seger, second by Marilyn Neumeyer, passed following discussion noting that: Trustee Wells regularly attends Park Board meetings; attendance of multiple Trustees and the mayor, as has occurred during prior administrations, is needed; sharing park board recommendations and concerns with the Swansea Administrator is necessary; and Park Board attendance at Trustee Committee/Board meetings is encouraged.

Santa House: thanks to Marilyn Neumeyer for her work and dedication to the House. She shared her appreciation for the "Santa is in and out" additions to the signage that Dave Seger contributed, and asked for Village outdoor holiday lights to be installed on pavilion areas near the House. Volunteers to fill some upcoming dates, and for help placing lollipop decorations in the ground outside the House is needed. Mike Koeneman said he'd put the lollipops in the ground. Brian Wells offered to follow up to see if some lights could be installed. The potential for vandalism and the inability for Volunteer Park Board members to direct Swansea employees to work on the House were discussed. Operating profits over the past few years, 266 kids that visited with Santa last year, and the 28 pictures taken and 48 kids who had visited with Santa to date this year were noted. It was reviewed that the Village incurred significant costs moving the House to Melvin Price Park. The desire that the Swansea Administrator take an active role coordinating volunteers and advertising the event was noted. The need for advertising events in a Village of Swansea Facebook and Website were discussed. Marilyn noted flyers for the House were going to be distributed at the local Schnucks, and the Board discussed the movement away from paper flyers by schools and other organizations in favor of lower cost electronic communications.

Additional Hayride: Payment was not received with the request so an additional Patriots Auction Hayride was determined to be a moot point at this time. The desire for an all-inclusive package of campfire, wagon rides, and food/beverages was discussed. It was noted that Bank of Edwardsville in prior years provided food-beverage reimbursement up to \$150; that this and other banks might be potential future sponsors; and that sponsorships should be secured before donating hayrides. Brian Wells noted that for the 2014 hayride for the Patriots Auction, he provided the food and beverages. It was noted that Trustees had donated in the past, but this should not be an obligation.

Committee Reports: No other committees reported.

New/Unfinished Business & General Discussion: (1) After the holidays, revamping the rent structure and use of rentals for facilities/amenities in the Parks would be pursued, so that costs would be covered, non-profits would not expect use at no-cost, and external daycare groups wouldn't prevent resident use of facilities). (2) A request to regularly use (weeks/days in February and March and one day a month there after) the Norman Lehr Center by the St. Clair County Grants Department for daytime dances and hearings was introduced. Response would await more information and decisions reached after the holidays on rental fees. (3) Park Board members/volunteers should be sought from local high schools, colleges, and organizations, such as PSOP. (4) Mike Koeneman requested a current Park Board member consider filling the position of Park Board Secretary.

Minutes Recorded by Diane Wickline