

WORK SESSION
March 2, 2010

Mr. Ferrell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Trustees Michael Printy, Timothy Coleman, and Jeffrey Ferrell answered the roll call.

The next scheduled meeting is the Regular Session on March 9, 2010.

Mr. Coleman moved to accept the agenda as presented. Mr. Printy seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Mr. Coleman moved to approve the Financial Statements for the month ending February 28, 2010. Mr. Printy seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The Board had advertised for bids to purchase two Ford Explorers for the Police Department to be opened at this meeting. The following bids were received:

Statewide Ford	\$45,950
Kistler Ford	\$46,176
Reineke Ford	\$45,900
Mathews Ford	\$46,186

Mr. Coleman asked if they should be reviewed. Ms. Schaefer said that they should because there were exceptions on all the bids. Mr. Ferrell requested that they be given to Chief Klamar to review for adoption at the next meeting.

Mr. Coleman moved to accept the bids, place them on file, review them with Chief Klamar, and have them reviewed by legal counsel. Mr. Printy seconded the motion. Roll call: Mr. Printy, yes; Mr. Coleman; Mr. Ferrell, yes. Motion approved.

Ms. Schaefer said that she would need an executive session to bring the Board up to date on pending litigation.

Mr. Ferrell then turned the meeting over to Dean Frederick. The rest of the meeting was dedicated to a discussion lead by Dean Frederick with the Steering Committee for the Bell Avenue Park Study. Jeff Printy identified the members of the Park Board. In attendance were Gary Toll and Jeff Printy. Other members of the Park Board, but not in attendance are: Don Pfeil, Will Spence, and Dan McLaughlin. Also invited was Steve Dice, Erie Metro Parks. Mr. Frederick also noted that Daryel Sternberg, Kevin Boos, and Brian Kuns were in attendance for the Highway Department. Others in attendance were: Kathy Mueller, Dave and Mike Speer; and Oran and Norm Sherer.

He asked for e-mails addresses to be able to speed up contact. Mr. Frederick noted some issues will be for Park Development and some will be Township issues. He then reviewed the Draft Report, page by page. They need to identify the parts of the projects.

Mr. Frederick asked for comments on the draft report. All agreed that it was comprehensive and a good starting point to be used to go forward for development and for securing funding.

One additional stakeholder would be the VFW.

The study will cover the existing parks to show what activities are available.

There was a discussion on when grants are available. Most are springtime deadlines.

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Kathy Mueller asked if there was a traffic study for Bell Avenue. She also asked when the public meetings would be held. Mr. Frederick said that there would be one prior to the final report.

Jeff Printy said that there was a Perkins Township long-range plan done in the past, prior to the purchase of Bell Avenue. He explained that the results showed that the people wanted more recreational facilities, but did not want higher taxes to fund it. Maybe user fees. Ms. Schaefer said that the report was downstairs. The study was not in connection with Bell Avenue.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the stakeholders for the project. Some suggestions were: realtors, other baseball organizations, the schools, governmental agencies, neighbors, and the fair board.

Mr. Frederick said they definitely needed to identify what has been installed.

Mr. Printy asked the cost of a ball diamond. Mr. Coleman believed it was around \$80,000 for the ball field. There were additional costs for engineering, drainage, etc. that benefited the ball field and other development. He also asked if an additional field would disturb the other facilities that were already in existence. Mr. Frederick said the original plans would require the demolition of the building. Mr. Ferrell question whether we need another ball field and if so, when we need it. He also said there were grant funds available to remodel the building to a usable state for handicapped bathroom facilities.

Steve Dice, Erie Metro Parks, said their study showed the desire for parks & recreation. Of those the highest desire was for hiking trails and nature areas as opposed to concrete facilities. But that survey was for the entire County. The survey for Perkins would probably show different desires.

Mr. Dice also cautioned that if we build fields there were other things to consider. There were grant monies for the construction. But with the construction comes yearly maintenance. Has that been addressed? Also who would be charge of reservations and maintenance?

There was a question whether the retention pond would be able to handle further construction. Mr. Frederick said that the pond would be able to handle the three fields that were originally planned. There is also funding for storm water mitigation when the drainage because a County issue.

Jeff Printy, Chairman of the Park Board, gave a brief history of the park system in Perkins Township. The parks were neighborhood parks. The Board wanted to get away from the idea of neighborhood parks and to build a Township park. This was before the land was purchased. It was the thought that a Township complex would also go on the property. The goal was to have a community center to give the Township some identity. The original plan includes trails, bandstands, and picnic areas in addition to the ball fields.

Jeff Printy said it was goal that whatever was developed would not be detrimental to the surrounding neighborhoods. Mike Printy said that the present study would lead them to the further development of the property. Mr. Frederick said they wanted to develop the property in phases so that the entire property was not disturbed anymore than necessary. But the survey will identify the future needs of the Township.

Mr. Ferrell said that we are getting focused on the ball fields. They spent a lot of money and work to maintain the fields we have. He sees the development of Bell Avenue being more just than ball fields.

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Dave Speer asked how the Legends field would affect this. Mr. Ferrell said that project was high end. It was for camps where the players come in for a weeklong camp and there are tournaments. It will not be comprised of local teams.

Kathy Mueller asked when the field would be ready. It depends on the condition of the grass. She also asked if there was any co-operation with the present leagues. Mr. Coleman said they were working on that.

Mr. Frederick then went back to the draft report, page by page.

There was then a discussion about the name of the park. Mr. Coleman said the park board was working on it. Jeff Printy said that they had suggested Strickfaden-Bell Avenue Park.

There was a discussion about bike trails. Mr. Ferrell said that there have been discussions with the schools to connect some of the surrounding areas with bike trails, which would be separate from the roadway.

After finishing the study there will probably be more uses than area. So the committee will need to be prepared to pare down the list. The other item to consider is the management of the park. Will it live with the park board or the Trustees? Also funding will be an issue. Some items to be considered are grants and sponsorships.

The next step is stakeholders' interviews. Mr. Frederick has listed sixteen sources. The more stakeholders the longer the process will take. This is different than public input. The stakeholders include technical, planning, funding. The basic questions will go to everyone, but there will be some additional questions depending on the group being interviewed. The goal is to get a list of facilities to be included.

Mr. Coleman moved to go into executive session to discuss pending litigation. Mr. Printy seconded the motion. Roll call: Mr. Printy, yes; Mr. Coleman, yes; Mr. Ferrell, yes. Motion approved.

Mr. Coleman moved to return to regular session. Mr. Printy seconded the motion. Roll call: Mr. Printy, yes; Mr. Coleman, yes; Mr. Ferrell, yes. Motion approved.

With no further business to be conducted, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 pm.

Jeffrey Ferrell, Chairman

Diane Schaefer, Fiscal Officer