#  MINUTES

The Monthly Board meeting of the Kewanee Park District Board of Commissioners was held at the Baker Park Office, Thursday, April 20, 2017 at 5:30 PM.

PRESENT: Vice President Jim Powell, Jacque Verscha and Mike Nichols. Also present was Brian Johnson, Director, Michelle Anderson, Secretary and Andrew Verstraete

ABSENT: Al Salisbury

President Jim Powell called the regular Board meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The minutes of the March 2017 Regular Board meeting were reviewed and discussed. Jim Powell moved to accept all minutes as written. Mike Nichols seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

 The March 2017 Financial Statement was then reviewed and discussed. Mike Nichols moved to accept the March 2017 Financial Statement. Jim Powell seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion passed. The April 2017 Bills for Approval were also reviewed and discussed. Jim Powell moved to approve the bills for April 2017. Jacque Verscha seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion passes.

OPEN BUSINESS: President Heberer then called on Andrew Verstraete for any comments. Mr. Verstraete commented that he was in attendance to better prepare himself for when he takes his place as Kewanee Park District Commissioner. Mr. Verstraete did also inquire as to the need for no fishing signs at the irrigation holding pond in Baker Park Golf Course. Mr. Verstraete has personally seen someone fishing down there and inquired about the rules of such an incident. The Board agreed that there is no fishing allowed in that area and discussed purchasing signs to indicate such. The Board also congratulated Mr. Verstraete on his election win and look forward to working with him. With no further open business, President Heberer turned the meeting over to Director Johnson for his report.

DIRECTOR JOHNSON’S REPORT: Director Johnson began his report by presenting the Board with thank you notes received from Mary Lou Griffith (Kewanee Park District Benefactor) for flowers received on her birthday; Joe Nosal (Child’s Best Friend Award Winner 2016) along with his annual donation to the Jerry Nell Fund and Tim Atwell (KHS Athletic Director) for the Board’s help in finding a place to hold the KHS Soccer Team practices during the summer and upcoming Fall season. Director Johnson also informed the Board that the Jerry Nell Fund is doing well and has a balance upwards of $7,000.

Director Johnson also noted that the Tax Computations were received from the Henry County Comptroller’s Office which was confirmed to be accurate by the Park District’s Bonding Agent First Midstate. The computation was signed and sent back to the Comptroller.

Director Johnson presented the Board with a request to expand the EE Baker Memorial Scholarship to allow students not planning to attend Black Hawk East College to apply for the scholarship. President Heberer commented he feels BHE is important to the sustainability and growth of Kewanee and feels that the scholarship should remain eligible for only those high school students planning to attend BHE. Commissioner Powell agreed with that statement. Talk of ways to ensure the student would be attending BHE were discussed as Michelle Anderson reminded the Board they received a thank you from a scholarship winner who had changed their mind and would be attending a different college. As of now, the scholarship award is given directly to the winner and not BHE. The Board believes that most students who apply will not be changing their mind and decided to leave the scholarship stipulations the same for this year and re-address the possibility next year.

Director Johnson then discussed a meeting held with the Friends of the Pool Board. The FOP agreed to pay for upcoming costs on repairs to the Oasis Family Aquatic Center including the leak seal system and testing for additional leaks. The FOP also informed Brian they had approved the purchase of new lounge chairs up to $7,000.00. In return, the FOP has requested the Park District Board of Commissioners to lower the cost of daily admission to the Oasis from $5.00 to $3.50 with the FOP paying the $1.50 per swimmer the Park District will be losing by approving the request up to 5,000 swimmers. Brian reminded the Board that after 5,000 swimmers, a decision will need to be prepared for as to whether the cost will go back up to $5.00 or remain the $3.50. The change in daily admissions would not affect the cost of season tickets. After a discussion, Jim Powell moved to approve the lowering of admissions to the Oasis Family Aquatic Center from $5.00 to $3.50 for the entire 2017 swim season. Mike Nichols seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion passed. Thank you to the Friends of the Pool for the generous donation and continued efforts to ensure a quality public pool exists for the citizens of Kewanee.

The next item on Director Johnson’s report was an update on the insurance claim submitted to Ameren for items damaged during a power surge and outage in December 2016. Items submitted to date total $11,423.70 with more items to possibly be added including but not limited to portions of the irrigation system at Baker Park Golf Course. Director Johnson assured the Board he will keep them informed of any progress with this issue.

Director Johnson then presented the Board with an estimate to repair and replace the roof system on the concession stand at the Big Diamond. The estimate from Oldeen Roofing came in at $8,374.00 for a rubber roof. Director Johnson inquired as to whether the Board would like to get an estimate for a steel roof instead and whether he should get estimates from other roofing companies. The Board instructed Brian to get other pricing making sure prevailing wage is accounted for in the estimate.

Director Johnson then presented the Board with a request from the YMCA to use the Oasis for their outdoor swim team as they did last year. Brian reminded the Board there was no charge to the YMCA last year for the usage and the YMCA would pay the lifeguards for the time they are using the pool. Mike Nichols moved to approve the YMCA using the Oasis for their outdoor swim team. Jim Powell seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion passed.

Director Johnson next requested from the Board, consideration of sponsoring a summer Community Play. The estimated cost of the play would be upwards of $3,000.00 with the director of the Play being Ellen Johnson. Ms. Johnson is a KHS graduate and will be graduating from Monmouth College in May. Ms. Johnson has agreed to take the reins to ensure auditions, rights to the play, musicians, technical support and stage/costume designs are taken care of. She has been in contact with Dr. Chris Sullens to be granted permission to use the Kewanee High School Auditorium for the performance. Ms. Johnson is hoping to have citizens audition from Kewanee and the surrounding towns between the ages of 10 and 110. Practices will take place from Monday through Thursday during the month of June with auditions taking place in May and the performance taking place in July. The Board was very receptive to attempting this new venture and have the upmost confidence in Ms. Johnson. Mike Nichols moved to sponsor a community wide play production. Jacque Verscha seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion passed. The Board did stipulate should any resistance be given by the Kewanee School District regarding discrimination of citizens outside of the Kewanee School District taxing area that an alternative venue be found.

Director Johnson’s next report item included a request for a new sprayer/seeder for the parks. The new sprayer would greatly cut down on overspray that citizens are concerned with. This new equipment would also be easier to use along the fence line and walking trail. The cost for the new sprayer/seeder is $7,759.00 A water cannon is also still needed for watering the soccer field areas. The estimated cost for the water cannon is $7,500.00. Another purchase needing to be decided upon that had been tabled from a previous meeting is the parking blocks for the new parking lot at Northeast Park. Brian also requested authority to purchase benches for Northeast Park that can be memorialized in order to recoup some of the cost of purchase. Brian believes these benches would cost $1,000 for purchase and install and could be memorialized at a cost of $1,500 to someone purchasing one. After a discussion regarding all items needing purchased, Jim Powell moved to purchase all items proposed. Mike Nichols seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion passed.

Director Johnson then called upon Secretary Michelle Anderson for a baseball report. Michelle informed the Board that the numbers increased very well right at the deadline except in the Boys and Girls Little Leagues. T-ball will have 12 teams, Boys Peewee 7 teams, Girls Peewee 5 teams, Boys Farm 5 teams, Girls Farm 4 teams, Boys Little 2 teams and no Girls Little. Tad Stout will be the director for all leagues except Girls and Boys Pony league which Jim Bair will be the director. Drafts are scheduled for May 1st with practices beginning May 8th and games beginning May 22nd.

With nothing further in his report, Director Johnson turned the meeting back over to President Heberer who asked for any other items from the Commissioners. Mike Nichols and Jacque Verscha had no further items. Jim Powell inquired as to the status of the gaming machines for the 19th Hole Restaurant. Brian informed the Board that he has found a company that will take on a seasonal account but that background checks will need to be performed and the process for final approval may take 3 to 4 months. Jim Powell believes the money generated by these machines would greatly benefit the 19th Hole. Brian will continue with the process of getting approved. Jim Powell also inquired about the Galva Days playday. The women’s portion of the playday would like to move from the Dunes to Baker Park Golf Course. This would be an all-day event in which the participants would eat breakfast, lunch and dinner at the 19th Hole and would bring around 90 golfers. Jim Powell also wanted to recognize Al Salisbury for his 30 years of service as a Kewanee Park District Commissioner. Jim Heberer also recognized Al by saying his leadership and knowledge will be greatly missed. Mike Nichols moved to approve a “Golden Pass” to any commissioner serving 20 years or more on the Kewanee Park District Board. Jacque Verscha seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion passed.

President Heberer himself had a few items to discuss. Jim believes the golf course looks great and commented that Dan is working hard to keep up with the rain. Brian added that should the commissioners receive complaints regarding the length of the grass please let them know to bear with Dan. Jim also inquired as to the status of the charges being filed against the young man who did damage to the soccer fields at Northeast Park. Brian reported that most of the cost will be labor driven but has been in contact with the State’s Attorney’s office. Jim would like to acknowledge what a great job JR Salisbury and his crew did to repairing the damage so quick. Jim also thanked the Kewanee Police Department and the citizens of Kewanee for their help in catching the vandal. Jim then inquired about the grand entrance to Northeast Park. Brian has heard from Tom Ratliff with the Rotary Club and is waiting on a picture of the correct Rotary emblem to use. Once that is received the entrance can progress. Jim also requested to have additional speed bumps installed near the playground area to help drivers be more aware now that there is no fence. Mike Nichols moved to install additional speed bumps near the playground area. Jim Powell seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion passed. Jim then inquired as to whether the Board needs to reinstate the use of parking tickets at Northeast Park to stop people from parking in unauthorized areas. Brian informed the Board he will look into it. Jim also inquired as to the possibility of adding a pickleball court to one of the existing tennis courts to offer more court availability since there have been instances of people waiting in line to play pickleball. Brian confirmed that pickleball lines can be placed on the tennis court and he will inquire as to what it would cost. Jim’s last item was to thank the Board for the plant he received after his outpatient surgery. He informed everyone that it was a success and he is doing well.

With nothing further to discuss, President Heberer entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting reminding everyone of the Election of Officers meeting and dinner on May 4th. Mike Nichols moved to adjourn the meeting. Jacque Verscha seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion passed.