#  MINUTES

The Monthly Board meeting of the Kewanee Park District Board of Commissioners was held at the Baker Park Office, Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 5:30 PM.

PRESENT: President Jim Heberer, Commissioners Mike Nichols, Jim Powell and Jacque Verscha. Also present was Brian Johnson, Director, Michelle Anderson, Secretary, JR Salisbury, Superintendent of parks, Chris Sullens (KCUD 229 Superintendent), Tim Atwell (KHS Athletic Director), Kurtis Smythe (KHS Soccer Coach) and Alex Bermudez (Kewanee Soccer Club)

ABSENT: Al Salisbury

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

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

Ordinance No. 335 – President Jim Heberer called for a motion to open a Public Hearing in order to hear comments on Ordinance No. 335, the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance. Mike Nichols moved to open a Public Hearing. Jacque Verscha seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion passed. Hearing no comments, President Heberer called for a motion to close the Public Hearing. Jim Powell moved to close the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 335. Jacque Verscha seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion passed. President Heberer then called for a motion to accept Ordinance No. 335, the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance, as written. Jim Powell moved to accept Ordinance No. 335 as written. Mike Nichols seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

 OPEN BUSINESS: President Heberer greeted guests, Chris Sullens, Tim Atwell, Kurtis Smythe and Alex Bermudez. Kurtis Smythe, coach of the Kewanee High School Soccer team, requested permission to host a soccer clinic and camp during the summer and also permission to use the new regulation size soccer field. Director Johnson asked for a report from JR Salisbury regarding the current conditions of the grounds and his opinion on a safe resting period. JR informed everyone that he and his crew have been cleaning a lot of debris making its way to the surface and encouraged there be no activity on the field until at least the High School season begins in the Fall. Chris Sullens inquired as to how the Kewanee Park District intended to keep people from using the fields. Director Johnson responded by informing him 30 signs will be placed on the grounds saying the soccer fields are closed, stay off and he has also discussed the possibility of hiring additional security to help. Kurtis Smythe thanked the Board for everything they have done to help the soccer program. Kurtis inquired as to the possibility of practicing on the regulation field once the season starts. Director Johnson compared the use of the new soccer game field to the high school football field in which no practices are allowed on. Alex Bermudez also inquired as to a place to hold practices. Both Kurtis and Alex appreciate the permission to use the old driving range in Baker Drive but expressed their need for a bigger area. JR Salisbury suggested using the northwest corner of the driving range at Baker Park Golf Course as there is enough flat ground in that area to house a full size field for practices. Director Johnson commented that the Driving Range would need to be shut down during the practice times and asked the Board if that was acceptable to them. The Board agreed to temporarily closing the driving range provided practices did not become cumbersome to the Park. Other items discussed included the length of grass desired, the possibility of a storage shed for equipment and Kewanee School District’s purchase of 5 acres in which they plan to develop their own practice soccer field. The Board thanked the guests for attending the meeting and for the information discussed.

DIRECTOR JOHNSON’S REPORT: Director Johnson began his report by discussing a letter received from Tom Hove regarding the planting of trees at Chautauqua Park. Mr. Hove’s idea was to host a community tree planting day in which citizens of Kewanee would donate saplings and plant them at Chautauqua Park on a yearly basis to replace those trees that have had to be cut down because of the Emerald Ash Bore bug. The Board believes there do need to be some additional trees planted at the southwest corner of Chautauqua but do not believe that saplings are the way to go. The Board also believes that an event such as this would turn the park into more of a forest than a park. Director Johnson has tried to respond to Mr. Hove’s email but the address provided is not valid.

Director Johnson then discussed the donation by Great Dane of the scoreboard to be placed on the regulation soccer field. Great Dane has agreed to pay for the scoreboard in its entirety and has given the go ahead to place the order. Director Johnson received notice that the scoreboard will be delivered by the end of the month. Gutschlag Electric can do the ordering and installing the poles and the wiring for the scoreboard. The Board discussed where at the soccer field the scoreboard should be placed. After a brief discussion, Mike Nichols moved to approve the purchase and installation of the poles for the new scoreboard. Jacque Verscha seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

Director Johnson then presented the Board with a list of items believed to be damaged during the power surge and outage caused by Ameren workers that took place in December 2016. Included in the items to be replaced were the lift station and its electrical panel and the ice machine at the 19th Hole. Director Johnson informed the Board that he is in the process of filing an insurance claim with Ameren for the damage and explained that the damage was not noticed prior due to the 19th Hole being closed for the winter. A&A Air Conditioning submitted pricing for a new ice machine for the 19th Hole at a cost of $4,900 for an 1,100 lb machine and MVP submitted pricing for a new control panel for the lift station at a cost of $1,000. After a brief discussion, Jim Powell moved to approve the purchase of both the ice machine and the replacement of the control panel. Mike Nichols seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed. Director Johnson also informed the Board that he does not yet have an accurate amount for the claim since additional items are still being found to have damage.

Director Johnson informed the Board that 2 raised pitching mounds for the Pool Diamonds and a 300 foot homerun fence for Windmont Diamond were purchased using money received from the Travel teams and the Walmart VAP money. Director Johnson also discussed a meeting had with Friend of the Pool President John Miskinis. Director Johnson has requested the Friends of the Pool pay for some of the cost the Kewanee Park District incurred last season and has conveyed the Board’s wishes of not going 50/50 on everything as it has in the past. Director Johnson will meet with the entire Friends of the Pool Board in the very near future.

Director Johnson had received a request from Mark Mikenas for the Kewanee Park District to cover the cost of the entertainment at the 4th of July festivities. However, since the request was presented a 48 piece National Guard Band has offered to come in and play the event for free so assistance from the Kewanee Park District is no longer needed.

Director Johnson received a request from IHMVCU again this year to offer a buy 1 get 1 free for its members in exchange for $750. Jim Powell moved to accept this yearly agreement. Jacque Verscha seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

Director Johnson next suggested a sub-committee be formed to help determine what types of benches to purchase for Northeast Park in which people could memorialize them for a cost. Director Johnson feels as 15 benches would be a sufficient amount and would not have trouble recovering any costs occurred with the purchase. He also reminded the Board that should all the benches be memorialized, a new Memorial Tree has been purchased for Northeast Park and memorials could also be added to it.

Director Johnson informed the Board he has met with the core staff at the 19th Hole and the meeting was very productive. He plans to hold employee meetings with them once a month. He also received a request from the Kewanee High School Golf Coach Kirk Fristad to allow KHS golfers to get practice tokens from the ladies at the 19th Hole as he may not be there at the beginning of golf practices due to travel time. The Board agreed that it is Mr. Fristad’s responsibility to provide those tokens at a time when he is available to supervise them. Next, Director Johnson informed the Board that Oldeen Roofing has made their yearly donation for the fishing rodeo. The Board thanked Mr. Oldeen for his continued support of the Fishing Rodeo and the Kewanee Park District and look forward to continuing the relationship.

With nothing further in his report, Director Johnson turned the meeting back over to President Heberer. President Heberer asked for any additional comments or issues from the Commissioners. Mike Nichols had nothing further. Jacque Verscha thanked the Board for their generous memorial to the Henry County Humane Society in her mother’s memory. Jim Powell inquired as to the status of the gaming machines for the 19th Hole. Director Johnson has been in contact with the company contracted by the State of Illinois but they will not approved placing machines in a seasonal business. Director Johnson assured the Board he is still working on it and will keep them informed. President Heberer requested Michelle Anderson place additional information regarding registration for baseball/softball/t-ball and soccer on the sign at Northeast Park to help ensure people have a chance to read it. President Heberer also reminded the Board that the Easter Egg will take place on April 8th and offered to help bag candy.

Director Johnson had one last item to discuss. Mike Nichols had presented him with a request from golf course Superintendent Dan Erickson to purchase a fertilizer spreader that would be beneficial to all of the parks and would eliminate the need to borrow from the Dunes Golf Course. The cost for the spreader is $6,000. Jim Heberer moved to purchase the new fertilizer spreader at a cost of $6,000. Mike Nichols seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

With nothing further to discuss, President Heberer entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jacque Verscha moved to adjourn the meeting. Mike Nichols seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.