**Minutes of Board Meeting…………………………………………………………………….December 14, 2015**

**Attending: Howard Wilkison, Sue Fortman, Sharon Phillips, Dave Smith, Vietta McKenzie, Linda Ricke, Victor Dance. Tom Ogden, Robert W. Barker and Teresa Kovacich.**

**Minutes were read and approved on a motion made by Vietta McKenzie and seconded by Sharon Phillips.**

**Claims were discussed and approved on a motion made by Dave Smith and seconded by Sue Fortman.**

**New Business:**

**Bob Barker congratulated Vietta McKenzie on her recent election to the City Council. He thanked her for her many years of service to the Park Board and wished her good luck in the future.**

**Bob Barker spoke to the Board regarding the recent article in the newspaper regarding the County Park Lake dam. He assured the Board that the Parks Department has not neglected the dam as was mentioned in the article. The condition of the dam is a result of the age of the dam. It is a porous structure that is seventy years old. We have performed minor repairs over the year and the current inspection was not much worse that previous ones. The reason this has all come to light is that the insurance company declined to provide coverage for it in its current condition. Bob informed the Board that he is waiting for a letter from Ron May, City Engineer, in regards to lowering the level of the water in the County Park Lake. By lowering the water level six to eight feet, it is hoped that this will relieve some of the pressure off of the dam to allow time for a study to be completed as to what steps should be taken next. The city has approved their half ($12,500.00) to pay for the study. The county has not yet taken action regarding their portion. Following further discussion of the matter, Dave Smith made a motion to approve the water level being lowered six to eight feet. Sue Fortman seconded the motion.**

**Bob Barker informed the Board that he is looking for a used truck to replace the 2008 Ford pickup truck driven by Adam Bruner. The truck has approximately 125,000.00 miles but needs repairs that could cost over $1,200.00. He explained that he would be encumbering $6,300.00 from the 2015 budget to apply toward the purchase. He hopes to trade for one for $7,000.00 - $10,000.00. The Board had no objection to the trade if a truck could be found.**

**Tom Ogden made a motion to retain the current slate of officers for 2016. Dave Smith seconded the motion. Officers for 2016 are Howard Wilkison, President, Sue Fortman, Vice-President and Secretary, Sharon Phillips.**

**Bob Barker informed the Board that we will be entering into a three- year contract with Sky Magic for the annual fireworks display. The cost will remain the same ($6,500.00) but they have offered an additional $500.00 worth of fireworks for each year at no additional cost. The fireworks are planned for July 3, 2016.**

**Letters of Communication:**

**Shelby Ward, a former lifeguard at the Allen Memorial Swimming Pool and a current nursing student at the University of Indianapolis, sent a letter requesting sponsorship for a medical mission trip to Ecuador. Bob Barker expressed his concerns about making donations of this type. While he said that it was a good cause and a great opportunity for her, he said that he was afraid that we could be opening doors to unlimited requests by choosing to support these types of requests. Sue Fortman agreed and said as we are tax funded she thought that the best way to handle the request was to leave it up to individual members to decide if they would like to sponsor her personally.**

**Superintendent’s Report:**

**We have four to eight people coming in for pickleball on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. As we have had no interest in the Tuesday evening hours, we have discontinued that time slot.**

**Open gym is continuing here on Saturdays and at the GCHS fieldhouse on Sundays.**

**Registration is underway for the upcoming co-ed volleyball season.**

**The maintenance staff has serviced all of the mowers and they are ready to go. All vehicles are being washed, waxed and cleaned up.**

**The maintenance staff will begin constructing new picnic tables and park benches in the upcoming weeks.**

**We are planning to offer open swimming again at the high school. The program will begin in early February and run until Spring Break.**

**Straw has been placed on the sledding hill at the County Park. Firewood had been cut and stacked for use in the fire pit.**

**Two pieces remain to be replaced at the Skate Park. We will be looking to apply for another grant from the Decatur County Community Foundation to complete the project.**

**The final phase of the sidewalk/curb project at the Parks Department building was recently completed by Jim Hagerty Construction. The third phase which will include the entrance to the parking lot and the sidewalk to the bridge is yet to be completed.**

**With no further business to discuss, Tom Ogden made a motion to adjourn. Vietta McKenzie seconded the motion.**