

Merlin Park Minutes

September 2nd, 2025

The meeting started at 5:03pm.

Directors Present

Jan Slusser, Mark Jones, Mike Chanquet, Cathy Campbell

Others Present

Randy Benetti – Park and Board Operations Assistant and Ken Mele – Park Host and Grounds Keeper,
Mike Baker Veterans Walk of Honor

Visitors: None

Minutes

Motion to adopt the minutes was proposed by Mark Jones and seconded by Mike Chanquet Voted unanimously in favor. Mark Jones noted that a signature for approved Minutes be incorporated into the Park's process for Legal purposes. Randy Benetti asked to receive a copy prior to the meeting as well.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report present by Mike Chanquet the end of month balance being \$7953.86. The petty cash balance is at \$108.58. The Walk of Honor balance at \$1,533.79. Motion to adopt the Finance report as proposed by Mark Jones and seconded by Cathy Campbell. Voted unanimously in favor. Mike Chanquet and Cathy Campbell shared the Budget of 2025-2026 and Actuals of 2024-2025 Accounting reconstructed to be uniform and a master made for future on going use. A few items highlighted in yellow were discussed as questioned by new board members of how past accounting covered credits on a few items. Mark Jones Motioned to adopt the 2025-2026 Budget and seconded by Mike Chanquet. Voted unanimously in favor. Randy Benetti made note to suggest a contingency fund be created and Jan Slusser noted she took over the account with only \$269...so not sure how to proceed with a contingency fund at the time. The Grants to be applied for need to be done sometime in October per Mark Jones and thought that to submit would need 5 years of back history, but not sure as we do not collect taxes. It was noted that the park consider a budget committee going forward by Mike Chanquet and Jan Slusser noted that we may consider getting the entire zip code of 97532 included in the area of the park as to have a committee would require 5 residents and 5 board members as is thought. Not completely sure. Cathy Campbell noted to consider putting it on the agenda for after the new year until we can figure out how to proceed. Jan Slusser to speak with Chris Parden Assessors office and Mark to speak with Bob Noyes to see those options.

Ken's Report

Ken Mele noted that our sprinklers run in excess of 12 hours all night to get through the stations and that the Church sprinklers do run into same timing in the late evening. Jan Slusser noted when she speaks to the Church about the raise in the shared expenses to note the conflict in watering times. Jan Slusser also noted that we need to get lime added to the soil. Mike Baker noted that the Walk of Honor Monuments were unable to be seen due to the overgrowth of the front trees and suggested having them pruned back. Jan Slusser noted that if the Blue Spruce is pruned, it will kill the tree so not to prune that tree specifically. Cathy Campbell offered the use of her truck to take any clippings to the recycle center, just need to know what day it will be scheduled.

Walk of Honor

Mike Baker noted 9 names have been purchased for year to date and to see about advertising a discount for a duration of time to get more as we have to pay for 15 names in one day of labor by artist. A advertisement no later than September 15th for the park in general was noted. Mike Chanquet noted that we needed a registry of every name already inscribed and Mike Baker noted he has a picture of every side of each pillar. The lowest place for an inscription should not be lower than 8 inches by Mike Chanquet to provide snow damage and view-ability. It was also noted that the Walk of Honor when fundraising their of their own should be applied to their portion of the shared banking account. A discussion on a separate account was noted but considered not realistic at this time with such a small amount to account for as it is a part of the park not separate from it, just that we track the costs and income from it for clarity.

Other Notes

Cathy Campbell asked to discuss the Park Logo in the Agenda and Mark Jones requested a due date. It was noted that without an updated logo that banners and other media items could not be made. Other Fundraising ideas noted by Jan Slusser is to bring back the Flea Market as The Jo-Co Spay Neuter Funds group made \$2k on their 3 day weekend rental. Cathy Campbell noted a Holiday event Cocoa and Cookies, to do sometime in late November, December to end the year. An Advertisement for the Bricks for the Walkway and for the Community Center Rentals be placed for \$34.27 in the Daily Courier and flyers to new businesses be provided by the board members encouraging support

Community Report

Mark Jones noted that the newly created Merlin Area Fire District is looking for a formal invoice from the Park to pay against an invoice. Jan Slusser noted there are two rentals for the month of September and two more for the month of October. The Gazebo turret is rotted and a date will be made to have it worked on with materials supplied by Cathy Campbell and labor done by Williams, and possibly Randy Benetti. . Ideas on how to keep the rain gutters from plugging up was discussed but no actions taken on such, just shared personal experiences on how to avoid.

Old Business/New Business

The meeting was closed at 6:39 pm.