

## LAKE/AIRPORT COMMITTEE

January 20, 2016

### MEMBERS

Alderman Vota  
Alderman Dorchinecz  
Alderman Walters  
Alderman Budd

### ALSO PRESENT

Mayor Brotherton  
Superintendent Jackson  
Alderman Heberling  
Shirley Sams  
Boy scouts and parents of Troop 132 (see attached list)

Chairman Vota called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.

### **BOYD DAPPERT YOUTH RESERVATION LEASE**

The 50 year lease for the Boyd Dappert's Youth Reservation with Taylorville Area Youth Council will expire in October 2016. Alderman Vota advised he was told that someone had posted on Facebook that the City was going to take the Boyd Dappert Youth Reservation away from the Scouts. Alderman Vota advised these rumors are not true and in the future if anyone has any concerns or questions that they should contact the Mayor or Aldermen to discuss their issues rather than posting things without the facts. Someone in attendance stated they had heard that the City was going to take it away to make more campgrounds, is that true? Alderman Vota advised no, he and the Board of Directors of the Boyd Dappert Youth Reservation have been trying to resurrect the Boyd Dappert Youth Committee. He advised Chris Kuntzman, Acting Treasurer and a few other parents are the only ones that show up when invited for clean-up days, etc. He advised in order to move forward with a new lease there has to be more participation. Tonight's meeting is to discuss what needs to be done to better utilize the land for the boy scouts and girl scouts and to come up with suggestions to approach other groups such as church groups and the YMCA to bring more youth.

He advised the Boyd Dappert's Youth Reservation has been in breach of contract for several years. Lake Superintendent Jackson and employees have been doing all the mowing and upkeep of this area, but with the financial status of the City, and with Superintendent Jackson working with less staff this could not continue. Alderman Vota stated since he is on the Board of Directors of the Boyd Dappert Youth Reservation he has asked Alderman Walters to chair the meeting this evening and asked him to take over.

Alderman Walters advised the reservation is a very nice area for the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts but in the past he doesn't feel that these groups have used the area to its full potential, and that it's a shame it is not being utilized. He advised it needs work but the City needs cooperation from the participants that are using it not just the two or three parents that show up. He advised Chris Kuntzman has been working with Alderman Vota to try to get more participation. In order to go forward with a new lease there are things that need to be addressed. The City will require a Certificate of Insurance showing the City as Additional Insured, the City Clerk's Office can be contacted for the correct wording needed on the Certificate, a copy of the Boyd Dappert's Youth Reservation Charter, corporation papers and current by-laws.

Alderman Walters asked if anyone in the audience had any questions or comments. Following is a list of comments:

Steve Harrison, Boy Scout Troop 132, addressed the Committee stating they use the area quite often and they maintain the trails and Superintendent Jackson and employees help with doing the mowing. In his opinion the reason the area isn't used more is due to not having a facility with potable water. He suggested maybe the lease could be for a shorter period of time, that they definitely don't want to lose it.

Alderman Walters asked if the Scouts still earn merit badges; they are for camping, archery, canoeing etc.

Tracey Hunt, Troop 132 advised they have Scouts that are working on their Eagle Badges. He has been in contact with Ameren who has donated poles to be used on the reservation. He reminded the Committee he had attended a meeting in the past in regards to the City having the land surveyed as the Scouts would like to do nature trails with chipping walks etc. but noted that he needs to know the boundaries as there is farmland around and he doesn't want to encroach on someone else's property.

He also advised there are two wells on the property and he feels that the biggest problem with the Girl Scouts not utilizing the reservation is not having a bathroom facility, they don't want to use the porta potty. One of the women in attendance noted that is true and that she isn't comfortable with the one that is there now as it is very unstable and she doesn't trust that it won't fall over. Superintendent Jackson stated at the time that it was placed there it was the nicest one the City had. Alderman Budd stated he would work with Superintendent Jackson in getting a new one, as it is for the youth and if it would help in getting more participation it needs to be done. Mr. Hunt agreed they should be responsible for the mowing and maintenance and they would like to see about building a shower house but he doesn't know all the rules and they need more adults to help. Alderman Vota stated he has been in contact with EJ Water Co-op in regards to furnishing potable water; the option of having water would change everything.

Chris Kuntzman advised Superintendent Jackson mows the entrance area but the Scouts do some weed eating and chipping of the trails. He also stated this area was always designed to be a primitive area, that he personally liked that there was no water or electricity as the youth need to get away where there is no electricity. He did state he didn't have a problem with discussing water and electricity; he is not against it if it would attract more youth groups.

Alderman Walters asked if they still received funds from United Way. Mr. Kuntzman, Acting Treasurer, stated they do but it is only enough to help pay insurance not enough to build a bath house. He stated they would like to build a bath house but if they were to spend between \$10,000-\$20,000 and then only get a short term lease it would be beneficial to the City but not to them; if they were to come to an agreement on a longer term such as between twenty to fifty years they would be willing to try to fund it. The troop leaders and parents of Troop 132 stated there would be more participation if there was potable water to wash your hands etc. that it would be utilized more by groups like the YMCA.

One of the younger Scouts in attendance addressed the Committee stating he likes it there; that he learns a lot and he doesn't want to lose it.

There were two residents that live in the Lake area asking if anyone can help noting that when they go on walks they pick up the area that perhaps when the Board of Directors have a clean-up day they could advertise it in the paper. They feel that there were probably more residents and neighbors that would be willing to help keep it maintained.

Lyndsay Casad Troop 132, advised she likes the area because it is a safe environment; you are not subject to others around with cursing, yelling etc. She has been in contact with Scouts in Tennessee in regards to visiting the reservation when attending President Lincoln activities in Springfield, stating she has been to other reservations. She noted the importance of having activities for the area youth, that the City is fortunate to have the Boy and Girl Scouts as well as 4-H groups in the area, that other cities don't have. Alderman Walters agrees and that is why they want to work with these parents and Board members to come up with a workable lease that would benefit both parties, stating the City would like to help but have limited funds but advised if they were to pursue building a bath house the City could help with finding out the specifications needed.

Alderman Vota stated at the last clean-up day there was a minimal response and he had a cookout day with Kiwanis providing food which he mailed invitations to several groups and approximately twenty five people showed up; and when they have meetings they don't have enough present for a quorum. He advised the first step is renewing the lease which is only going to happen if they agree to keep it maintained and mowed. As said earlier, it has become very difficult for Lake Superintendent Jackson to maintain this area due to less manpower.

The group representing Troop 132 were advised the Optimist Club asked permission from the City to construct a restroom to be placed at the end of the bike trail; they were denied because the Park in the past has had a lot of problems with the restrooms being vandalized. They were advised to contact the Optimist Club to see if they were still interested, but the building would have to be kept locked unless someone requests the use of it and there would have to be someone in charge of keeping the key.

The Committee discussed how to move forward. Alderman Walters asked if they had a calendar to keep track of who wants to use the area when. Mr. Kuntzman is presently in charge, if someone wants to use it they call him for availability. Alderman Vota again advised the group representing Troop 132 to notify himself, the Mayor or other Aldermen if there were any questions. They discussed the possibility of extending the lease for a one year period to allow time to work on a new lease that everyone would be comfortable with. Mr. Kuntzman asked if there was a timeframe in which they wanted to get their suggestions to them. Alderman Walters advised him to have their own meeting to gather ideas and suggestions and bring back to a Lake Committee Meeting which meets the second Thursday of every month noting that if any changes were made to the lease it would have to be forwarded to the City Council for a full vote. Alderman Walters will continue to be Acting Chairman while these discussions are going forward. The Committee recommended they bring their information to the March Lake Committee Meeting.

Several in attendance asked for a copy of the current lease. They were advised to leave their names and addresses to have one mailed, but they were asked if they could stay a few minutes copies could be made now; everyone that wanted one received one and extras were given to

Lori Harrison, Troop 132, who volunteered to forward to other parents of children in her Troop or anyone else that may be interested.

Motion by Alderman Walters and seconded by Alderman Dorchinecz to adjourn. Motion carried 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

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Martin Vota, Chairman