

## Park Committee Meeting - 3-8-2017

Meeting called to order 7:05pm. Present: Diane Wickline, Brian Dulski, Jaynie Wells, Dean Wallen

Guest: Mike Hawkins

Minutes - Brian moved to accept minutes from previous meeting, Dean second. Motion passed.

### Communications

- Brian will send a thank you note to the volunteers from our last cleanup
- Jaynie will present Park committee report 2013-2017 at next board meeting – see below

### Loop Creek

- Playground equipment will be installed in the spring 2017

### Centennial Park

- Mike Hawkins suggested we need a bicycle cutter to cut honeysuckle
- Committee wants to look at faster options to clean park
  - Machinery, goats, companies like Long Forest, control burns, and relook at prisoners to help with cleanup
- Committee wants to set standing dates for volunteer days as First Saturday each March, and First Saturday in October
  - Jaynie will present to board for approval

### New Business

- Word from Meuer Brothers on tree pruning and removing hazards – they want to come back in May for better estimate

Motion to adjourn Dean , second Diane

- Meeting adjourned 7:19pm

Next Meeting - April 12, 2017

## St. Clair Township Volunteer Park Committee Report – 2013 – 2017

The St. Clair Township Volunteer Park Committee is proud of our accomplishments, improvements, and increased public awareness of our beautiful parks. This document is presented as a thank you to the volunteers, and a testament to show what can be done over time.

The first thing we did as a committee was an assessment of the Township's parks and proposed a 5 year improvement plan, which became part of the ongoing budgets.

### Centennial Park –

With the support of the Township board, we held 6 volunteer days in the past 4 years to begin the process of removing bush honeysuckle and other invasive species threatening the trees and other native vegetation in this park. We removed approximately 6 acres of honeysuckle bush with the help of many including: Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, conservationists, master gardeners, the Swansea Rotary, Salvation Army, local politicians, local business owners, and concerned citizens.

Additionally, a sewer pipe running through Centennial Park was repaired.

We now have porta potties in the winter due to the increased use of this park because of the bike path and walking path.

The committee is directly responsible for the removal of an abandoned water pipe that was causing erosion to Richland Creek and the path around the park. This was done at no charge to the taxpayers, as the owner of the pipe (Illinois American Water) removed it and restored the creek bank and path. Because of this work, Richland Creek is flowing as nature intended.

We worked with the board in expanding the parking lot with the help of a St. Clair County Grant. This also improved water flow when we have flooding.

We continue to recommend updates to the walking path. We started with mulch, and have added AG Lime to parts of the path.

We recommended installing new signs on 161 and in the park.

### Loop Creek –

We have porta potties by the tennis courts, and the tennis court has been resurfaced.

We recommended new playground equipment to the board to be installed with the use of a St. Clair County Grant.

We have researched many options for bathrooms at this park including mulching potties. It is the opinion of the committee that many other improvements may be made at this park once the bathrooms are installed.

### Monarch Butterfly Stations –

As a community project, the park committee installed 3 monarch butterfly stations. They are located at Wolf Branch School, High Mount School, and Whiteside School. Wolf Branch and Whiteside also have benches near the stations. We researched additional training for the schools through St. Louis Zoo.

The volunteers on this committee continue to look for ways to make our parks better for the future. We joined The Southern Illinois Parks and Recreation Association for a couple years, we have members who attend U of I green seminars, and many are members of Conservancy's. The volunteers continue to look for faster, better, and cheaper ways to remove the honeysuckle, from goats to forest managers. We are proud members of this community, and have always encouraged others to be involved.

I have been honored to chair this committee, and would personally like to thank Dean Wallen who has been involved from the beginning. His support was and is integral to the success of this endeavor.

