

**Special Joint Meeting of the  
Ligonier Common Council and Ligonier Park Board  
Monday, August 20, 2012 – Ligonier City Hall  
103 West Third Street – Ligonier, IN – 6:00 pm**

**Call to order by Mayor Fisel**

**Roll Call**

**Common Council**

Present: Council President Ken Schuman, Council members Chris Fought, Becky Gray, and Julia Bell  
Mayor Patty Fisel, City Attorney Steve Hagen, and Clerk Treasurer Barb Hawn  
Absent: Council member Kelly Ware

**Park Board**

Present: Board President Brian Hite, Board members Jake Gloor, Jeana Lemon, Ray Collet, and Gary Byers  
Absent: Board member Daric Weimer

**Business**

The special joint meeting was held for the purpose of discussing the future of the park board. Mayor Fisel welcomed community members and thanked them for coming. In her opening statement she commented that her policy is to do the right thing at the right time for the right reason. The meeting will give council the opportunity to hear statements allowing them the opportunity to make the wisest decision. She invited the council, board members, and public to make statements so that council could base their decision on facts.

Park Board President Brian Hite thanked the concerned community members and told them to feel free to make comments.

Jason Becker, Fashion Farm asked what the actual function of the park board is.

Answers given board members Brian Hite, Jeana Lemon, and Gary Byers were the following:

The board is responsible for hiring a director, approving financial decisions, strategic planning for the parks, approval of programming, taking and implementing ideas for the parks, and taking care of park problems. In general they are responsible for the parks and park director.

Council Member Chris Fought asked how the park director differs from other department heads.

Park board members and mayor commented with the following:

The director oversees the day to day operations and administration of the parks, makes suggestions and seeks board help and approval when necessary. The difference being that the mayor has no control over the parks or park director. The other department heads have oversight by the board of works and mayor. The mayor also stated that when she receives complaints, they are referred to the department head first and if they are not satisfied with the resolution they can come back to the mayor. She has not received cooperation from the park director.

City council members and park board members shared their concerns regarding communication and respect. Other discussion included vandalism and how to deal with the cost of repairs, accountability, institution of corrective action to citizen complaints, expectations of the park department and director, more direction to the park director, attendance by park director and/or park members at council meetings.

The discussion was then opened for public comment. The following community members offered comments, appreciation, suggestions, and critique of the park and/or city:

Dean Speicher, 1000 North; Eric Lang, 10165 N 900 W; Stacy Lang, 10165 N 900 W; Daphne Knox, 504 Diamond Lake Road; Chris Leslie, 405 W Union Street; Emily Thomas, PO Box 31, North Webster; Ed Zimmerman, Main Street; Lois Rosenogle, 1104 Westfield Drive; Tom Janes, 302 Grand Street; Bryan Shearer, 901 South Main Street

The Mayor asked City Attorney for some last words. Steve indicated that communication issues need to be resolved. Small steps can be taken as he has seen in other communities. Park board can provide minutes to council and vice versa, park board members attendance at council meetings. We have started the dialogue and need to move forward.

### **Adjournment**

No formal action by council was taken. As there was no further business, Mayor Fisel adjourned the meeting.