

JOINT CITY/COUNTY MEETING
APRIL 14, 2009

The City of Cynthiana Board of Commissioners and the Harrison County Fiscal Court met in a joint session on April 14, 2009 at 6:30 P.M. The meeting was held at the WEDCO office on Oddville Avenue. Present were:

Mayor pro tem Keith
Commissioner Mattmiller
Commissioner Moore
Commissioner New
Attorney Lair
Judge-Executive Barnett
Magistrate Debbie Palmer
Magistrate Steve Moses
Magistrate Brad Marshall
Magistrate Jerry Dawson
Magistrate Jerry Bruner
Magistrate Dwayne Florence
Magistrate Bradley Copes
Attorney Bill Kuster

Judge Barnett called the meeting to order. Whitney Whitaker, daughter of Commissioner Amanda Moore, led the pledge to the flag.

The first item on the agenda was a request from the Harrison County Tomorrow Task Force to move forward with the naming of the park located on Oddville Avenue. This committee, represented by Ms. Kristin M. Grenier, advised that a contest was held to select a name for the park. The winning name was Veterans Park. They would like to receive authorization from each entity to move forward with signs, flowers, etc. for the park. A copy of the report is attached and made a part hereof.

Judge Barnett explained that no action could be taken at this meeting, but it will be placed on the agenda of the next regular scheduled meeting of each entity.

The next item to be addressed was the removal of the skateboard park from the River Road Ball Park. Several individuals were present representing the skateboarders and the Recreation Department.

Judge Barnett explained that a skateboard park had been placed at the River Road Park, but in recent weeks, the equipment had been removed based upon a decision by the Recreation Department Board.

Mr. Mark Sims, mentor to a skateboard group known as the SWAP (Skateboarders with a Purpose), addressed the joint session. He felt his group was being targeted unfairly because of vandalism. Dillon Price, President of SWAP, and Dillon Lakes, Vice-President of SWAP, addressed the Joint Session. Tyler Chambers also read a letter of support from teacher, Michelle Hassell. Dillon Lakes reported that SWAP had planned a fund raiser for this summer in order to purchase more equipment. However, that is in question since all the equipment has been removed. The status of the equipment was questioned. Rick Chasteen, Recreation Department Director, advised that the equipment was still on trailers. Some of the equipment is in good shape and could be reused. However, some of it was also rotten and crumbled when removed.

Dr. Arnold, Chairman of the Recreation Board, advised that this decision to remove the skateboard park was not a snap decision by the Board. It was based on several weeks of incidents of improper dress code, foul language used in the presence of park users, trash and litter in the skateboard area, plus destruction of park equipment such as picnic tables. He also noted that at one time, the Cynthiana Baptist Church had given the skateboarders permission to use their lot on N. Church St. However, this had to be revoked since some trespassed onto Poindexter Lumber and violated the rules.

Rick Chasteen advised that the Recreation Board has a zero tolerance policy with regard to conduct, dress code, language, etc. He stated the individuals using the skateboard park have continually violated this policy. Mr. Chasteen stated that he had been advised that there was a drug situation at the park and had asked the skateboarders to identify the dealers. However, they refused to cooperate even though Mr. Chasteen promised anonymity. The vandalism escalated and the Board felt they had no choice but to remove the skateboard equipment.

Several comments were made that Mr. Chasteen should not expect teens to "narc" on dealers since this could result in bodily harm to them. Chris Turley, former state police officer, agreed that you cannot expect teens to report on this type of activity. However, he did state that the individuals who were causes all of the problems were not present for this meeting. They cause the problems, but never help resolve. Mr. Chasteen reported that a drug arrest had been made at the park the previous weekend. However, Mr. Turley urged the group to find a place to skate because he did not want to see them on the streets.

Several citizens spoke with regard to the situation. However, nothing was resolved at this meeting.

Mrs. Betsy Brannock Smith of the Cynthiana Arts Council came before the Joint Session requesting an appropriation of \$1000 from each entity to support an adult community theater program. To produce theater funds are needed to produce sets and provide costumes, etc. She was asked to submit a written request to each Board.

Mrs. Karey Smith, Continuing Education Coordinator for LVC/MCC, advised that the college is now offering some continuing education courses for elected officials. She encouraged the group to take advantage of these local offerings.

There being no further business to discuss, Judge Barnett adjourned the meeting at 8:50 P.M.

Charleen McIlvain, City Clerk

John M. Keith, Jr., Mayor pro tem

