

**TOWN OF MUNSTER
PLAN COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 2011, 8:00 PM
MAIN MEETING ROOM – TOWN HALL**

Call Meeting to Order - The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:00 p.m. by Ms. Jill Hasiak, Chairperson of the Plan Commission.

<u>Roll Call</u> -	<u>Members present:</u> William F. Baker Stuart J. Friedman Jill Hasiak Andy Koultourides David Nellans Rolland Raffin	<u>Members absent:</u> Michael Mellon	<u>Staff present:</u> Steve Kennedy Clay Johnson
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Approval of Minutes – NONE

Preliminary Hearing – NONE

Public Hearing – NONE

Site Plan Review – **Town of Munster – Parks and Recreation, 8500 Calumet Avenue, Community Park.** Thomas DeGiulio, Town Manager and Park Director, began the discussion with a recap of the improvements at Community Park and which groups and sports leagues will be affected. Mike Matthys, Linden Group and Joe Nordman, Robinson Engineering, explained the improvements coming to Community Park and the phasing of those improvements. It was explained that the curb cuts would be reduced along Calumet Avenue by eliminating those cuts for the Boy Scouts and reducing the library from 2 to 1. These will now be reached from an internal road at the park. An improved entranceway and signage will lead traffic into the park off of Calumet Avenue. Landscaping at the entrance will most likely be irrigated but drought resistant plants will be installed to increase the likelihood of the survival of the plants. Traffic signals between Ridge and Fisher would be looped together, giving preference to the main traffic on Calumet Ave. Members of the Munster Little League voiced their preferences for new fields that could accommodate anticipated rule changes and hold tournaments. Joe Nordman discussed how fields were being drained and why the detention pond needed to be located in its proposed spot. Concerns arose about people getting into the pond. Mr. Nordman stated that grasses and landscape could be used to stop people from getting into the pond.

Concerns about parking were addressed. Mr. Matthys stated that there is enough parking at the park to accommodate the uses that are being proposed. Ms. Hasiak stated that a turnaround off of Lions Club Drive near Little League A field would be convenient and not force traffic all the way around the parking lot configuration.

Ms. Hasiak asked if there was adequate parking at the site in the instance where events are held at the neighboring schools and churches. Mr. DeGiulio explained that while some parking is not optimal, there are enough spots to adequately hold the traffic.

Mr. Baker believed that the retention pond at the site could be a hazard to children that are at the

site. Mr. DeGiulio stated that there have been no other issues at the ponds around town or at the lake in Centennial Park. However, like Centennial, this park could utilize grasses and other landscaping to limit how close one should be to the water line.

Mr. Raffin moved to accept the site plan but suggested the Town to continue to work with the leagues and other groups as the project moves forward. Mr. Friedman supported the motion. The motion carried 6-0, by voice.

Additional Items for Discussion – NONE

Findings of Fact - NONE

Mr. Raffin motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Baker and the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:00 PM.

The next regular meeting of the Plan Commission will be held on August 9, 2011 at 8:30 PM.

Chairperson, Munster Plan Commission

Date