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Cindy J. Gossard

To: Westfield Board of Works

From: Melody Jones

CC: Todd Burtron

Date: May 24, 2012

RE: Park Improvements as of May 2012

Dear Board Members:

The Parks and Recreation Department is running at full stream. We have hosted two major events since your last meeting and finished several projects.

## **PARKS**

### **Asa Bales**

Irrigation repairs continued to be worked on throughout the month and are now finalized. Pink petunias were planted as part of Community Plant Day last Saturday. Construction of the new retaining wall was put on hold due to several other repairs that needed to be done. We should be back on track with that project next week. We have a wood bee problem in all the shelters and will be working with a local exterminator to get this problem under control.

The Herron Art School student is finishing her sculpture that is to be installed at the east entrance to Asa Bales Park in June. Coordination has begun for the footer install.

Foundations for entrance signs in all parks should be completed by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

A new tree was planted where the trails come together in the north side of the park.

### **Armstrong**

Ball State hosted a design review on the Ball State campus. They worked on three separate concept designs. We have contracted for the next 90 days with a landscape architect to continue with this process. Part of this

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(317) 804-3190 fax

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process with includes meeting with the Countryside HOA and the Westfield Lions Club. We are looking at partnering opportunities.

### **Old Friends Cemetery**

We applied for a \$10,000 grant with the Hamilton County Convention and Visitors Bureau to help fund the interpretive signs for Old Friends. Browning Day has finished the design and plans and we will be working towards getting quotes soon.

### **Quaker**

The maintenance staff has worked hard to get everything ready for the opening of the Splash Park this Friday. With the warm weather we are having we have received many calls about when the splash park is opening. The addition of 5 new benches, 6 bike racks and new drinking fountains has enhanced the park amenities greatly. A charcoal grill was installed at shelter 1.

We had one young lady host a lemonade stand for Lemonade Day at Quaker Park last Saturday. With all of the volunteers working on Community Plant Day and the busy traffic from the trail users I think she must have had a profitable day.

The gardens are pink and look beautiful. If you have an occasion to talk to Jim Gapinski please help us with thanking him for Heartland's generous donation again this year.

### **Freedom Trail**

The maintenance staff continues to work with WYSI and their irrigation repairs. The new Arbor Day trees are being watered regularly and watering bags are being used on the trees large enough to hold them.

### **Simon Moon**

Nine new trees were planted at Simon Moon Park.

### **OTHER ITEMS**

#### **Grand Junction**

On Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup> we closed on the first property in Grand Junction. We will close on the second in mid-June. We have a recorded sales agreement

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for a third. Currently we are working on sales agreements with all but two properties.

We are working on a demolition request for proposal and plan to tear down the structures as we purchase them. This will be a two year process.

### **Special Events or Programs**

#### **Tree Planting Workshop**

We hosted a tree planting workshop on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at the City Service Center. The Hamilton County Tree Seward's led the workshop. We had good attendance.

#### **Arbor Day**

Arbor Day Tree Planting event was rained out this year. We still gave away 50 trees that morning and the remaining 450 by Wednesday of the next week. The maintenance staff completed the planting of 99 trees in three parks the week of May 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Community Plant Day**

2012's Community Plant Day at Quaker Park had the best volunteer turnout we have ever had. Over 45 people came to the park to plant pink petunias in the flower beds. Pink is the official color for Westfield in Bloom this year. Staff had prepared the beds in advance and had the water truck on site to water immediately after the planting was done. Irrigation is programed and running. Heartland Grower's donated all plant materials. They supplied enough so we were able to plant the north entrance to Asa Bales Park too.

#### **National Trail Day**

Please see the attached flyer regarding Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>'s event at Quaker Park for National Trails Day. We wanted to market the Midland Trace Trail and the Monon Trail to a new group of folks. Geocaching is growing and it target people who may not typically get outside and using the trails. We invite you to join us that morning.

#### **Westfield Rocks the 4<sup>th</sup> (WR4)**

Plans are being finalized for this year's WR4 event. The website is updated regularly so please visit is often for information updates. The Parks Department staff and Executive Committee volunteers are working hard to make this year's event more spectacular than last year. The event begins at 4PM on July 4<sup>th</sup> and the Fireworks begin at 9:45PM. Please consider

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volunteering. We have over 100 openings for volunteers. I hope you can join us.

### **Farmer's Market**

The Parks Department and Westfield in Bloom (WIB) will have a booth each Friday at the Farmer's Market. Besides providing information we will be selling bird houses and cut flowers. All proceeds will go back to WIB.

### **Friends of the Westfield Bark Park**

A new volunteer group has formed to help promote and support the idea of developing Osborne Park as a Dog Park. They are organizing and looking into becoming a 501C3 organization. Their monthly meetings are held in the main level media room, the last Thursday of the month at 7PM. This is open to anyone interested in helping with this project.

In addition, Westfield is in the running for a \$100,000 grant from Pet Safe for the development of a dog park. Please go to their website <http://www.petsafe.net/barkforyourpark/>

And vote for Westfield every day until June 15<sup>th</sup>. You can vote twice, once using your email address and once using your Facebook.

If we make it to the top 15 (we did last year) the voting starts all over again. Please consider helping us win this grant.

### **Westfield in Bloom (WIB)**

The four volunteer committees for WIB are very busy with this year's projects.

**The Floral Committee** just hosted the Community Plant Day at Quaker Park. This committee planted the down town planters. They are promoting the floral competition. The registration deadline is June 16<sup>th</sup>. Judging will take place on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

As registrations come in we are using the City's flex map to populate the map with pink flowers. The public can use the map to know the locations of the gardens. This can be a self-guided garden tour.

**The Community Committee's** signature project is Plant a Row. Their goal this year is to donate 3000 pounds of fresh produce to the local food pantries. They have planted their gardens at Christ United Methodist Church and will be planting a Victory Garden at the Farmer's Market on June 1<sup>st</sup>. The park staff has prepared this garden for planting. Ameriana Bank continues to support with project and will be a drop off site for produce again this year. Produce can also be dropped off at the Park/WIB

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booth at the Farmer's Market. \$250 donated by Ameriana Bank to WIB will be used for tomato cages, fencing and other gardening supplies. WIB volunteered for gift wrapping at the bank over the holidays in order to earn the donation.

**The Environmental Awareness Committee**, held a build a box workshop in April. Attendees built 2 bird houses; one to take home and one for WIB. Some of these bird houses have been painted by the committee; others are plain. We will sell the bird houses at the Farmer's Market.

This committee is promoting Adopt a Prairie at Freedom Trail Park. They have prepared plant information and will work with the volunteers in maintaining the prairie throughout the year.

**The Heritage Committee's** main project this year is hosting "Voices from the Past". This will be our second year of offering this performance of some of Westfield's historical citizens. The performances take place in the Anti-Slavery Cemetery in Asa Bales Park and Old Friends Cemetery Park. We partner with the Westfield Historical Society and Westfield Players. This year we are host on two days. The performances on Friday during the day will be a school field trip, Friday evening performance will be disconnected for families and there will be Saturday performances. This is a ticketed event. More information will be coming.

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