



700
Breckenridge
By Sondra Gaunt

In an email dated 8/18/2009 I received these minutes of the August Board of Aldermen meeting.

**"CITY OF BRECKENRIDGE
BOARD OF ALDERMAN
OPEN MEETING
August 10, 2009**

Roll Call by Moderator: ,at 7:01pm Alderman Gardner, Herrington, McIntire present.

Also present Grover Clawson, David Bethel, Annie Gibson
Visitors: D&F, Sondra Gaunt, Kevin Fry, Mark Gaines

Presentation by D&F, excellent presentation, many questions were asked. They will send the information in writing to the City

Motion was made by Alderman Herrington and second by Alderman McIntire that the city go to a purchase order system. Motion carried.

Motion made to have training August 20, 2009 at 7:00 pm at the Township Building. Training will be by MAP, seconded by Alderman McIntire, motion carried.

Water Dept Linda reported that Metro Ag is here and working on the lagoon. We are to pay \$10,000 upon completion of project then monthly payments of \$540.

No Fire report

Sondra Gaunt again spoke of county wide library and if we want to take part we would have e to dissolve our library. City Attorney will research what we need to do..

New Business: There was reported a loose wire in the Shelter. The fire box in City Park needs repair. Much discussion about a Neighborhood Watch. There are several groups of young children reported to be causing damage. Alderman McIntire spoke about a community building and that everyone should come next month with information.

Again discussion about the City Lake and fishing. There have been several violations, including cattle being not fenced.

Motion to adjourn by Alderman McIntire second by Alderman Gardner

Michael Fry City Clerk August 10, 2009"

Later in the week I received this email:

MAP (Midwest Assistance Program) conducted a training event for the Board of Alderman and City Clerk.† The training was 4 1/2 hours and very comprehensive.† This will allow our Board of Alderman to better perform their duties."

Excellent! Now the aldermen will know for themselves the ins and outs of holding meetings (and appropriate documentation of same) which pertain to the use of public monies. It's a shame that so many rules, regulations and laws are needed to keep some from assuming authority and powers they don't rightly have and to keep decisions out of secret meetings and in an appropriately public forum. The Sunshine Law really shouldn't be considered as part of a game to be thwarted with impunity by those more interested in gamesmanship than the greater good but as a guideline to keep public officials from accidently cutting corners. Oddly enough, that law was enacted to answer a real need.

Now, perhaps, the minutes will cover actual motions (including wording and author), seconds and vote tabulation whether unanimous, bipartisan and/or including abstentions, as well as all topics of discussion and whether or not the discussions were tabled and maybe even include accurate remarks by visitors. (I actually asked for dissolution of the local non-functioning library district)

I just noticed that no mention was made of Mark Gaines being invited to fill the vacancy on the Board. If I remember correctly,

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he accepted. (I should have taken notes, but I didn't expect to be filling in minutes) I hope he was in attendance at the training event. Maybe they didn't ask him until after the meeting adjourned—but wouldn't there have to have been discussion some time and maybe a vote of aldermen concerning the appointment? I don't know, but that sort of seems like proper procedure. Mark will be a good alderman.

Lots of rainfall early in the week caused changes in our day to day lives. Bob Hogan didn't manage to snorkel out until midweek so the championship changed hands in his absence. Dave Weldon having had his working hours changed to afternoons did stand in but being called "Little Bob" seemed to put him off his game a bit and it was D R that went up on the board. At the end of the week Bob reclaimed the title (I think he's held it three weekends in a row!) in spite of various people threatening to report him to Cathy for his in appropriate use of "the Ladies' Aide." I got tired of the excess water long before I managed to mop up all of the flooding that kept appearing at Leftovers. One thing I did like was seeing the flight of the pterodactyl. Some people might prefer to believe it to be a heron but it sure looked like a pterodactyl to me.

The Harley crew was in town Saturday. I like to see and hear them. Quite often they seem to be around on Wednesdays.

It was a busy week for the music crowd. I got to play most days and sometimes twice as on Tuesday afternoon at Cameron Manor and that evening at Kidder. Wednesday evening was Morningside at Chillicothe and Thursday was Mark Burnett's Monthly All-Gospel at the Kingston Baptist Church. Some of the group was at Quail Run on Wednesday and Leftovers Monday evening. Somewhere along the way I decided to play bass guitar (mine is so pretty) so I got out my Dick Erickson CD (Yes, THE Dick Erickson) because it's an extra good one to play along with on the bass—plugged in and played loudly (mostly when no one was around).

In fact, now that I think of it, it was a busy week all around. I went to school four days instead of my regularly scheduled two, and the Staff In-service had a few valuable items—okay, so most of it is exactly the same every year, but this time we did update our CPR accreditation which always seems to change a bit each time. This time we had individual "victims" to practice on. I thought it was going pretty well until my baby's head fell off. And I do like the scenarios where we get divided up into groups and are given a paragraph describing a critical situation. We get to discuss what to do. Naturally informing the boss/appropriate authorities is close to the top of the list. Someone in my group (not me—I'm probably not that smart) thought that we should have a code word to use on the intercom to alert the office but not panic the students. Our answer was, of course, brilliant (IMO).

What are we talking about? Rain gauges, washed out roads, canning tomatoés and pickles, school starting, texting, Internet access and Dusty and Monica Allred's new house—it's fascinating watching it go together.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Aug. 27—Softball Stet cometh

Aug. 28—V football vs. S. Nodaway

Sept. 7—Labor Day ☺

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