

JESSE OWENS PARK BOARD MEETING

October 20, 1994, 3:30 P.M.

Extension Office, Moulton

The meeting was called to order. Minutes were read and approved.

James Pinion informed Board members of the official notification from Senator Howell Heflin's office of the awarding of the Federal Grant in the amount of \$75,200.00 to the Jesse Owens Park.

The final amount from the Council Of The Arts will be forthcoming and this money will also be used for the construction of the statue.

The J.O. Park Board paid for Henry Buchanan's trip to Chicago to meet with the Owen's family.

James Pinion and Henry Buchanan both stated that they felt that the meeting with the Owen's family in Chicago was very productive and that hopefully any concerns of the family about the park were cleared up. They (James and Henry) felt that the family was impressed with their presentation and model of the Park. Kenneth Owens and Paula Hovater also attended this meeting.

James stated that Mrs. Owens agreed to help get replicas of medals and other items to use in the museum at the Park. However, Mrs. Owens indicated that she would like to see the birth home replica used as the museum.

James Pinion and Henry Buchanan also attended the reception with Dr. Leroy Walker in Birmingham on 10-13-94. They reported that the reception was very good and they had an opportunity to talk with several dignitaries about the park. They were also able to talk with Dr. Leroy Walker about using the Olympic rings on the statue. Dr. Walker suggested that the Park Board write to the Olympic Committee asking for permission to use the rings. The Olympic Committee would in turn, make a decision on the request. James Pinion shared with the Board a letter that he had written to Dr. Walker and the Olympic Committee asking to use the rings.

James Pinion also informed the Board about the Jesse Owens Foundation Banquet held in Chicago and asked that the Board purchase a \$150.00 seat to show support for this annual event.

A motion was made and seconded that the Board purchase the seat. The group was in consensus. Each Board member will pay 15.00 each toward this cause.

Approval was given to Therman White to write a check in the amount of \$150.00 from the Board's account and the \$150.00 would be made up from the fifteen dollar contribution from each Board member.

Henry Buchanan reported that Henry Graven is working on the Torch Run which hopefully will come through Oakville. The decision of the final route will be announced in 1995.

Henry also reported the possibility of a state wide fundrasing committee being organized by Paula Hovater and others.

Before Bronco cast the statue, the Owens family in Chicago will be asked to look at it for their opinion/approval.

Therman White reported that due to the time frame, around \$4,000.00 from the Forestry Grant will be lost. This grant was used to construct the fence and gate.

Mr. Sylvester Owens was introduced to the Board members and sat in on the meeting. Mr. Sylvester Owens expressed his support for the park project.

Mr. Phillip Reich talked about the 14th year of the Jesse Owens Run which is held in the spring each year in Moulton and how the race does justice to the memory of Jesse Owens. Mr. Reich stated that some 250 to 300 volunteers are involved in this race in memory of Jesse Owens.

Rosemary Lewey further expressed that the race has drawn races closer together in unity and involved kids and given them an opportunity to succeed.

Mr. Reich reported to the Board that he had gotten a call on 10-19-94 from the accountant of Paula Hovater to discuss the remaining invoice from May and June, 1994 (\$5132.40). The invoice did indicate a credit for the \$1200.00 paid.

Mr. Marvin Fitzgerald reported to the Board that he and his wife Gloria went to meet with the Jesse Owens family in Chicago on September 28.

He (Marvin) expressed that Mrs. Owens and her daughters were upset that he had not been invited to go to Chicago to the planned meeting on 10-10-94 and therefore invited them to come up earlier.

He expressed that Mrs. Owens was concerned about Board members, Borden, Reich and Littrell and why more had not been done with the park in 10 years.

Marvin stated that he had informed Mrs. Owens about all of the confusion about the local fundraising efforts. However, Mrs. Owens was impressed with the results of the local fund raising activities.

Mr. Fitzgerald expressed that the Owens family in Chicago feel like the bylaws should be followed. They stated that an election should be held yearly to elect a new chairman. The family also felt that the by-laws may need to be amended.

Marvin informed Mrs. Owens about the local fund raising committee and the family wanted the local fundraising efforts to stay exactly as they are on the local level.

Marvin informed the Board that Mrs. Owens wanted minutes from meetings and to tape every meeting. Any complaints should be discussed with Marlene Owens in Chicago.

Marvin also stated that the Owens family want Gloria Fitzgerald to stay active as a local and community fund raising person and that Marvin should stay active as a Board member and family member.

Marvin expressed some discontentment with Mr. Therman White as the chairman of the Board. He asked that the Board consider to elect someone else as chairman if we are to abide by the by-laws.

Marvin reported that eight hundred plus dollars was raised on the latest fundraising. Marvin shared with the Board a plaque that he and Gloria had received from the Owens' family in appreciation for the work they had done.

James Pinion suggested that from the Extension Service standpoint, that he and other Extension members may need to back off until this situation with the Board is resolved.

Marvin further stated that he did not see a problem with the by-laws -- only abide by them. He also stated that he felt like he had been excluded from some of the meetings.

Phillip Reich stated that the original Park Board was established by Roger Dutton and that he and Tim Littrell was a part of the original Board. He also expressed that all park activities need to be coordinated so that everyone will be informed and that the differences within the Board and the community need to be resolved so that progress can continue.