

SPECIAL MEETING
October 16, 1987

Present were Don Bailer, Margot Knoll, Connie Reed, Tim Courtney, Ken Hauck, and Alvin Block. Absent was Jerry Trinklein.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Bailer. The public notice that was posted in the Township Center was read by Secretary Hauck.

Chairman Bailer asked for comments from the audience.

James Totten, the Birch Run Township supervisor, spoke on behalf of the township and the Birch Run Park Board. He explained that the park board had approached the township board with a recommendation that the present park should be re-located. The township board then directed them to search for a suitable park site. The park board then came up with the proposed site on Canada Road which was the Mossner property. They said it would best suit their needs.

Mr. Bill Revett, a property owner near the proposed site, stated that he had talked with Mr. Andy Smith from the Horizon Group, and he expressed concern over the problems that were being caused because of moving the present park. Horizon Group are the developers of the mall on Beyer Road and are the ones that want the park property for parking or possible relocation of Beyer Road.

There were many people who voiced concern over proper drainage, the safety of Canada Road, police protection, cost to tax payers, excessive traffic in the area, the many hunters who hunt game animals in that area, the lake that is located on the adjoining Doll property and many more.

Mrs. Kalmbach, a Canada Road resident, presented a petition signed by over 400 concerned citizens to the Birch Run Planning Commission. The petitioners were opposing the move of Buster Brown Park and also requesting another public meeting to get more people involved.

They also felt there was not proper notification of the last meeting and that it should have been handled differently.

Chairman Bailer then presented the petitions to Mr. Totten, the Birch Run Township supervisor.

There were many questions asked as to how the Park Board arrived at the Canada Road site and why there wasn't an effort made to purchase the property behind the township center. Again, the park board said that the site selected would best suit their needs and long range plans.

Mr. Doug Bailer asked who set the \$60,000 figure that Horizon Group offered the township. Mr. Totten said that Horizon Group offered \$60,000 and agreed to move the park from where it is now to its new location.

The question was brought up about how much it would cost the taxpayers of Birch Run Township. They said hopefully with grant money, it wouldn't cost the taxpayers anything, and that they had accepted a bid of \$3100 for a recreation plan to use for application of grant money.

The Planning Commission members then stated their opinions on this matter.

Mr. Bailer then explained the voting procedures for the planning commission. It is done with a hand vote.

Mr. George Schmunk stated that if the planning commission approved this park site that there would be a lawsuit filed to stop it.

Mr. Bailer then asked for a motion to approve or disapprove of the proposed new park site. Mrs. Marg Knoll moved that we accept the proposed site, second by Connie Reed. Courtney, Block, Reed, and Knoll were in favor. Hauck and Bailer were opposed.

Mr. Bailer then explained the procedures that follow this meeting and that the township board has to come back to the planning commission for a special use permit. He also requested better publication of the special use permit hearing so that more people could get involved.

Mr. Bailer asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion by Courtney, second by Block to adjourn at 9 p.m. All were in favor.

Kenneth Hauck, secretary
Birch Run Township Planning Commission