

2016 Pekin Park Foundation Annual Report

"Kaizen" is a Japanese word that means "continuous improvement". In business it refers to activities that constantly improve all functions of the organization and involve all participants. Perhaps "kaizen" best refers to Pekin Park Foundation's progress in 2016. From project completions, to bigger gifts, to our inaugural fund raiser, to a new board member, the Foundation continued its tradition of continuing to move forward. Sadly, we also bid goodbye to one of our original board members and president, who stepped down after a dedicated tenure.

Projects: After careful planning and consideration, The Jan Donahue James Field Improvement Project was completed and a special dedication was held at the site on September 25th. The Donahue family was pleased and the community witnessed an improvement to one of its iconic green spaces. Randy Price also continued his collaboration with the Pekin Park District. That project preserves a piece of history by raising columns salvaged from Pekin High's former West Campus building and erecting them at the northeast entrance of James Field. An engraved marker for the Park Pavilion commemorating its completion in 1905 was done and the project will be finished upon its placement.

Future and ongoing projects were also put into place. Casey Smith, IRVSRA Director announced their desire to convert unfinished space in the old Park Pool Bathhouse into a multipurpose room for their activities. Approval was given to use the crowd funding site of GoFundMe.com to assist in their goal of raising \$30,000. A generous gift was received from the William C. Long III Estate of \$91,803.06 for improvements at the Miller Center. No restrictions were put on the gift.

Fundraising: 2016 saw the Foundation pursue its first fundraising efforts. On May 7th, Run A Muck was held in the park. Terri Gambetti and DeDe McNeely of the Park Recreation department took the lead and \$2,900 was raised. It was determined to continue the event but hold it in August to insure warmer weather and better possible participation. In 2016, the proceeds from sales at the Popcorn Stand in Mineral Springs Park during the Marigold Festival went to the Foundation. After expenses, the netted amount was \$2,093.81. Finally, at the suggestion of Foundation Treasurer Rich Hallam, Amazon Smiles site was set up as an available designee whereby a small percentage of anyone's purchases on Amazon can go to the Pekin Park Foundation if they choose. Throughout the year, possible future fundraising projects were brought forward. Consideration on a diverse variety continues.

Other Activities: Board President J. Peter Ault announced his retirement from the board. Serving since the Foundation's inception, Pete was formally commended for his service at the August 15th meeting. Bill Harmon was chosen to serve as board president until the next selection of officers. Discussion followed regarding possible expansion of the board. The board decided that the proper course was to fill Pete's position and elected Terri Gambetti to fill the at-large seat upon her retirement from the Pekin Park District at year end. A special fund- the Terri Gambetti Recreational Scholarship Fund was established under the Foundation and approved by the Pekin Park Board. In an effort to support the Bike Pekin initiative, it was agreed to add bike racks to the Foundation Gift Catalog.

Financial Profile: As of 12/31/2016, the Pekin Park Foundation reported a \$107,600 balance in the General Fund Checking Account and \$30,300 in the Investment Account.