

MINUTES
PARKS, RECREATION AND CONSERVATION ADVISORY
COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2012
DPW OPERATIONS CENTER
2351 SPRINGBROOK COURT, BELOIT, WI

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sheila De Forest, Therese Oldenburg, Carol Mankiewicz,
Mark Preuschl, Mark Smullen

MEMBERS ABSENT: Roger Christiansen, Steven Ferger, Mike Ramsden

STAFF: Brian Ramsey

GUESTS: Nikki Meyers, Director of Friends of the Riverfront

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called by Mike Preuschl at 6:35 p.m.

REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 12, 2012 MEETING

After some corrections were indicated in the minutes

- Steven Ferger motioned the new business item
- The name of the Dog Park will be City of Beloit Dog Park

Carol Mankiewicz made a motion to accept the minutes; seconded by Mark Preuschl.
Motion passed unanimously.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Nikki Meyers came to give an annual report on the Friends of the Riverfront. The goal is to keep constant focus on the space from Friends of the Riverfront's summer season perspective. This is her fifth year and it keeps getting better. The core area is wonderful (Jones to MidLawn Pavilion) and has been maintained by the Parks Department. Whenever she is in the park people come up and thank her for all that they do. However, several local Beloiters have asked her to start some talks about the concerns/damages, and late night behavioral problems. Brian and Nikki met previously to discuss these policing concerns, and Brian suggested looking into the WRPA's Eagle Eye Neighborhood Park Watch Program. Brian thanks Nikki and assured her that they have talked about the problems at Riverside Park and policing matters. We will never be able to get rid of all the problems but are trying to do the best job we can. There was further discussion regarding the need for more policing in the parks, especially Riverside Park and if a Task Force should be created. Brian will request if an officer can provide some sort of report at the next commission meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Correspondence** – John Kalkirtz will be retiring at the end of the 2012 FY. A transition plan is in gear to seek a replacement. An advertisement for this position will be made at the up-coming WPRA State Conference in November. Repairs to the lights behind BMHS will be completed upon the arrival of the parts that have been ordered.
- B. Parks Report**
Brian Ramsey presented the Parks Report, noting and expanding on specific items. The repairs to the walkway under the Portland Avenue Bridge are still not done yet but will be within the next week or so.
- C. Horticulture Report**
Brian Ramsey presented the Horticulture Report. He spoke on the new park bench dedicated to Steve Gregg in Horace White Park and they are still waiting for the plaque. Mark stated that there is a washout area at Big Hills Park that needs attention. Brian will contact Mark Edwards to check on the issue regarding repairs.
- D. Grinnell Hall Senior Center Report**
Brian Ramsey presented a summary of events that were planned at Grinnell Hall. On September 21 there was an Open House/35th Anniversary and over 200 participants showed up. Also on October 2nd there was a Senior Fair at Central Christian Church and over 1200 participants were there. There will be a Pancake Day/Bizarre at Grinnell Hall on October 20th from 7am-12 noon.
- E. Special Projects/Miscellaneous**
Brian Ramsey presented the Special Projects. The new playground in the lower level of Big Hills Park was completed by September 22nd. Sheila requested that the swings be replaced. Brian has staff working on that. There is a set out at Big Hills Park stored away and if they are ok and in working order no swings will need to be purchased. The CIP project at Oakwood Cemetery is to repair the monument, and if there's enough money remaining, they will also repair some gravestones as needed.
- F. Leisure Services/Recreation Report**
No report this month. Brian apologizes.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Consideration and approval of the proposed rules for the Dog Park**
Avoid putting a lot of signage up. The message center and fee box should be connected to each other. For the Entrance Gate Procedures, getting rid of rules 1-4 and leaving 5 and 6 will make them easier to read. Additional corrections were suggested by Carol. Therese motioned to accept the rules with the revisions second by Chad. Motion passes unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS – ACTION REPORT ITEM

A. Consideration and adoption of the 2012-2016 Parks & Open Space Plan

It is a guideline to improve parks and now has the most up to date matrix as far as total acres and more categories have been created. Revisions were discussed. It is a working tool to help us stay focused on our priorities within Parks and remain eligible for Grant Fund by DNR. Motion to accept the Open Space Plan by Theresa and second by Chad. Motion passes unanimously.

B. Consideration and appointment of a new Chairperson for the Commission

It was agreed to hold this over until next meeting. Chad makes a motion to accept, second by Therese. Motion passes unanimously.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTS

- Sheila De Forest: The number of dog licenses sold this year was 706. There are penalties for not having one. The light that shines on the flag at Riverside Park is out.
- Chad Larson: Has a son who plays hockey. The new lights and scoreboards look great at the arena.
- Carol Mankiewicz: None
- Therese Oldenburg: Big Hill Park looks beautiful. She took a family on the shuttle and they really enjoyed the scenery.
- Mark Preuschl: Walked Chatsworth trail. The lightpole in front of the Riverside Park sign may be too high up.
- Mark Smullen: Shared that the students love the pool and tons of kids are swimming now.

ADJOURNMENT

Carol Mankiewicz made a motion for adjournment; seconded by Chad Larson. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Travia Vance.