

**MINUTES  
PARKS, RECREATION AND CONSERVATION ADVISORY  
COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2013  
DPW OPERATIONS CENTER  
2351 SPRINGBROOK COURT, BELOIT, WI**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Roger Christiansen, Sheila De Forest, Steven Ferger, Chad Larson, Carol Mankiewicz, Mark Preuschl, Mark Smullen

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mike Ramsden, Therese Oldenburg

**STAFF:** Brian Ramsey

**GUESTS:** Allison (Senior at BMHS) and Jason Krueger

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Roger Christiansen at 6:30 p.m.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 10, 2013 MEETING**

A correction was made under the committee member's comments section to change Walter "Loomis" to "Loos". Mark Preuschl made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Chad Larson. Motion passed unanimously.

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

None

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- A. Correspondence-** None
- B. Parks Report-** Routine maintenance is continuing. Litter and debris in all parks and along the business corridor of Milwaukee Road are being picked up. The trees are being trimmed and the Dog Park is routinely maintained. As spring has sprung, the parks are being mowed as well as boulevards. The water is on-line in all rest rooms in the park shelters. Fountains in the Lagoon in Riverside Park have been installed and repairs to the Summit Park rest rooms will be completed soon. A contractor has been hired to replace the roof on the rest room building next to the ball fields in Leeson Park. It's being used more and more. To prevent potential flooding, sandbags were installed in front of the lower entrance doors to the Moore Pavilion. The damaged water line in East Lawn

Cemetery has been repaired and cemetery clean-up has been completed with the help of McNeel Middle School. The pool is being cleaned and prepared for the season as well as the diving well for painting. Assistance is being provided to Friends of the Riverfront regarding preparations for their annual Bloom event in Riverside Park. Because of the damage caused by a vehicle that hit it, the outfield fence in Leeson Park will be repaired by a contractor.

- C. Horticulture Report-** As previously listed, assistance with trimming trees in parks is continuing as well as preparations for opening the Golf Course and the Clubhouse. We are prepping equipment and ordering supplies in preparation of maintaining landscaping beds, and installing flower baskets over Portland Avenue Bridge. Landscaping beds in the Gantry, downtown parking lots, cemeteries, golf course, and in all park sites have been cleaned. Due to the damage caused in the winter, we have done turf restoration in Leeson Park.
- D. Grinnell Hall Senior Center Report-** In the past several months, Paula has been engaged in many small projects that have given Grinnell Hall a remarkable facelift and has made it more customer friendly. Brian encourages people to go see it. The Supervisor's Office is now located in the outer office area and there are plans to move it to the front of the building next year. All storage areas have been cleaned including the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor attic and the basement. The piano in the Dining Hall has been relocated to another area within the Dining Hall. The display case that was previous located by the entrance door has been relocated to the spot where the Piano was previously located in the Dining Hall and downsized for a cleaner appearance. This makes for a nice gift shop area. The lobby area at the entrance door has been cleared of a lot of clutter, and appears more inviting to our members and guests visiting Grinnell Hall. The Dining Hall has been painted, and we have received countless compliments regarding the new pleasant green sage color.
- E. Leisure Services/Recreation Report-** The pool start up began on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The 2013 Triathlon is scheduled to be held on Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 am at Krueger Pool. Because of the conflicts from previous years, Steven Ferger made the suggestion that access to the golf course parking remains available. The paperwork for the grant application for the Triathlon has been filed and new sand for the sand filter for all pools has been ordered. The diving well has been drained in preparation for painting. The ADA wheelchair lift has been ordered and will be installed as it arrives. We have submitted a proposal regarding fees and charges to BYHA, and are currently waiting for their review and any further considerations. The Ice Arena has been transitioned to use as a Pavilion for the summer season. The Beloit Horseshoe Club began moving in on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and their first tournament started on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Security cameras have been installed in the Pavilion. Lots of prep work was done to line up some of the new lighting at Telfer, over seeding at Krueger, rolling at several fields, new turf at Telfer. Several minor improvements were completed for the upcoming summer softball season. Despite the heavy rains and flooding, our fields were in good shape and leagues began as scheduled in the last week of April. We have the same number of teams as we did last season for total of 36 teams. Friends of the Riverfront held their annual Bloom even on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

The Rotary Center has rented out all weekends through October. The Public Education committee met to discuss the Farmer's Market events and other possibilities for promoting our division. We continue to work with the BYHA, Welty Environmental Center, WPRA and Greater Beloit Association. We continue to fill our monthly radio spot with WGEZ the second Monday of each month also.

**F. Special Projects-**

1. **Low Ropes Course at Big Hill Park-** The weather finally cooperated and the new Low Ropes equipment has been installed in Big Hill Park by Experimental Systems. Shawn Fredricks with the School District of Beloit will be scheduling a training program in either May or June.
2. **Summit Park Playground-** We received a total of eight (8) proposals from four (4) separate playground vendors. The Playground Review Committee completed their evaluation of these proposals and selected the top two (2) finalists with the highest scores. The proposals with the highest scores were both submitted by Lee Recreation, and they will be awarded the project. As indicated in the RFP, a Neighborhood Playground Meeting was held on May 7<sup>th</sup> for residents that reside within the Summit Park area to attend and select which playground they would prefer and only two (2) people showed up. Sheila suggested that we use the Merrill Community Center or the Head Start Building to hold another meeting and give the community another chance to voice.
3. **Bike Trail Planning at Big Hill Park-** We met with the LDA group and Custom Manufacturing (Clinton, WI) regarding a proposal and specifications for building a bridge across Goose Creek in Big Hill Park. The LDA group has so far raised approximately 1/3 of the cost for purchasing the bridge.
4. **Dog Park Dedication Ceremony-** The Dog Park Dedication was held in Leeson Park on Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup>.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Consideration and discussion regarding the date and agenda for the Annual Parks Tour.**

At our Commission Meeting last month we revised the Parks Tour Schedule as some Commissioners were unaware of the locations of some of our city parks. This newly revised schedule includes all of the park sites on the eastside of the Rock River which is scheduled for our Parks Tour. There are three major changes to the revised schedule:

1. We will be starting at the Moore Pavilion in Riverside Park.
2. The site visit to Pohlman Field has been eliminated because the Snappers have a home game and will not be able to accommodate our site visit on a night with a home game.
3. Eagles Ridge Park has been eliminated also.

Mark Preuschl made a motion to accept the Parks Tour Schedule as presented seconded by Chad Larson. Motion passed unanimously.

**B. Consideration and discussion regarding suggestions and proposals for the development of the 2014 CIP Plan.**

Based upon our discussion after previous meetings regarding Capital Projects for 2014, the 2014 CIP request forms which will be submitted to the Finance Department have been completed. Sheila DeForest mentioned that the swings at Vernon Park may need replacing before 2016 and would like to revisit the schedule to see if it can be moved up. All parks are on a schedule to be improved. Brian stated that he will make a spreadsheet made up of only playgrounds and revisit the plan after the parks tour. Steven Ferger made a motion to accept the submittal of the 2014 CIP plan seconded by Carol Mankiewicz. Motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS – ACTION REPORT ITEM**

**A. Consideration of selecting the new playground equipment for the Summit Park.**

The playground unit in Summit Park has out lived its expectancy and is scheduled for replacement within the 2013 CIP Plan, as previously reviewed and determined by the Parks & Recreation Commission. Because there weren't enough people who showed up to the meeting held on Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> Sheila DeForest requested that there be another meeting that takes place at either the Merrill Community Center or the Head Start building to give the residents a chance to come out and vote. If the same results occur again, it will be up to the commission to decide. ADA requirements are met with both options and it can be installed any direction that we prefer. We are thinking about donating the old playground equipment to the people who tear it out instead of scrapping it. The commission agreed on option #1 however; Mark Preuschl made a motion to defer the decision to the playground meeting as long as they have overwhelming support seconded by Chad Larson. Motion passed unanimously.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTS**

- Mark Preuschl: Informed the commission about the upcoming Air Painting event and encourages everyone to come out and see the art. Asked about getting a gravel parking trail for the Dog Park. Brian stated that city ordinance prohibits gravel parking lots.
- Sheila DeForest: Says that Paula should put her name on the newsletter. Brian stated that the newsletter will be changing after the May edition, and will be collaborating with RSVP.
- Chad Larson: Would like for City Hall to make sure that they are asking customers if they also would like a Dog Park tag. One of his neighbors went to purchase a license and was unaware that both fees were separate.

- Carol Mankiewicz: Has noticed that the erosion is bad along the river. Also the map in the brochure that Brian handed would be helpful it was on the City Website also.
- Mark Smullen: Held a youth service day at Aldrich and the kids help clean up working at Caritas and the Goodwill. Would like to do more as a school system.
- Steven Ferger: Will be resigning from commission soon and moving to Nevada. The weeds at the lagoon are getting really bad. Brian stated that we are working to resolve the issue by spraying and clearing out.
- Roger Christiansen: Is going to miss Steve and appreciates his friendship.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mark Preuschl made a motion for adjournment; seconded by Carol Mankiewicz. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Travia Vance.