

MINUTES
PARKS, RECREATION AND CONSERVATION ADVISORY
COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2013
DPW OPERATIONS CENTER
2351 SPRINGBROOK COURT, BELOIT, WI

MEMBERS PRESENT: Roger Christiansen, Keston Geistwalker, Chad Larson, Carol Mankiewicz, Mark Preuschl

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rebecca Charles, Sheila De Forest, Therese Oldenburg, Mark Smullen

STAFF: Brian Ramsey, Director of Parks & Leisure Services
Greg Boysen, Public Works Director

GUESTS: Andy Hill, Project Engineer

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Roger Christiansen at 6:35 p.m.

REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2013 MEETING

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

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

None

SPECIAL REPORT- Rock River Bank Protection Project-

Andy Hill came to speak about the Rock River Bank Protection project update. All of the limestone boulders and rip rap have been installed across the entire length of the project from the Hendricks Bridge to Turtle Island Playground. Concrete slabs from the benches near the Vista points have been put into place. For the balance of the week, they will be spreading topsoil, and a quick growing rye grass mix, and covering that with erosion mat netting. That will finalize the stabilization until mid-November, when the native seeds will be planted. Once the seeds are planted the disturbed areas will be cordoned off with orange snow fencing to protect the restoration. The fencing will remain in place throughout the winter. This week should also begin the placement of Glacial erratic boulders around the Lagoon. They have received these at the quarry, imported from the Wisconsin glacial moraine area, and will be delivering them as needed.

OLD BUSINESS-

A. Update regarding the conceptual master plan for developing a Telfer Park Entry Plaza.

We are currently working with Design Perspectives to develop a conceptual design plan to redevelop the walking path between the parking lot in Telfer Park to the entrance area of Pohlman Field. Along with redefining this walkway, we are also proposing additional improvements that can be addressed in connection with this walkway. The cost for this project is less than \$5,000 and has been allocated within the 2013 CIP Fund. Any additional cost for developing the plan would need to be requested in the next cycle for CIP Funding in the 2015 FY Budget. We would be submitting a proposal for funding in May/June of 2014 for available funding in the 2015 FY.

NEW BUSINESS – ACTION REPORT ITEM

A. Consideration of a new memorial in Riverside Park dedicated to Roy Chapman Andrews.

There was an aerial view of Riverside Park attached with two areas highlighted for consideration of establishing a memorial to Roy Chapman Andrews. Mr. Janke is seeking the Commission preference to where a memorial could be placed in the future. The first place was Turtle Island and the second, Riverside Promenade. It is assumed that Roy Chapman Andrews Society would be responsible for the purchasing and installation of this memorial in Riverside Park. Brian recommended establishing this memorial on Turtle Island. It adds additional recognition to the establishments of the playground, and there is a natural location to place this memorial in the turf area. Mark Preuschl made a motion to put the memorial by the telescope and walkway inside of Turtle Island seconded by Chad Larson. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Review and consideration of the preliminary Plat for Elmwood Commons Residential Subdivision regarding designation of Parkland.

The City Planner has requested that the Commission review the attached Plat in consideration of accepting or denying the location for parkland as required by the developer of this potential new subdivision. In August of 2010, the P&R Commission previously reviewed and accepted the designated location on the Plat as acceptable parkland. As the developer did not pursue the development of this parcel of land at that time, it is once again under consideration and review by the Planning Division as the developer is currently seeking approval for residential development. There is no current cost to the Parks & Leisure Services Division for accepting parkland. However, once the parkland is officially dedicated to the city, and then we would absorb minimal cost as related to turf maintenance until the parkland is developed. Additionally, in the future there would be cost related to development of this future park site as well. Chad Larson made a motion to accepting Option #3 “accept the preliminary plat as presented with designated parkland with a defined contingency that the developer constructs a berm along the west side the property line as a buffer between the parkland and the railroad tracks”, seconded by Carol Mankiewicz. Motion passed unanimously.

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

In the past, it has been common practice that the Parks Division Clerical staff continues to serve as the Recording Secretary, and therefore, it would appear that there is no immediate purpose to appoint a Secretary. The appointment of the Commission Chair will preside over each meeting, and a Vice Chair will serve in this capacity due to the absence of the Chair at any given meeting. Mark Preuschl nominated himself to be the Chairperson for the Commission and Chad Larson made a motion to accept seconded by Carol Mankiewicz. Motion passed unanimously. Mark Preuschl made a motion to nominate Roger Christiansen to be Vice-Chairperson seconded by Carol Mankiewicz.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Correspondence-** The City of Beloit, Appointment Review Committee has appointed the following individuals to the P&R Commission, Rebecca Charles, (Youth Position) term ending September 2014, Keston Geistwalker, term ending September, 2015 and Mark Preuschl, term ending September, 2016. On October 11 & 12 Beloit Memorial High School Theatre Department will once again be conducting their 4th Annual Haunted Hayride in Leeson Park.
- B. Parks Report-** We continue routine maintenance in all of the parks as well as picking up litter and debris. Playground safety inspections are complete. We assisted with the shutting down and winterization of Krueger Pool. The graffiti at Krueger Park has been removed, the shelter was painted and new composite stall doors have been installed in the restrooms. The Leftfield deck at Pohlman Field has been painted, trim boards have been replaced and painted at the Moore Pavilion in Riverside park and new wooden fencing at Turtle Creek Park has been installed. Bleachers were re-installed at the Edwards Ice Arena along with hockey boards. Mulch has been added to the playground in Pride Park.
- C. Horticulture Report-** The lagoon has been sprayed according to WDNR's treatment plan. The installation of the new swings and fall zone border and fill with playground mulch at the Lower Level of Big Hill Park has been completed. The shrubs on 9th Street have been trimmed, the parking lots in the downtown area have been cleaned up and landscaping has been replaced as needed. We assisted CCI with the Riverside Park rip rap project and installed landscaping around a drain pipe at the north end of the park. The playground at Summit Park was removed and the area was excavated for the new playground. The walkway entrance on the west side of the KHGC Clubhouse is complete as well as the new landscaping.
- D. Grinnell Hall Senior Center Report-** An open house activity was held on Monday, September 9, 2013, with over 126 people visiting Grinnell Hall, and resulted in 8 new memberships. Grinnell Hall Advisory Board has voted to support the idea of changing our operational hours at Grinnell Hall from 8am-4:30 pm, to 7:30am-4:00pm. We are considering implementing this change in November along with the change in Day Light Savings Time. Paula is working with Shauna El-Amin, Director of DBA to create a new

Premiere Membership package at Grinnell hall that we can charge a high fee for membership and in return members receive various discounts with participating DBA members and their businesses. Mark Finnegan met with the Vets Coffee Group on Thursday, September 12th with 10 Veterans in attendance. AARP Driver's Class was held on Friday, September 13th with a total of 8 participants. Paula attended the WASC Conference in Stevens Point on Wednesday-Friday September 25-27. The 26th Annual Senior Fair was held on October 1st, 2013 at the Eclipse Center with over 1,000 in attendance. We are planning a fall fundraiser, Craft Show, Saturday, November 2, 2013; to date 25 of the 30 available spaces have been sold at \$25.00 each.

E. Special Projects-

- 1. New Playgrounds-** The new playground @ Summit Park has been completed and is open for play. We continue to work with Lee Recreation regarding the new playground for Big Hill Park as selected by the P & R Commission last month and have finalized their contract. Currently, we are planning on removal of the old playground in late October, and installation of the new playground the following week around between the 21st and 25th. A time frame will be finalized upon notification from Lee Recreation on when they will receive the new playground from the manufacturer, Playworld Systems.
- 3. WPRA Conference-** The Wisconsin Parks & Recreation Associations will be holding their Annual State Conference in Green Bay on Tuesday-Friday, November 5-9, 2013. The following staff will be in attendance: Brian Ramsey, Director of Park & Leisure Services; Sonya Baden, Recreation Coordinator; and Paula Schutt, Senior Center Coordinator.

F. Leisure Services/Recreation Report- Krueger Pool is shut down for the season and the contract has been signed and approved for the next 5 seasons. BYHA started board setup on Monday September 16th and Rink Tec started compressors on Monday September 30th. Figure skates have been donated from Clinton Elementary for public skate, the shower heads in both locker rooms have been replaced and the bleachers have been moved back into the Pavilion. For the Riverside Park Lagoon and Concessions we made the best of the remainder of the season. The weeds have cleared from the water but the clarity is still very poor. Fall Softball is running well and registration for volleyball leagues has been extended until October 11th.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTS

- Keston Geistwalker: Excited to be here.
- Chad Larson: Has been going down to the dog park and has heard comments about parking on Springbrook. Brian explained the concept of the dog park and why there is parking inside of Leeson's for dog park users.

- Carol Mankiewicz: Mentioned that she knows someone who is willing to help with writing the wording for the signage at Totem Park. Brian indicated that it's not a high priority right now but we can definitely work on it during the winter. Also she has students that she would like to bring to the next meeting to present what they have done in the parks. Brian says they are more than welcome and to let him know when and he will place it on the agenda.
- Mark Preuschl: Thanks Carol and Chad for voting him as Chairperson.
- Rodger Christiansen: Thanks Mark for volunteering for Chairperson. He will do well.
- Brian Ramsey: We will be doing controlled burns in some of our parks soon. The monument at Riverside was re-landscaped as of October 9, 2013 and was funded by Beloit 20/20.

ADJOURNMENT

Mark Preuschl made a motion for adjournment; seconded by Chad Larson. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Travia Foy.