

**MINUTES**  
**PARKS, RECREATION AND CONSERVATION ADVISORY**  
**COMMISSION**  
**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2011**  
**DPW OPERATIONS CENTER**  
**2351 SPRINGBROOK COURT, BELOIT, WI**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Roger Christiansen, Sheila De Forest, Steve Ferger,  
Mark Preuschl, Mike Ramsden

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Tia Johnson, Twinkle Patel, Terry Lee Wilson

**STAFF:** Brian Ramsey

**GUESTS:** None

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called by Brian Ramsey at 6:30 p.m.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 10, 2011 MEETING**

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

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

None

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- A. Correspondence**  
None
- B. Parks Report**  
Brian Ramsey presented the Parks Report.
- C. Horticulture Report**  
Brian Ramsey presented the Horticulture Report.

- D. Grinnell Hall Senior Center Report**  
Brian Ramsey presented a list of events planned at Grinnell Hall.
- E. Special Projects**  
Brian Ramsey presented the Special Projects.
- F. Leisure Services/Recreation Report**  
Brian Ramsey presented the Recreation Report.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Consideration of Electing Officers for the Parks & Recreation Commission.**  
Brian Ramsey asked the Commission to nominate new officers before continuing the meeting. Mark Preuschl nominated Roger Christiansen as Chair and Roger Christensen nominated Steve Ferger as Vice-Chair. Both were elected by unanimous vote.
- B. Consideration of Adopting the 2011-2016 Parks & Open Space Plan.**  
Sheila stated that it is imperative that the POSP be formally presented to the City Council. Mike had issues with some of the language in the draft and asked if someone had proofed the document and if we could make changes. Brian advised him that he already had several pages of corrections to the draft and would notify the consultants of others if brought to his attention; we are able to make changes as needed to the draft. After some discussion Mark made a motion to accept the Plan and forward it to the City Council with a clear understanding that the two highest priorities of the Parks & Recreation Commission are as follows: to create a Parks & Leisure Service Department unto itself, and to rebrand the new department with a clear message to the community; seconded by Mike. The vote was unanimous.
- C. Discussion regarding the recommendation within the Parks & Open Space Plan regarding the Organizational Structure and Identity of the Parks & Leisure Services Division.**  
Sheila feels it is critical that the Parks & Leisure Services Division is an entity unto itself with its own authority, money, etc. and not under the DPW. The Parks Director should be able to speak and advocate for Parks without going through DPW Operations. Brian noted that the sign in front of the building gives no indication to residents that Parks & Recreation is located here.

There was concern as to whether Parks employees would be able to plow snow as a separate division. Brian indicated that they try to be as flexible as possible and assign staff where needed. Parks moves five (5) of its staff to Operations in order to plow snow; the remaining staff plows parking lots and walkways and grooms ski trails. Roger questioned why the golf course is under Parks & Leisure Services

since they have a separate committee. He thinks that the Golf Course Committee should report to the Parks & Recreation Commission. Brian suggested that a member of the Golf Course Committee be appointed as a voting member on the Parks & Recreation Commission.

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTS**

- Mark had a couple of comments regarding Big Hill Park. There is a large beaver dam in the park and it is nice to see the park used a lot for senior portraits. Brian will have someone check on the dam.
- Steve asked if we would be meeting in December and January because he won't be able to attend. Brian will discuss this with the Chair to determine if a meeting is warranted or if we have any new members. Steve also wanted to know how the concealed carry law affects parks. He was advised that this law only refers to indoor facilities; firearms can be carried (concealed or open) in parks.
- Roger asked what the plans were for Freeman Park. Brian indicated that there are no plans for this park; it is a designated open space (natural) area. Neighbors are not interested in having it developed as a park.
- Mike was rollerblading on the Steve Gregg path and noticed that the geese problem was not too bad; we might not need Geese Police in the spring. He also had a concern about the proximity of the signs for Canterbury Trail and Deerfield Trail. Brian agreed that the areas are not well defined.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mike Ramsden made a motion for adjournment, seconded by Steve Feger. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Matilda Purifoy.