

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Roger Christiansen, Steve Ferger, Tia Johnson, Anna Kokity, Pete Marino, Mark Preuschl, Jim VanDeBogart

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Marty Densch, Matt Parish, Twinkle Patel, Mike Ramsden, Dave Botts

**STAFF:** Brian Ramsey

**GUESTS:** None

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called by Chair Marino at 6:30 p.m.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 12, 2011 MEETING**

Correction on page four (4) under Committee Members Comments; Mark Preuschl's comment should read "City website in the City Manager's Report." Correction on page three (3) under Director's Report-Correspondence; should read "rubberized poured surface." A motion was made by Steve Ferger and seconded by Roger Christiansen to approve the minutes from the January 12, 2011 meeting with corrections. Motion passed unanimously.

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

None

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **A. Correspondence**

Brian Ramsey presented the Correspondence Report.

A letter was sent to the son of Tina Lomax, retired City worker who recently passed away, regarding a request to have a park named in her behalf. Information was sent to him about the application process as well as other ways to honor her. There has also been discussion on retiring Tina's badge.

### **B. Recreation Report**

Brian Ramsey presented the Recreation Report.

### **C. Parks Report**

Brian Ramsey presented the Parks Report.

### **D. Grinnell Hall Senior Center**

Brian Ramsey presented a list of events planned at Grinnell Hall.

### **E. Special Projects**

Brian Ramsey presented the Special Projects.

### **F. Miscellaneous**

Brian Ramsey presented information on the Beloit Visitor's Guide and Krueger-Haskell Golf Course. Steve voiced his concern about advertising for the golf course this year with the construction in progress. Brian expressed a need to market the golf course in order to attract golfer.

## **DOG PARK COMMITTEE REPORT**

None

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Consideration to extend the involvement of the Dog Park Committee.**

A motion was made by Steve and seconded by Tia to extend the involvement of the Dog Park Committee for six (6) months in order to do more research.

### **B. Consideration of designating the age use of the new playground equipment at Tremont Park for the ages of five (5) and under.**

Steve thought this was a great idea and Tremont Park was the perfect spot for this age designation. The RFP is completed and would have to be changed to reflect the new age designation from "ages 5-12" to "ages 5 and under." A motion was made by Anna and seconded by Roger to accept the staff recommendation. Motion passed unanimously.

C. **Review the timeline regarding the implementation of developing the 2011-2016 Parks & Open Space Plan.**

Brian Ramsey presented an informational update, map of random surveys, and updated timeline. To date we have received 75-80 surveys.

**NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Consideration regarding a proposed Geese Mitigation Project in Riverside Park.**

Jim shared his knowledge of the issue as he learned from an educational speaker in the past. This is a national problem and not easily solved. Steve said that in the past, community members have been very concerned with this problem and he has found that moving the geese only moves the problem. This issue is on the agenda because City residents have brought it to Brian's attention. This meeting is just the starting point on how to address the problem. Mark feels that the recommendation of allowing dogs off-leash in the park is questionable as presented; tall grass would be more feasible. Pete brought up the legal insurance obstacles with the recommendation, i.e. dog bites. Anna was concerned that the City would need a person on staff at the park to investigate/monitor dogs.

Steve shared his solution to this problem with geese at Beloit Memorial High School and at his residence on Turtle Creek. Yellow "caution tape" is staked into the ground and the fluttering action keeps the geese away. The geese also pull up the grass by the root creating bare spots. Brian stated that we want to head off a potential problem with geese at the golf course with the ponds going in. Pete suggested that we try the yellow "caution tape" due to the minimal cost. Brian indicated that the City would continue with their current practice of spraying for special events, hiring Water Dragon to clean walkways, and would attempt to use the "caution tape" as a deterrent. However, he will check with Wisconsin DNR regarding their suggestions to remedy a growing issue.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTS**

- Mark Preuschl thanked Brian for comments made on pictures he took. He asked what the criteria was for tree trimming; he doesn't understand why it gets heavy-handed at times. Brian explained that we have no control over trimming along Heritage Walkway. Leeson Park was trimmed due to easement rights by Alliant; our Tree and Parks Crews regularly trim trees. Steve asked if residents could go in and cut up downed trees in the Turtle Creek Floodplain. Only trees blocking impediment and blocking trails in waterways are cut by staff. Downed trees cannot be cut because there is more habitation in dead trees than live ones.
- Roger Christiansen feels that appreciation can be shown to golfers that stay by offering reduced Season Passes in 2012. He also shared information about the people from the Stateline Community Foundation who gave a grant to the City.
- Steve asked Brian what he could expect at the golf course meeting scheduled for

Thursday, March 17. Brian addressed some of the key issues but the biggest concern is the playability of Hole 17. Steve asked if there was any consideration to lowering Season Pass prices. Brian said that prices have already been lowered and any further reduction creates financial difficulties to operate the golf course.

- Tia Johnson – No comment.
- Anna Kokity thanked the Commission for extending the Dog Park Committee.
- Jim VanDeBogart thanked the Commission for their service. He believes the decision to put in ponds at the golf course was not made hastily. This was the least costly method to meet state mandate.
- Pete Marino thanked Jim for interacting in the meeting..

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mark Preuschl made a motion for adjournment, seconded by Roger Christiansen. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Matilda Purifoy.