

**MINUTES
PARKS, RECREATION AND CONSERVATION ADVISORY
COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2012
DPW OPERATIONS CENTER
2351 SPRINGBROOK COURT, BELOIT, WI**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Roger Christiansen, Steven Ferger, Sheila De Forest, Therese Oldenburg, Carol Mankiewicz, Mark Preuschl, Mike Ramsden, Mark Smullen

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF: Brian Ramsey

GUESTS: Shawn Fredricks, Spencer Waite

CALL TO ORDER

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

REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM THE MAY 9, 2012 MEETING

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

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

None

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Correspondence –**
New Members – Brian introduced and welcomed a new commission member, Mark Smullen.
- B. Parks Report**
Brian Ramsey presented the Parks Report, noting and expanding on specific items. He gave thanks for the Rock River Trail ribbon dedication, and spoke on the new trash containers and park benches at Horace White Park. The algae growth at Riverside Park Lagoon is not blue green algae, as confirmed by the DNR.

C. Horticulture Report

Brian Ramsey presented the Horticulture Report. He spoke on the hanging plants being watered, the planting of new plants as well as the new playground equipment at Big Hill Park.

D. Grinnell Hall Senior Center Report

Brian Ramsey presented a list of events planned at Grinnell Hall. There be a senior fair on October 4 from 10am-2pm. Four new board members at Grinnell Hall have been added.

E. Special Projects/Miscellaneous

Brian Ramsey presented the Special Projects. The new playground in the lower level of Big Hills park has an expected completion date of September 20-28 weather permitting.

F. Leisure Services/Recreation Report

Spencer Waite, Recreation Supervisor presented the July/August Report.

OLD BUSINESS

Shawn Fredricks gave a brief narrative of Low Ropes Course at Big Hill Park. It would be used for team building experiences. It would also have storable to preserve longevity. There is minor maintenance and would be used like a facility rental to be monitored.

NEW BUSINESS – ACTION REPORT ITEM

Consideration and approval for the Low Ropes Course installation at Big Hill Park as proposed by the Good to Great Activate program with the School District of Beloit, before New Business; seconded by Carol Mankiewicz. Motion passed unanimously.

A. Consideration and approval of the proposed rules for the Dog Park

Recommendation/concerns presented. Mike Preuschl stated that the rules should be revised and brought to the next meeting. Mark and Sheila are to help with the rules. Motion by Roger and second by Steve

B. Consideration and approval of the proposed user fees for the Dog Park

Brian reviewed the fee comparison chart and proposed fee structure with the commission. Motion by Mike Ramsden and second by Therese. Approved.

C. Consideration and approval of naming the proposed Dog Park

Thought about names other than the ones presented. City of Beloit Dog Park, Springbrook Dog Park. Steve thought that the park would be easier to publicize this way. Motion by Therese and second by Mike. Approved.

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

Roger and Steve have been reappointed to commission and will be with us for at least another three years.

NEW BUSINESS – ACTION REPORT ITEM

Therese stated that there have been complaints from citizens and police that Riverside Park has been having a large number of people gathering around between 10pm-12am. Sheila suggested that someone from the police department comes to sit in with the committee to help us understand what is going on. Steve suggests that there should be a sign stating “you’re on candid camera” to protect the city. Brian will take these concerns to his meeting on September 13 with the city manager and requests that the Chief of Police attend next meeting.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTS

- Mark Preuschl: Stated that there is limestone leaking from the stairs at Krueger Park Pool.
- Sheila De Forest: Rock River clean-up is planned for Sept 22 from 9am-11am Rain or shine meeting @ Wootton Park.
- Mike Ramsden: Wanted to know what to do if a citizen wants to put an item on the agenda. They can either contact Roger or Brian.
- Carol Mankiewicz: Shared that the Beloit College uses the parks a lot and also the bike path south of Portland Ave Bridge has an erosion safety issue. Brian will look into this.
- Steven Ferger: Sends congratulations to Mark Edwards and Mark Young for a good job this year. He’s heard so many compliments from people coming to Beloit to do things from surrounding areas.

ADJOURNMENT

Mike Ramsden made a motion for adjournment; seconded by Mark Preuschl. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Travia Vance.