

**MINUTES**  
**PARKS, RECREATION AND CONSERVATION ADVISORY**  
**COMMISSION**  
**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2012**  
**DPW OPERATIONS CENTER**  
**2351 SPRINGBROOK COURT, BELOIT, WI**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Roger Christiansen, Chad Larson, Therese Oldenburg, Carol Mankiewicz, Mark Preuschl, Mike Ramsden

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Tia Johnson, Sheila De Forest, Steven Ferger

**STAFF:** Brian Ramsey

**GUESTS:** Frank Schier

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called by Roger Christiansen at 6:40 p.m.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM THE MAY 9, 2012 MEETING**

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

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

None

Mark Preuschl made a motion to amend the Agenda and move New Business item, a.) Consideration and support of the Rock River Trail Initiative new signage along the Rock River in the City of Beloit, before Director's Report; seconded by Chad Larson. Motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS – ACTION REPORT ITEM**

**A. Consideration and support of the Rock River Trail Initiative new signage along the Rock River in the City of Beloit.**

Frank Schier, editor and publisher of *The Rock River Times*, Rockford, Ill., and founder of the Rock River Trail Initiative, reviewed the initiative for the commission and asked that they accept the new signage to be placed along the Rock River in the City of Beloit. Franks explained that placing the signage along the river is Phase One of the initiative. The mission of the initiative is to establish and interpret a Rock River Water Trail along the 300-mile river course from the headwaters in Fond du Lac and Dodge counties, Wisconsin, to the Mississippi River at Rock Island, Illinois, and a separate Rock River Route on roads within the river corridor to provide access for all to the natural resources,

recreational opportunities, scenic beauty and historic and cultural assets of the Rock River Valley. 11 counties within the two-state Rock River Valley are involved in the initiative. A goal has been set for opening the trail from Janesville to Dixon and having an opening ceremony in Beloit. More information about the initiative is available on the website at <http://www.rockrivertrail.com>.

Brian Ramsey noted that the City Council had expressed support for the initiative back in 2011. A motion to accept the signs was made by Mark Preuschl, seconded by Chad Larson and passed unanimously.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- A. Correspondence –**  
New Members – Brian introduced and welcomed the two new commission members, Therese Oldenburg and Carol Mankiewica.
  
- B. Parks Report**  
Brian Ramsey presented the Parks Report, noting and expanding on specific items. Storm damage was extensive with the loss of 12 trees on the golf course. There is a possibility of some reimbursement through FEMA for storm damage.
  
- C. Horticulture Report**  
Brian Ramsey presented the Horticulture Report.
  
- D. Grinnell Hall Senior Center Report**  
Brian Ramsey presented attendance numbers for events planned at Grinnell Hall. The June 21<sup>st</sup> and July 26<sup>th</sup> picnics each had 135 participants with possibly 150 expected at the August 23<sup>rd</sup> picnic.
  
- E. Special Projects/Miscellaneous**  
Brian Ramsey presented the Special Projects.
  
- F. Leisure Services/Recreation Report**  
Brian Ramsey presented the July/August Report as submitted by Spencer Waite, Recreation Supervisor.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- 1.) Consideration of a horticulture project in Riverside Park as proposed by Friends of the Riverfront.** Brian explained the Friends of the Riverfront plan to purchase and install a Pergola at Riverside Park and asked for a motion to accept the gift. Mike Ramsden made the motion, seconded by Mark Preuschl and passed unanimously.
- 2.) Consideration of purchasing new paddle boats for the Riverside Park Lagoon Concession with the funds from the Stateline Community Foundation grant.** A motion was made by Mark Preuschl and seconded by Chad Larson to accept and use the grant from the Stateline Community Foundation. The motion passed unanimously.

**3.) Consideration of selecting the new playground equipment for the lower level of Big Hill Park.** Brian reviewed the two finalists for the playground equipment and answered questions presented by commission members. The Lee Recreation project proposal was approved through two motions. The first motion requested color changes, from orange and bright green to more neutral colors, was made by Mike Ramsden, seconded by Therese Oldenburg and passed unanimously. The second motion requested that the current swings be preserved. The second motion was made by Mark Preuschl, seconded by Carol Mankiewicz and passed unanimously.

### **NEW BUSINESS - Action Report Item**

**A. 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.** After Brian's explanation of what the Low Ropes Course is and when it would be located in the park, Mike Ramsden expressed concern for locating it in the most pristine area of the park. It was suggested that Shawn come to another commission meeting to provide more information and other siting options. Mark Preuschl made a motion to table the item until the next meeting. Mike Ramsden seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**B. Consideration and approval for the purchase and installation of fencing for the development of the Dog Park area as designated in Leeson Park.** Brian explained that approval by the commission must be followed by the Planning Commission and Council and construction would probably not be possible until next spring. After some discussion, a motion to accept the Black Vinyl Fence proposal was made by Chad Larson and seconded by Therese Oldenburg.

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTS**

- Mark Preuschl: Welcomed new members and complimented staff on storm clean-up.  
Mike Ramsden: Requested updated commission member list and asked if there was an alternative to calling the Police Dispatch when suspicious activity is observed in one of the parks. Brian suggested there is little choice since the Parks Patrol was eliminated.  
Carol Mankiewicz: Shared that she teaches at Beloit College and does monitoring for local streams which increased her interest in serving on the commission.  
Therese Oldenburg: Complimented the Parks Dept on the landscaping around the park entrance signs.  
Roger Christiansen: Complimented the City for the storm damage clean-up. Asked about the City plan for EAB problem. Brian explained that there is a plan in place, but to this point no sitings have been confirmed in the City.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mike Ramsden made a motion for adjournment; seconded by Mark Preuschl. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Gwen Garvey.