

**MINUTES  
PARKS, RECREATION AND CONSERVATION ADVISORY  
COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2012  
DPW OPERATIONS CENTER  
2351 SPRINGBROOK COURT, BELOIT, WI**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Sheila De Forest, Carol Mankiewicz, Mark Preuschl, Mark Smullen, Roger Christiansen, Steven Ferger,

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Therese Oldenburg, Chad Larson, Mike Ramsden

**STAFF:** Brian Ramsey

**GUESTS:** Norm Jacobs, Police Department

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 10, 2012 MEETING**

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

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

None

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- A. Correspondence-** A thank you letter went out to Bill Door in appreciation for the dedicated park bench to former Assistant City Manager, Steve Gregg and was recently placed in Horace White Park. Pictures were attached.
- B. Parks Report-** Mowing routes will be continued as well as the litter detail along Milwaukee Road. Winterization of Krueger Pool, rest rooms in our parks, and irrigation system at City Hall will be continued. We assisted with the start-up of the Ice Arena operations. The walkway repairs under the Portland Avenue Bridge have been completed along with the new playground mulch at Horace White, Hilliard and Hinckley Park playgrounds. Trees have been trimmed at Big Hill Park.

- C. Horticulture Report-** Weeding and landscaping will be continued in various parks and streets areas. We are trying to get the grass to grow and have installed new sod on Milwaukee Road. The turf repairs and restoration at the golf course will need to be completed. Also, dead shrubs have been removed at various locations. Mark has been meeting with companies about doing some social media ads for the golf course.
- D. Grinnell Hall Senior Center Report-** On October 20<sup>th</sup> there was a Pancake Day/Bizarre that was held with approximately 1,000 attendees. November 1<sup>st</sup> they held their board meeting. November 9<sup>th</sup> was their Veterans Day celebration. John is working on the annual Tour of Lights event with Finnegan. Dates for this annual trip have not been confirmed as of yet.
- E. Special Projects/Miscellaneous-** We have selected Century Fence Company who has the lowest pricing for fencing. They will be able to begin construction by the week of November 26<sup>th</sup>. The message board center and dog park signage have been ordered. We are planning for a grand opening in the early spring of 2013. Pohlman Field upgrades and improvements were received.
- F. Leisure Services/Recreation Report-** The pool doctors came to inspect and found cracks and filled them. They will be back in the early spring. All areas of the pool have been winterized for the season. Volleyball leagues are off to a great start with 74 teams total. New life jackets have been ordered for the Lagoon. Mark Preuschl requested that the bike rentals get quick release seats so that they are more comfortable to ride.

Mark Preuschl made a motion to move old business to after new business seconded by Steven Ferger. Motion passed unanimously.

### **NEW BUSINESS – ACTION REPORT ITEM**

#### **A. Policing of City Parks Report, presented by the City of Beloit Police Department**

Norm Jacobs came to offer the commission more insight into what is going on with the parks with the focus being mainly on Riverside park. He stated that when there are more activities (supervised), there aren't as many problems. The PD may get numerous phone calls on one incident and that is what will get them out there. There was construction last year so they didn't receive as many calls as they have this year. Most calls were placed in June, July, and August after dark around 10-11pm. There have been three vandalisms this year so far. There are officers that walk through doing foot patrols and drive-bys. Calls are up for all parks and so is the patrolling. He states that it's hard to get volunteers to just go and sit down at the park for a certain amount of time because it will cause overtime and we will need to have the money to pay for that. Sheila stated that she gets calls from people that don't want to use the park anymore. Norm states that some people have unrealistic expectations. Brian suggests that the sign that will be posted isn't just there, it means something and we need to reason with the kids and let them know to respect the

park and they will have a place to come to. Steven Ferger requests the final figures for 2012 on the police activity at the parks.

**B. Consideration of naming the Auditorium at Grinnell Hall in honor of John Kalkirtz, as presented by the Grinnell Hall Advisory Board**

The Senior Advisory Board wants to name the auditorium after John and present him with a plaque on December 7<sup>th</sup>. It is a wonderful honor however; it has to go through the planning commission first. Steven Ferger made a motion to accept naming it after John and seconded by Mark Preuschl. Motion passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Consideration and approval of a new Chairperson for the Commission**

Roger will continue to be Chairperson and Steven Ferger will continue as Vice Chairperson. Mark Preuschl made a motion to accept, seconded by Carol Mankiewicz. Motion passed unanimously.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTS**

- Roger Christiansen: Has friends in Janesville who reversed their feelings about Beloit getting things done. He thanks Mrs. Hendrix for the new waterfall. States that we have a great committee, everyone does a great job and he appreciates everyone.
- Sheila De Forest: Appreciated going to the golf meeting, and wants to follow up on the problems at Riverside Park they are becoming frustrating.
- Steven Ferger: Would like to go down to the park and try to talk to the people who hang out there. He will get together with Mark Smullen about school service clubs. Also there is no sign out on Shopeire coming into Beloit that says Welcome to Beloit. Mark Young has done an awesome job with the golf course. And the parks look great.
- Carol Mankiewicz: Went out to Big Hills and it looks very nice.
- Mark Preuschl: There is a water-filled light post on the east side of the Portland Avenue bridge and he wanted to know about the swings at Big Hills.
- Mark Smullen: Wants to recruit some kids and have a school service club. He would like to get it going around March. Stated that Big Hills is underrated, he enjoyed the scenery when he went there.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mark Preuschl made a motion for adjournment; seconded by Steven Ferger. Motion passes unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Travia Vance.