

**MINUTES**  
**PARKS, RECREATION AND CONSERVATION ADVISORY**  
**COMMISSION**  
**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2013**  
**DPW OPERATIONS CENTER**  
**2351 SPRINGBROOK COURT, BELOIT, WI**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Steven Ferger

**STAFF:** Brian Ramsey, Paula Schutt

**GUESTS:**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Roger Christiansen at 6:30 p.m. Paula Schutt; new senior coordinator at Grinnell Hall was introduced to the commission.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 14, 2012 MEETING**

Corrections were made to the members absent section where Chad Larson and Mike Ramsden were added. Mike Ramsden made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Chad Larson.

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

None

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- A. Correspondence-** The dog park issues brought up in the letter that was received from Peg Bredeson were addressed. The gaps in the fence will be taken care of in the spring and benches will be placed out based upon funding. There is signage on the barricades to show where to park however there has been parking on the street.
  
- B. Parks Report-** Picking up litter and debris in all parks and along the business corridor will be continued. Snow removal assistance along city streets, public parking lots, downtown public walkways and public walkways in city parks will continue to be provided. The ice at the Riverside Park Lagoon will continue to be monitored for its safety level for outdoor skating. Last time it was checked it was determined safe. This is the time of year for trimming trees and downed branches in the parks, trails, and cemeteries. The 2013 park work plan for maintenance and special projects within our

parks has been created. Upgrades and improvements to the Snappers clubhouse at Pohlman Field continue to be made. The Snapper's and their new affiliate, The Oakland A's are pleased with the way it looks and the visitors' locker room is still being worked on. The Snappers colors are throughout the clubhouse (blue and green). Brian is pleased with the staffs work.

- C. **Horticulture Report-** New parking signage for the Dog Park was installed as well as the new drop-box for daily fees. Dead and overgrown bushes along Milwaukee Road and at Krueger Park have been removed. A meeting was held with the Engineering Division to review the turf plan in regards to the reconstruction of the concourse area at Pohlman Field. The field will have to be prepared and cemented to have a turf area. Brian and Mark Young attended the IPRA Conference in to attend Golf Course educational sessions.
  
- D. **Grinnell Hall Senior Center Report-** Paula Schutt, our new Senior Center Coordinator started with the city on Monday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, and had the opportunity to work a full week with John Kalkirtz before he officially retired on Friday, January 11<sup>th</sup>. A retirement reception for John was held at Grinnell Hall on his last day and he received a plaque that names the Auditorium in his honor. Grinnell Hall will make the final decision of where it will be placed. Paula has been off to a flying start and re-formatted the calendar of activities and is considering possible revisions to the bi-monthly newsletter. She has cleaned out the storage area and re-organized space, met with office volunteers and recruited new volunteers, met with the Stateline News and more.
  
- E. **Leisure Services/Recreation Report-** They have been working with Lunch & Learn at McNeel and planning with Welty Environmental Center. They also met with BHYA and received a check for December ice time for \$11,200. The monthly radio spot with WGEZ the second Monday of each month will continue. A bid was received for painting of the diving well. Ceiling tiles in the lobby of the Ice Arena were replaced and cameras in the lobby and locker room hallways were installed. Basketball leagues are in full swing and the 3-point shootout has been scheduled for the last night of the regular season, February 27.
  
- F. **Special Projects-** The City Council officially approved a Resolution regarding the fees and charges for the Dog Park at their meeting on January 7<sup>th</sup>. The Dog tags are now available for purchase at the City Treasurer's office on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor at City Hall. The brochure for the Dog Park has been placed at the Treasurer's Office, Leisure Services, Parks Operations Office, Visit Beloit, and the Dog Park Message Center. We are still in the process of adding this information to the city's website. We are working on the interior of the Clubhouse and Painting the Locker Rooms and Coaches Offices. Compliance has to be received about the floors being slick from condensation. The 2013 CIP Plan will include swings for the new playground in the upper level at Big Hill Park. Additional funding has been designated in the Engineering Division for the Lagoon Bank Protection (Riverside Park) and Rock River Bank Protection (Riverside Park).

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

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

### **A. Consideration and support of new signage proposed along the Rock River by the Rock River Trail Initiative.**

We are looking to have more signs created along the river designating the Water Trail and portage locations around the Beloit dam. The areas that are perceived as safety concerns for people who use the river have been specified. These signs will be installed in an appropriate area along the Rock River prior to June 1, 2013. Mike Ramsden made a motion to approve the signage seconded by Therese Oldenburg. Motion passed unanimously.

### **B. Consideration and support of “The Denier”, a new deterrent system that may improve Goose management within the City park system.**

The Geese Police services amounted to \$11,000 to get rid of the goose problem. The Denier is a light system that will limit the number of service calls needed by the Geese Police and lower the cost of managing the goose population. At \$500 per unit the Denier will be cheaper and reduce the annual allocation of funds. Trying The Denier at the golf course after reviewing with the golf committee and down at the River Bend area on Water Street would be the first step to see if it works. Mark Preuschl made the motion to accept seconded by Chad Larson. Motion passed unanimously.

### **C. Consideration and support of the new lease agreement between the City of Beloit and the Beloit Professional Baseball Association, Inc (aka Beloit Snappers).**

The reservations about tailgating are control issues. It would be allowed but only on Saturdays 3 hours prior to the game and possibly 30 minutes after the game in designated areas only. This would occur 11 times a year and the Snappers would be allowed to charge a parking fee. They would also have to staff this event and monitor the activity as well as clean the parking lot after the game. There are concerns about the Skate Park and children being around during these times. All access stays available to the skate park during these times. There was consideration on having this take place in other locations of the parking lot. Mark Preuschl made a motion to approve this agreement as long as access remains available to the Skate Park and seconded by Chad Larson. Motion passed unanimously.

### **D. Consideration and support for utilizing funds from the Stateline Community Foundation.**

The staff has suggested things to purchase with the funds such as paddle boats at the Lagoon Concession, permanent concrete bag-toss games at the pool and/or in designated park shelters that would enhance rental services, and park benches for the Dog Park. Mike Ramsden made a motion to accept seconded by Therese Oldenburg. Motion passed unanimously.

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTS**

- Roger Christiansen: Water street walkway is bad and covered with ice and snow. The lights on the Ken Hendricks Memorial Bridge look great.
- Sheila De Forest: The website is outdated, and the phone message for open skate is outdated.
- Chad Larson: None
- Carol Mankiewicz: Has heard good things about the Dog Park with the exception of parking issues.
- Therese Oldenburg: None
- Mark Preuschl: None
- Mike Ramsden: None
- Mark Smullen: None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mike Ramsden made a motion for adjournment; seconded by Chad Larson. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Travia Vance.