

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Steven Fergner, Therese Oldenburg, Mark Smullen

STAFF: Brian Ramsey

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Roger Christiansen at 6:30 p.m.

REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 13, 2013 MEETING

Corrections were made under New Business Item C. Consideration for other locations to designate tailgating in the parking lot were discussed. Also under Adjournment, Mike Ramsden made the motion and not Mike Preuschl.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

None

Mark Preuschl made a motion to move New Business before the Director's Report, 2nd by Carol Mankiewicz. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS – ACTION REPORT ITEM

A. Consideration and support of Rock County Leadership Development Academy project team and their proposal to develop a pedestrian bridge to cross Goose Creek in Big Hill Park. (Beth Jacobsen)

The Rock County Leadership Development Academy Project Team presented a proposal on how they may be able to assist in the implementation of installing a bridge and support the development of the bike trail. The LDA was asked to choose a task that would leave a positive impact on Rock County so the group chose the construction of a bridge along the existing trail system as their group project. They have partnered with the Rock Trail Coalition and will raise money in their name as a non-profit and are now coming to the commission to get support of this project in Big Hill Park. An estimate for the cost of the bridge has been received and they believe that sufficient support is being given. There

was also a 30 minute discussion about the conceptual aspect of where the trail will be developed. Mark Preuschl made a motion to allow the LDA to continue their pursuit of fundraising for the purpose of developing a bridge across Goose Creek in Big Hill Park, 2nd by Carol Mankiewicz. Motion passed unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Correspondence-** The Snappers Lease Agreement was approved by the City Council on March 4th. The concerns brought up in the email that was received from Doreen Dalman have been addressed.
- B. Parks Report-** Litter will continue to be picked up as well as debris in all parks & along the business corridor of Milwaukee Road. Assisting and completing snow removal based upon City priority levels will continue as follows: City Streets, public parking lots, downtown public walkways, public walkways in city parks, and lastly grooming city ski trails. Extra assistance was provided to downtown parking lots and public walkways in preparation of BIFF events. Bid proposals for Port-a-Potties for parks have been acquired. The graffiti was cleaned off of the Leeson Park entrance sign. Routine cleaning and maintenance of the Dog Park has continued, the gates were frozen shut. Also the upper gates to Lessons Park are locked because of vandalism, four wheeling and to avoid extra repairs.
- C. Horticulture Report-** Assistance with the upgrades and improvements to the Snappers Clubhouse at Pohlman Field. The Ski Trails & pathway to the Dog Park have been groomed. Assistance with preparations for opening the Golf Course & the Clubhouse.
- D. Grinnell Hall Senior Center Report-** The Grinnell Newsletter has a new format and the look of the new newsletter is great. Free tax preparations by AARP continue by appointment only through April. Since February 4th, free assistance has been provided to 140 people.
- E. Leisure Services/Recreation Report-** They are still working with Lunch & Learn at McNeel, BYHA, and planning with Welty Environmental Center. The monthly spot with WGEZ will continue to be filled the second Monday of each month. Received a check for January ice time for \$11,200. The Edwards Ice Arena will have its last public skate on Friday March 15th. Rink Tec is scheduled to shut down compressors on March 18th. Adult basketball leagues are in full swing and they are doing quite well with 2 divisions and 12 total teams. The adult volleyball league is doing well this year with 74 teams and playoffs start next week. The Rotary River Center was used for 15 days (one week was BIFF).
- F. Special Projects-** Pohlman field upgrades & improvements that have been completed are the painting of the interior of the building; locker rooms, showers, hallways, and offices. Sanding and painting all wooden lockers and home and visitor's locker rooms as well as replacing and installing new partitions in the bathrooms. Some projects that still need to be completed are the painting of the exterior public restrooms and installing floor mats. The right field and left field decks need staining, and a new sink will be installed in the

concession area. A new backstop behind home plate will be installed and new benches will be purchased for the bullpen areas.

OLD BUSINESS

None

COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTS

- Mark Preuschl: Wishes spring would get here. Can understand how snow removal of the trails is hard to maintain. The bridge won an award from the state of Wisconsin.
- Mike Ramsden: Skis and gets complaints about ski trails. As long as the same people are responsible for sidewalks and trails the same problem will continue.
- Carol Mankiewicz: Knows more about geese now by doing research. And gave Brian a link to view the webpage.
- Chad Larson: Is the President of BHYA now. BHYA just hosted an event and 6 teams participated.
- Sheila De Forest: Are we concerned about the ice dams and flooding? Brian responded: only cleaning debris off of Turtle Creek Trails.
- Roger Christiansen: Wants to thank everybody. Mark P for his questions and concerns, Carol for her research about the geese “as long as they stop and we feed them what should we do?” Thanks Chad for BHYA and appreciates Sheila’s efforts.

ADJOURNMENT

Mark Preuschl made a motion for adjournment; seconded by Chad Larson. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Travia Vance.