

**MINUTES**  
**PARKS, RECREATION AND CONSERVATION ADVISORY**  
**COMMISSION**  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2013**  
**DPW OPERATIONS CENTER**  
**2351 SPRINGBROOK COURT, BELOIT, WI**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Sheila De Forest

**STAFF:** Brian Ramsey

**GUESTS:** Mike Flesch, City Engineer  
Andy Hill, Project Engineer

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 13, 2013 MEETING**

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

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

None

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- A. Correspondence-** We are privileged to have a letter of support regarding Senate Bill 41 sent to Senator Jerry Petrowski, Chairperson of the State of Wisconsin Senate Committee on Transportation, Public Safety, and Veteran & Military Affairs. The City of Beloit Parks and Leisure Services Division has earned the Travel Green Wisconsin Certification from the Wisconsin Department of Tourism. We had a total of 83 points. The Rock River Trail Initiative sent a letter stating that The Rock River Water Trail is now a new National Water Trail as designated by Secretary of Interior, Ken Salazar. We make number 11.

- B. Parks Report-** We have continued routine maintenance as well as ordered hot coal receptacles for Telfer Park and other park locations. Upgrades and improvements to the Snappers Clubhouse at Pohlman Field have been completed. Now that the weather conditions have improved, the next step is to complete the exterior projects at Pohlman Field. The partitions have been sanded and painted and new floor matting in the public restrooms will be installed. When the weather warms up, the left field and right field party decks will be stained. We replaced the Backstop Fencing and added a new exit gate next to the Snappers Dug Out. New padding to the backstop fencing arrived yesterday and will be installed soon. Crews have been out every day as we are preparing for spring clean-up of parks, and begin turning on the water to park shelter rest rooms and water fountains as the weather warms up.
- C. Horticulture Report-** We have been prepping equipment and ordering supplies in preparation of maintaining landscaping beds, and installing flower baskets over the Portland Avenue Bridge. Assistance with the upgrades and improvements to the Snappers Clubhouse at Pohlman Field is still in motion. The Ski Trails and pathway to the Dog Park have been groomed. We also assisted with preparations for opening the Golf Course and the Clubhouse.
- D. Grinnell Hall Senior Center Report-** Free Tax Preparations by AARP continue by appointment through April 15. Since February 4, the Volunteer Tax Preparers have provided free assistance to 275 people. For the St. Patty's Day Celebration on March 17 there were 75 people in attendance, Dance w/ Bill Stevens on March 28 had 60 people in attendance and Total Drop-In Attendees in March totaled 2,157. There are new programs being offered at Grinnell Hall beginning in May and a flyer was handed out.
- E. Leisure Services/Recreation Report-** BYHA concluded activity on March 15. We continue to meet and negotiate a contract for 2013-2016 which is going very well. The Ice Arena has been taken down and the floor has been cleaned to get ready for Pavillion season. We purchased left-over concession surplus items from BYHA to sell at the Lagoon Concession. The horseshoe tournament begins next week. We met with Carrico Aquatics regarding the potential purchase and installation of a handicapped lift for the pool and ADA requirements. Applications are now being taken for all pool positions and our pool brochure has been updated. We are preparing for the Pool Triathlon. As of the end of March, all Saturday and Sundays have been rented through October at the Rotary River Center. All Volleyball Leagues and Tournaments are now complete. Adult Summer Softball Leagues begin the week of April 22 and we met with the Advisory Group twice to review upcoming season rule changes and the local program comparison. This month our department purchased a site through TeamSideline that allows players to have immediate access from their phone or computer to current standing, scores, field conditions, etc.

- F. Special Projects-** The equipment for the Low Ropes Course at Big Hill Park is scheduled to be installed in Big Hill Park by Experimental Systems during the week of April 15-19. BMHS will be arranging a training program with Experimental Systems sometime within the next 3-4 weeks following the installation of the equipment, and will include at least 2 staff members from Leisure Services.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

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

**A. Presentation of the scheduled 2013 Rock River Bank Protection Project in Riverside Park, (Andy Hill, DPW Engineering Division)**

The Engineering Division gave a presentation regarding the Rock River Bank Stabilization Project scheduled in Riverside Park in 2013. They are currently planning on implementing another phase of shoreline restoration in additional areas along the river in Riverside Park. The primary sections will be within the area from Turtle Island playground on the south end to the Hendricks Memorial Bridge on the north end of the park. Andy Hill will be coordinating this project for the City Engineering Division. Some parts of the shoreline will have to be pushed out because of the trees and the soil must be graded back. They would like to have a variety so native planting, rip raps, and good rivers vista points are needed near the river's edge. There are three phases. Because of funding issues the plan is to start at the south end and move north since it needs more attention. They are trying to get the funding for the whole project. Steven Ferger made a motion to accept this project seconded by Carol Mankiewicz. Motion passed unanimously.

**B. Consideration and discussion regarding the date and agenda for the Annual Parks Tour**

The tours will start at the Edwards Ice Arena in Telfer Park and conclude at Pohlman Field on Wednesday, July 10, 2013. There are 17 park sites, 2 cemeteries, and the Turtle Creek Floodplain. We always attempt to finish the tour within 4 hours. Eliminating actual site visits to some of these park sites in order to conserve on time was done. Places not visited will include Eagles Ridge Park, Lee Lane Park, Tremont Park and all sections of Riverside. Brian will come back with the final list. Also the Snappers have a game starting at 6:30 p.m. on this date; the best time to walk through the clubhouse will be during their game. We want to arrive no later than 9:00 p.m. to do so. Mark Preuschl made a motion to accept the park tour changes seconded by Chad Larson. Motion passed unanimously.

**C. Consideration and discussion regarding suggestions and proposals for the development of the 2014 CIP Plan**

There was consideration and discussion regarding suggestions and proposals for the development of the 2014 CIP Plan. The Master List for any additional project that may be considered was presented. The commission went through and decided what items should be kept for the year and which ones should be deferred until coming years. Therese Oldenburg made a motion to accept the changes proposed seconded by Steven Ferger.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTS**

- Mark Preuschl: Was riding his bike down at Riverside park and seen some people walking their dogs that had no idea about our dog park so he told them about it.
- Mike Ramsden: None
- Carol Mankiewicz: None
- Chad Larson: None
- Therese Oldenburg: Was recognized with Walter Loomis (Paddle & Trail) for a community service award in Rockford. Handed out “Amped Up” flyers. It highlights the Riverfront and will be held at Big Hill on May 11. It’s a unique obstacle race.
- Mark Smullen: Will hand some copies of the flyers out at work.
- Steven Ferger: None
- Roger Christiansen: None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chad Larson made a motion for adjournment; seconded by Mike Ramsden. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Travia Vance.