

**MINUTES  
PARKS, RECREATION AND CONSERVATION ADVISORY  
COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2013  
DPW OPERATIONS CENTER  
2351 SPRINGBROOK COURT, BELOIT, WI**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Sheila De Forest

**STAFF:** Brian Ramsey, Director of Parks & Leisure Services  
Greg Boysen, Public Works Director

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Roger Christiansen at 6:32 p.m.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 12, 2013 MEETING**

Mike Ramsden made a motion to approve the minutes seconded by Carol Mankiewicz. Motion passed unanimously.

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

None

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- A. Correspondence-** We received a letter from Bil Alverson, Project Manager at UW Madison about the Botany Project @ Big Hill Park as well as an e-mail from Steve Ferger resigning from the commission effective June 30, 2013. The PSA for the closure of Leeson Park & Dog Park on June 26 due to flooding was included. Robert E. Brown wrote and e-mail inquiring about scaring off geese and Brian responded accordingly. The City of Beloit scored well with residents surveyed on the parks and recreation services offered by the city's parks division and the BDN article was attached. TJ Vincetich wrote an e-mail to inquire about the water quality at the Lagoon and Brian explained that we are required to comply with the Wisconsin DNR but will try to fix some of the problem. The pool sponsored a free day and hundreds of people took advantage of it as stated in the BDN article. We received an email from Anita Williams about people grilling in Horace White Park on the grass and dumping hot coals on the grass Brian will look into what can

be done to prevent this in the future. Vickie Butzler sent a letter with concern about the conditions of our flags and they have been replaced since then. The Skateboard completion that was in the BDN article took place last week and about 25 kids participated.

- B. Parks Report-** We are continuing routine park maintenance by picking up litter and debris in all parks & along the business corridor of Milwaukee road. We are trimming trees and downed branches in parks, trails, and cemeteries. The Dog Park is being routinely cleaned and maintenance and city property is continually being mowed. The playground safety inspections have been completed and the area behind Pohlman Field per Teri Downing @ Code Enforcement has been cleaned up. We temporarily closed Rose Kayak & Canoe Launch due to high water levels & flooding. The graffiti on the shelter at Vernon Park has been cleaned up and a contractor has been hired to paint the exterior of the Chapel building in Oakwood Cemetery. The right deck at Pohlman Field has been painted. A contractor has been hired to repair the fence at Summit Park as well as the grill. A contractor has also been hired to install split rail fencing at Big Hill Park and at Leeson Park. Repairs to Grinnell Hall roof have been completed and we have cleared and removed debris along the Wood Family Fishing Bridge.
- C. Horticulture Report-** We continue to clean the landscaping beds in the Gantry, downtown parking lots, cemeteries, golf course, and in all parking sites. We are continuing weekly watering of hanging baskets on Portland Avenue Bridge. Landscaping mulch at the Golf Course has been installed as well as new landscaping for the new signs at the Dog Park, Christilla Park, and Horace White Park. To define the area in Turtle Creek Park and the lower level of Big Hill, gravel beds and retaining stones have been installed. We sprayed the lagoon according to WDNR's treatment plan and removed plants and weeds in the retaining wall between the downtown parking lot and Fat Wallet building. Krueger Park had new swings and a fall zone border installed and filled with playground mulch.
- D. Grinnell Hall Senior Center Report-** We distributed vouchers for the Beloit Farmers Market to 135 people. There have been two summer picnics so far; one at Grinnell Hall on June 26 with 93 people in attendance and the second one on July 25 with 98 in attendance. There is another one scheduled to take place on August 22. New activities in August include; Vet's Coffee, Bago, and Powerful Tools for Caregivers Class. The Grinnell Hall Board elections are scheduled for August 20<sup>th</sup> and we plan to host an Open House on Monday September 9<sup>th</sup>.
- E. Leisure Services/Recreation Report-**Krueger Pool Free Day was held on Wednesday July 17 with 1455 people admitted to the pool throughout the day. This Free Day event was sponsored by Nikki Yoss with Reliable Properties LLC and we had a full staff that day. July attendance was 3321 with admission revenue being \$11,628.75 and concessions \$5126.60. The Krueger Swim team placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Rockford Invite on July 14<sup>th</sup>. The Pool Triathlon that was held on June 30<sup>th</sup> with a total of 97 participants, generated \$4015 in revenue, \$2,907 in expenditures and \$1,108 profit.

Moneyball was held in Telfer Park on Friday, July 5<sup>th</sup> with about 50-60 people in attendance and Annie was held in Krueger Park on Wednesday July 17<sup>th</sup> with about 45-50 in attendance. The total cost for these two films was \$917.33. We brought in revenue with concessions at the pool however; we are trying to decide if it is worth it to do this next year or not. The winter season scheduled start date for BYHA is September 30<sup>th</sup> and scheduled rink startup with Rink Tec is September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Contract negotiations have been completed and currently we are waiting on review approval from the City Attorney and BYHA; upon completion it will be placed on the City Council agenda for final approval. The Relay for Life rental was July 19<sup>th</sup> and 2 different dog shows have been hosted at Telfer in July. Fairbanks Morse Company will hold a training program at Telfer on August 16<sup>th</sup> and Rock County Rabies Clinic will take place on Saturday September 14<sup>th</sup>. We are hoping for the same turnout with the Rabies Clinic that Janesville had when they ran the same event with about 1,000 participants. We have scheduled for Quigley Smart to replace showers in the locker rooms. NIR roofing contractors inspected and repaired roof leaks in the lobby area.

**F. Special Projects-**

**1) Eurasian Water Millfoil in Riverside Park Lagoon**

The weed that is growing abundantly in the Riverside Lagoon is an invasive species named Eurasian Water Millfoil. We have met with Susan Graham, WDNR, Lake Management Coordinator, regarding a treatment plan that she has created and requires the city to follow in the implementation to resolve our overgrowth of Water Millfoil. So far the Horticultural crew has treated the Lagoon several times, and we are beginning to see considerable break-up of this weed and we continue to work at removing it from the water. Since the fountains have been shut-off because they are clogged with the weed we are not sure if they will be operating again this year. We will keep you updated on this situation. In the mean time we have resumed boat rentals and have reduced the fee (50% of regular rates) to encourage visitors to rent paddle boats.

**2) New Playgrounds**

The new playground at Summit Park is currently scheduled to be installed during the week of September 9-13. The deadline for proposals for the new playground in the upper level of Big Hill Park is due on Friday, August 16. The RFP's were mailed out directly to 10 playground vendors that are affiliated with WPR. In addition, we have received over a half dozen additional calls from other contractors who have requested the information. We anticipate a rather high response to our RFP. After the deadline, the playground committee will review all proposals, and select what are considered the best two proposals which will be presented to the Parks & Recreation Commission.

**OLD BUSINESS-** None

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

### **A. Review Summary Report from the July Parks Tour Evaluations.**

A total of 24 park sites were scheduled to be visited; even though we drove by all scheduled sites, in the interest of time we only stopped at 14 sites. However, with the exceptions of the 2 Cemeteries, evaluations were submitted for 22 park sites by a total of 11 evaluators. The highest mark for overall appearance was at Riverbend Bike Path with a collective score of 5. The lowest mark for overall appearance was Summit and Freeman Park. They both tied with a collective score of 3. The average mark for overall appearance was 4.26. There were several issues that were discovered as related to general park maintenance; therefore a repair list was created that highlighted these items and we have addressed each issue appropriately. This summary report was given to the commission to utilize as we begin to develop the CIP List for future years (2015)

### **B. Consideration of striping Tennis Courts at Krueger Park to include lay-out for Pickleball play.**

We have had various requests from some residents that would like us to stripe one or two of our Tennis Courts for Pickleball play. They are involved in Pickleball Leagues in Janesville and Rockford and would appreciate not having to drive to another community to play Pickleball and would like to play in Beloit. There will be minimal impact within the Parks Operation funds and there is an estimated cost of less than \$200 to add the additional striping per court. It would be our expense for now however; this could help us bring in more revenue and we can work with Operations about the striping of the courts. We recommend striping on Tennis Court at Krueger Park and adjusting the net and indicating that the court has been marked for Pickleball it is also recommended to use one court at Krueger Park, and seek to reuse old courts in other parks if this activity would increase in interest. Therese Oldenburg made a motion to accept the striping of the tennis courts seconded by Mike Ramsden. Motion passed unanimously.

### **C. Consideration of purchasing additional Goose Denier lights for other park locations.**

In February, 2013, the Parks & Recreation Commission previously reviewed the information as related to purchasing the Goose Denier to assist in the Geese Management plan within the city park system. At the suggestion of the Commission, we purchased 2 units and placed one at the city Golf Course, and the other at the Riverbend area along the Water Street Bike Path. Since their installation in the early spring, we have witnessed and experienced a dramatic decline in the goose populations within each area. Based upon our recent success and experience with this deterrent system, we are seeking your support in purchasing additional units and placement within other park areas specifically Riverside Park, Riverside Park West, Wootton Park, and Rev US Pride Park. Riverside, Wootton, and Pride Parks will receive a Denier and maybe one will be installed at Heritage View. Therese Oldenburg made motion to recommend the purchase and installation of the Denier seconded by Mark Preuschl. Motion passed unanimously.

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTS**

- Mark Preuschl: Sorry that he wasn't able to make the Parks Tour.
- Mike Ramsden: Wants to know if the tennis nets at Riverside and Wootton Parks could be repaired or replaced.
- Chad Larson: None
- Mark Smullen: None
- Therese Oldenburg: Would like to know if we could police the area at East Ridge and Blarney Stone or send letters out to where people are using it for a dumping area for their yard waste. At first it seemed like one person but now it looks like a lot of people are doing it. Brian will point this area out to Greg.
- Carol Mankiewicz: None
- Rodger Christiansen: None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mike Ramsden made a motion for adjournment; seconded by Mark Preschul. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Travia Vance.