

**MINUTES
PARKS, RECREATION AND CONSERVATION ADVISORY
COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2013
DPW OPERATIONS CENTER
2351 SPRINGBROOK COURT, BELOIT, WI**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steven Ferger, Chad Larson, Carol Mankiewicz, Therese Oldenburg, Mark Preuschl, Mark Smullen

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rodger Christiansen, Sheila De Forest, Mike Ramsden

STAFF: Brian Ramsey, Spencer Waite

GUESTS: Greg Boysen, Public Works Director

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Steven Ferger at 6:35 p.m.

REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM THE MAY 8, 2013 MEETING

Chad Larson made a motion to approve the minutes seconded by Therese Oldenburg. Motion passed unanimously.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

None

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Leisure Services/Recreation Report-** Spencer Waite, Recreation Supervisor presented a Power Point presentation of summer programs available. Krueger pool offers a swim team, water aerobics, pool rentals, birthday parties as well as swimming lessons. The swim team currently has about 155 members and pool rentals are offered on Saturday and Sunday. There are family and adult leagues for co-ed kickball and co-ed wiffleball. There are numerous youth activities going on and most of them target 6-12 year olds. There is a Wacky Wednesday Camp for 3-5 year olds and it is a 9 week program. More youth activities that will be offered this summer include: Big Hill Adventure Camp, Fishing at the Lagoon, Critter Crazy Camp, and Challenger Soccer Camp. New this summer is a program call Showstoppers Youth Pom Pons. There are numerous special events that will take place also such as the Skateboard Competition, Kickball Tournament, Wiffleball Tournament, and the annual Packer Backer Trip. Residents can purchase tickets to the

Milwaukee Zoo, Noah's Ark, Pirate's Cove, Six Flags and more through Leisure Services. The rentals at Riverside Park have been a good revenue generator. Paddle boats, kayaks, and tandem bikes are offered along with concessions as well.

B. Correspondence-

- 1. News Article: May 17-Beloit Daily News-** The article highlights Beloit plans park projects. It talks about two city parks getting new playgrounds this year, one at Summit and the other in the upper level of Big Hill. The ropes course at Big Hill was also mentioned as well as the Dog Park and the bridge that will be built over Goose Creek at Big Hill Park.
- 2. E-mail: May 20, 2013-Mr. Mark Riepenhoff-** Mr. Riepenhoff emailed to show his appreciation of flags that recognized Veteran's and inquired about changing the lights from Red, White, and Blue to honor Memorial day however; it would be a very complicated process. It may be considered next year before placing the fountain into the Lagoon next year.
- 3. Email: May 28, 2013-Mrs. Anita Williams-** Mrs. Williams lives close to Horace White park and keeps us update with things that need to be addressed in the park. Brian assured her that these issues will be taken care of.

C. Parks Report- We are still continuing with routine park maintenance by picking up litter and debris in all parks and along the business corridor of Milwaukee Road. Trees are still being trimmed in parks, trails, and cemeteries. The Dog Park is routinely cleaned and maintained also. We provided staffing assistance in cleaning and preparing the pool which opened this past weekend. Two picnic tables were moved to Gantry downtown. We assisted with the set-up and break-down of the Division's information booth at the Farmer's Market and provided chalk and chalker to the hospital for their annual run. We have met with a contractor regarding necessary repairs to the gazebo in Riverside Park and contacted Reinders regarding recommendation in eradicating the Water Millfoil (weed) in the Riverside Park Lagoon. New trash receptacles in Telfer Park have been installed. Three new park benches have been installed in the Dog Park and pictures are attached.

D. Horticulture Report- Landscaping beds in the Gantry, downtown parking lots, cemeteries and all park sites continue to be cleaned up. The prescribed burns in Riverside Park at the Lagoon and the Monument at the north end of the park have been completed as well as over-seeding some areas within the park. We assisted the Downtown Beloit Association and removed the old planters from downtown and replaced them with 35 new planters. The old planters have been given to the Parks Division and will be installed in various parks to enhance the following facilities; Krueger Pool, Krueger Haskell Golf Course, Grinnell Hall, and various locations in Riverside Park. Mark Young took the Aquatic Applicators Licensing Exam and is now qualified to spray aquatic areas regarding weed control; and will be implementing a treatment as recommended by DNR to eradicate the Water Millfoil from the Riverside Park Lagoon. We are currently waiting for the permit from DNR before we can begin treating the water.

E. Grinnell Hall Senior Center Report- Volunteers built and installed a new counter so now volunteers can sit and greet visitors at the entrance door. This has made the place more inviting and Brian encourages the commission to visit if they already haven't done so. The freezer was replaced in the kitchen and Grinnell Hall split the cost 50/50 with the Rock Council on Aging as one of the amenities needed in order to accommodate their Nutrition Program at the center. An Alliant Energy Grant for \$3000 was submitted this month and we are still waiting to hear back about it. The New Senior Theatre program has been well received with several members, and a volunteer director.

F. Special Projects-

- 1. Summit Park Playground-** Thanks to Principal Katie Smullen at Merrill School, we were able to present our proposals to a parent/child program on Tuesday, May 14. A group of approximately 25 voted and selected Option Plan 2 with the color scheme from Option Plan 1. This playground will go in approximately the same area that the current one is in which is the best place for it. Lee Recreation provided us with a new rendering that demonstrates the new color choices, and we have processed the order for this playground. Unfortunately, due to timing, we won't be able to have it installed prior to the Summer Playground Camp; it will be installed later in August after the program concludes in Summit Park. Brian stated that it was a wonderful group of kids and parents. The kids will take ownership of knowing that they chose the playground and this should help keep vandalism down.
- 2. Eurasian Water Millfoil in Riverside Park lagoon-** As we mentioned before in the Parks section, the weed that is currently growing in the Riverside Lagoon is an invasive species named Eurasian Water Millfoil. We hope to eradicate this plant from the Lagoon and have posted the general information at the Lagoon Concession to inform the general public about this non-toxic water plant, and how we plan to remove it from the Lagoon in the immediate future. Until we can eradicate the Millfoil from the Lagoon, we have reduced our rentals to 50% and continue to warn users of the difficulties in paddling boats before they go out. We are hoping to have the Millfoil under control and/or eliminated by July 1st. A copy of the Public Notice is attached for the committee to view.

OLD BUSINESS- None

NEW BUSINESS – ACTION REPORT ITEM

A. Review and consideration of new building addition on the Pohlman Field Clubhouse in order to facilitate the new batting cage area for the Snappers.

In order to comply with miLB requirements, and based upon the Snappers agreement with their new MLB affiliate the Oakland Athletics, they have agreed to expand their practice batting cage facility from one (1) practice bay to two (2) practice bays. They have also agreed to enclose the batting cage area so that even when the weather is inclement, they will still be able to accommodate batting practice for their players. The

design plan for this building still requires internal Site Plan Review by the City's Planning Division, and approval by the Planning Commission before construction will begin. This expense is an obligation of the Beloit Professional Baseball Association, Inc. (aka Beloit Snappers). Mark Preuschl made a motion to accept and support the construction of the new Batting Cage facility as an addition at the Pohlman Field Clubhouse, seconded by Chad Larson. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Review and consideration of support of a proposed City Resolution that would acknowledge July as National Parks and Recreation Month as designated by the National Parks & Recreation Association.

The National Parks and Recreation Association annually designates the month of July as Nation Parks and Recreation month, and encourages all membered agencies to join them in this distinction. Annually, the NRPA supports this initiative with an official Proclamation enacted upon by the US Congress. As a member of the NRPA, it is highly recommended that we support this initiative by supporting a local City Resolution with the same designation of July as National Parks and Recreation month within the City of Beloit. Therese Oldenburg made a motion to accept and support the Proclamation as presented seconded by Carol Mankiewicz. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTS

- Carol Mankiewicz: Wants to know who you call about getting trees out of rivers and creeks and who controls vegetation because she would like to let some of it grow. Brian states that either the park crew or forestry division deals with the trees depending on the size. And we will be looking for areas that we don't have to mow but most places are mowed and groomed often based upon our mowing schedule.
- Therese Oldenburg: Is excited to get out and enjoy summer.
- Mark Smullen: Hired 7 new people and they love the view of Beloit especially Riverside. Everyone comments and has positive things to say. He takes advantage of the trails and wonderful view also.
- Chad Larson: Krueger golf course looks really good. Would like to know how the goose light is doing. Brian says that it is working well and it's hard to notice. A second one has been installed at Riverbend, and has eliminated the Geese within this area as well.

- Mark Preuschl: The pools aren't leaking, the ponds aren't leaking that's great! People have been asking about the geese because they notice that aren't' around much. The grass is growing at the river bend.
- Steven Ferger: Five times in the last 2 weeks at Riverside Park there have been young people intimidating people from using the park and the police had to be called. Would like for the Chief of Police to attend the Park tour to talk about what can be done to stop this problem. Brian stated that he has seen more police presence lately in the park but he will invite the Chief to the next meeting. Also the ponds on #1, 5, and 18 at Krueger stink. Debris from the storm water system fills up in #3, and # 4. Someone needs to talk to Mark about the issue. Brian will review these concerns with Mark regarding the Golf Course.

ADJOURNMENT

Mark Preuschl made a motion for adjournment; seconded by Carol Mankiewicz. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8: 05 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Travia Vance.