

**MINUTES
PARKS, RECREATION AND CONSERVATION ADVISORY
COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2013
DPW OPERATIONS CENTER
2351 SPRINGBROOK COURT, BELOIT, WI**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sheila De Forest, Therese Oldenburg

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

GUESTS: Keston Geistwalker

CALL TO ORDER

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

REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 14, 2013 MEETING

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

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Keston Geistwalker attended the meeting just to see what it's about.

OLD BUSINESS- None

NEW BUSINESS – ACTION REPORT ITEM

- A. Consideration of selecting a new Playground to purchase and install at Big Hill Park. (Presentation by Lee Recreation, and Recreation Brands of Northern IL/WI)**
The playground unit in the upper level of Big Hill Park has out lived its expectancy and is scheduled for replacement within the 2013 CIP Plan, as previously reviewed and determined by the Parks & Recreation Commission. An RFP was developed and marketed to our list of ten (10) qualified Playground Equipment Vendors to seek proposal for replacement and installation of new equipment not to exceed \$65,000 in cost. Based on composite scoring, the two highest scoring vendors, Lee Recreation and Recreation

Brands Group presented their proposals for review and consideration in determining the preference of the commission for new playground equipment to be installed in Big Hill Park. Each company presented their proposals and the commission decided on Lee Recreation at a cost of \$64,700 as opposed to Recreation Brands Group of Northern IL/WI at a cost of \$64,955. Mark Preuschl made a motion to change the color of the red piping to dark green and accept Lee Receptions proposal for the playground seconded by Mike Ramsden. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Consideration of conceptual master plan for developing a Telfer Park Entry Plaza. (Presentation by Tod Stanton, Design Perspectives)

As highlighted in the Parks and Open Space Plan, and developed within the 2012-16 Capital Improvement List, there are several proposed ideas related to the best utilization of the space located immediately north of the Edwards Ice Arena in Telfer Park, and what could be done to enhance the park and define recreation opportunities. We have contracted once again with Design Perspectives to assist us in our master planning endeavors to create a conceptual plan that would address our needs and could possibly be developed with limited funding. Design Perspectives presented three initial conceptual plans for review based on a previous discussion with the Parks & Leisure Services Director. These initial designs were included in the packets, however, we have requested that some revisions be addressed to Concept B and were presented at the meeting for further consideration by the Commission. There is still quite a bit of flexibility left to make for the master plan so it is up to the commission to decide on what they think should be changed. Some suggestions that were made were to switch the park shelter so that you would be able to walk right through it and to possibly make the turnaround a two way road. The final design will be determined at a later date.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Correspondence-** We received an e-mail from Carol Mankiewicz regarding her research on different areas of our parks. We also received an e-mail from Jeff Adams from Beloit 2020 regarding replanting of the Celebration Monument in Riverside Park. The Beloit 2020 committee has given its approval for renewing the planting of Celebration at the level of \$5238. Bob Hilbig sent an e-mail regarding Park Benches on Greenway Trail. The Park Bench Donation program brochure has been added to the City Website so that the information is available. We also received an e-mail from Anita Williams regarding the port-a-john being vandalized in Horace White Park which was taken care of in a timely manner.
- B. Parks Report-** We are still continuing routine park maintenance, picking up litter and debris in all parks and along the business corridor of Milwaukee Road. The playground safety inspections have been completed as well as asphalt repairs to Riverwalk Path under the Portland Avenue Bridge. The picnic tables at Pohlman Field have been painted for the Snappers and the fencing that surrounds the tennis courts at Krueger Park have

been replaced. The deposit box at the Dog Park was repaired due to vandalism as well as the fencing that surrounds the Tennis Courts at Krueger Park.

- C. Horticulture Report-** We continue to water the hanging baskets on the Portland Avenue Bridge and weed around park signs downtown. The lagoon has been sprayed according to WDNR's treatment plan and we have cleaned up landscaping beds and replanted new material around the Gazebo in Horace White Park. We renovated the turf area and over-seeded the fairway of the 3rd hole on the golf course where the temporary cart path existed. Riprap in various park locations has been sprayed. New swings have been installed as well as a fall zone border at the Lower Level of Big Hill Park at no cost. The playground at Summit Park has been removed and the new one should be done being installed by Friday and up and running next week.
- D. Grinnell Hall Senior Center Report-** We had our 3rd Summer Picnic at the Rotary River Center on August 22nd with 130 in attendance. New activities in August were Vet's Coffee, Bago, and Powerful Tools for Caregivers Class. We held board elections on August 20th and hosted an Open House on Monday, September 9. We are in the process of planning a fall fundraiser, Craft Show, Saturday, November 2, 2013. So far, 25 of the 30 available spaces have been sold at \$25.00 each. The library has been relocated to the lobby area on the 2nd floor, and the pool table has been relocated to the room library. We have purchased a new registration sign-in software system with the \$1,000 Grant funding received from Alliant Energy and we hope to have it installed within the next few weeks.
- E. Special Projects-**

1. Eurasian Water Millfoil in Riverside Park Lagoon

The lagoon has been appropriately treated for the Water Millfoil in accordance to the plan as provided by WDNR. The majority of the Water Millfoil has died off and the water has cleared up enough that the Lagoon fountains are operational once again.

2. New Playgrounds

The new playground at Summit Park is currently scheduled to be installed during the week of September 9-13, 2013. We received a total of 17 separate proposals from 8 playground vendors in response to our Playground RFP for Big Hill Park. The Playground Committee has reviewed all proposals and based upon their scoring, they have submitted the top two (2) proposals for review and selection at the Commission meeting.

3. Rock County Rabies Clinic-

On Saturday, September 14, 2013 there will be a rabies clinic from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at Telfer Park. The cost will be \$10.00 per animal and we are looking for a big turnout.

4. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony-

On Monday, September 16, 2013 there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony from 9:30-10:00 a.m. at Riverside Park. This will be an opportunity to celebrate the designation of

the signed motorized road route along 320 miles of the beautiful Rock River through Wisconsin and Illinois.

F. Leisure Services/Recreation Report- For the month of August the pools attendance was 2,107 with concessions totaling \$1,545.75. Daily admission was \$4,007 as of August 25th. There were 3 private pool rentals for the month, 6 birthday party rentals during open swim and BMHS hosted their freshman orientation. The first BMHS girls swim meet will be hosted at Krueger on September 5th. The BYHA contract for the upcoming season has been finalized. There is now a scheduled start date for BYHA and public skate season. We have also contracted with Rink Tec for compressor start up. We have contracted with Quigley Smart to replace shower fixtures for the upcoming hockey season and there are 5 private rentals of the Telfer Pavilion this month. All 8 cameras are up and recording in the Pavilion. We continue to operate the Lagoon operation this summer, the water milfoil was overwhelming this summer and really hurt our revenue streams. Revenue to date this summer is at \$9,959. There have been 10 rentals this month for the Rotary Center.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTS

- Mike Ramsden: Has reached the end of his term. He enjoyed working with everyone.
- Chad Larson: Is happy that the milfoil is out of the lagoon and it looks great.
- Mark Smullen: Appreciates everything. He will be involved in doing team work and corporative learning using the ropes course at Big Hills with the children from school.
- Carol Mankiewicz: Inquired about if anyone uses the Dog Park. Brian states that it is used on a regular basis. And this has increased the usage of Leeson Park also.
- Mark Preuschl: Always mentions to people walking their dogs while he rides his bike at Riverside park that we have a Dog Park for them to use.
- Rodger Christiansen: Is saddened that we will be losing Mike Ramsden.
- Brian Ramsey: It's been a pleasure working with Mike Ramsden. Mike took the time to go to various Dog Parks with Brian to help him get ideas.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Minutes prepared by Travia Vance.