

**MINUTES
PARKS, RECREATION AND CONSERVATION ADVISORY
COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2014
DPW OPERATIONS CENTER
2351 SPRINGBROOK COURT, BELOIT, WI**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rebecca Charles, Roger Christiansen, Keston Geistwalker

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS: Brian Ramsey, Director of Parks & Leisure Services
Greg Boysen, Public Works Director
Sheila De Forest, City Council Representative
Mark Smullen, School District of Beloit Rep.

GUESTS: Dennis Gonterman, Nikki Meyers, Friends of the Riverfront
Beth Jacobsen, Assistant to the City Manager

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mark Preuschl at 6:45 p.m.

REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 11, 2013 MEETING

A correction was made to Section D under the Director's Report. Regular membership rates are \$25/single and \$40/couple. Also under committee members comments Mark Preuschl added to his comments that he would like a subcommittee to look into having a city ordinance change to where parking lots can be built in parks without having to do curb and gutter. A motion to accept the minutes with changes was made by Therese Oldenburg seconded by Carol Mankiewicz. Motion passed unanimously.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

None

OLD BUSINESS- None

NEW BUSINESS – ACTION REPORT ITEM

- A. Consideration of installing a Historic Plaque on the Wood Family Fishing Bridge in Riverside Park.** Beth Jacobsen presented a memo to the commission that highlighted the purpose of purchasing and installing a plaque on the Wood Family Bridge in Riverside Park. The wording/language that would be designated on the plaque was also included. The plaque would be best placed just west of the locomotive on the bridge. The unveiling of the plaque is to be done on April 26, 2014 in conjunction with Arbor Day. She has asked the commission to support the placement location of the plaque. Aside from some issues with the wording and font of the plaque, Therese Oldenburg made a motion to accept the recommendation and support the initiative to purchase and install the plaque as indicated seconded by Chad Larson. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Consideration of installing a Double Kaleidoscope Public Art Sculpture within the Heritage Walkway in Riverside Park.** Nikki Meyers presented some general information regarding the Double Kaleidoscope Public Art Sculpture. Friends of the Riverfront would like to donate the sculpture to Riverside Park and place it at the top of the stairs leading to the pavilion because it will draw people to it. This area is also ideal because it doesn't need to be mowed around and it is well lit to avoid possible vandalism. She is still working with Beloit 2020 about the location. She would like it to be in a visible area. Chad Larson made a motion to accept the recommendation and support the purchase and install of the Kaleidoscope seconded by Carol Mankiewicz. Motion passed unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Correspondence-** We received an e-mail from Anita Williams about the snow removal at Horace White Park and Brian informed her that the issues have been noted and will be appropriately addressed. Tommy Otis, a student at Beloit College emailed to inquire about ice skating at Riverside Lagoon and the condition of it. However, because of the recent snow storms it has been hard to maintain so Brian offered complimentary passes for public skate at the Edwards Ice Arena for the inconvenience. Raquel Tiffany, secretary for the Cranked, Inc. car club requested the use of the Riverside Parking Lot, near the Rotary Center for this year's car show however the date is not available. Brian gave her some alternative sites and has yet to hear back from Raquel. Additional suggestions were proposed and Brian will contact Raquel again with these suggestions. A park bench donation application has been received from the Pollack family for the purchase and installation of a park bench that will be installed later in the spring when the weather is accommodating. It will be placed in the upper level of Big Hill Park.
- B. Special Projects/Miscellaneous:**
- 1.) CELL TOWER FUND/CIP PROJECTS @ SNAPPERS**
Brian has attached a list of projects that have been agreed upon with the Beloit Snappers as priority projects that need to be addressed at Pohlman Field within the Clubhouse or

within the Stadium area. This is a very doable list and it leaves us with a contingency. This year we will be coordinating all projects ourselves and most of them have already been addressed.

- C. Parks Report-** We continue routine maintenance in all of the parks as well as picking up litter and debris in all parks, trails, and cemeteries. We continue to trim trees and downed branches in parks, trails, and cemeteries also. The Dog Park is routinely cleaned and snow is removed off of public parking lots and sidewalks. With the assistance from the Engineering Division, we developed and implemented the use of a map that details areas for Snow Removal by parks staff, including parking lots and sidewalks. We've met with the Snappers to verify designated projects that will be implemented through use of the Cell Tower/CIP Fund and have begun to meet with contractors regarding estimated costs related to various projects. We have seasonal employees to assist the Operations Division in the labor management of the new wood burning stoves in the operations garage and at the Water Resources garage. The Cabin at Big Hill Park was damaged due to a broken water pipe that flooded the basement. Water resources assisted in pumping out the water and we have begun cleaning up the debris, and making necessary repairs.
- D. Horticulture Report-** We continue to be involved in snow removal activities. There have been over 20 snow events since January 1, 2014. We are engaged in cleaning up and repairing the golf course clubhouse, specifically the concession area and kitchen. We attended the Digger's Hotline training in Janesville on January 16th as well as the Illinois Landscapers Show on February 5-7th in Schaumburg, IL.
- E. Grinnell Hall Senior Center Report-** Recent Actives that have taken place in December & January are as follows:
- Dec 6-Holiday Extravaganza (90 attendees)
 - Dec 11-Tour of Lights (22 attendees)
 - Dec 23- Holiday Celebration Sing-a-Long (20 attendees)
 - Dec 26- BINGO (33 attendees)
 - January 14-Strong Women (11 attendees)
 - January 24-Winterfest Bingo (55 attendees)
 - January 24-Winterfest Dance (10 attendees)
- In the month of February there will be more activities that take place such as the AARP Tax Assistance Program which runs from 8-12 noon Monday-Wednesdays. There is no charge and appointments are required. The annual Valentine's Day Bake Sale & Chili Lunch for \$3.00 will be held on February 14. The Bookies Club will be held on February 17 at 1pm.
- F. Leisure Services/Recreation Report-** Monthly revenues for public skate were \$4,102.75. Our maintenance person built 8 skate aides for the kids to use on the ice. Rink Tec was down for the quarterly check on compressors. The wash tank pump was replaced due to failure. BYHA submitted end of the year dates of March 17-21. They also submitted and received ice rental checks from BYHA and Rock Co. Fury. Overall attendance was good for Winterfest this year. We currently have 22 teams in the Volleyball Tournament at

BMHS and this number continues to grow. Over 60 people were in attendance for Bingo at Grinnell Hall. The sleigh rides at Big Hill had a great turnout at over 100 attendees. The Rotary Center received quotes to replace the carpet as well as faucets in the bathroom. Tax preparation has begun and will continue through the tax season at Grinnell Hall. Many new activities are planned for the next couple of months. Full utilization of the Senior Center Computer program has been implemented and improvements are continuing. We have started to update all flyers and publication for the Krueger Pool. One pool rental has been scheduled so far and new LMI acid pumps have been ordered. Krueger Swim Team has increased substantially from 30+ swimmers in 2008 to over 180+ in 2013. In response to a request from parents, we are looking at possibly running this program year-around, and considering joining the USA Swimming Association as a sanctioned team. We have prepared a short survey to send to parents with children that have previously been enrolled in the swim team in order to determine if this new format is truly what the public wants. Volleyball leagues are in the final stretch of games and the tournaments begin in February.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTS

- Therese Oldenburg- Just wants winter to be over.
- Mark Smullen- And his wife have adopted the first baby born in Texas.
- Chad Larson- Would like to welcome Mark back. The girl's hockey tournament will be this weekend. Therese complimented him on the job he is doing and is very proud of Beloit's Hockey.
- Greg Boysen- none
- Carol Mankiewicz: none
- Sheila De Forest- Hasn't been out in the parks for the last couple weeks since it's been so cold.
- Brian Ramsey- Announced that he is on the BIFF board and passed out a schedule with a golf coupon on front to attract new golfers.
- Mark Preuschl- Has been a little under the weather but is hoping for things to get better. He also expressed his concern for the riverbend.

ADJOURNMENT

Therese Oldenburg 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 Foy.