

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rebecca Charles, Sheila De Forest, Keston Geistwalker

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

GUESTS: Joe Stadleman, Angus Young
Dennis Conerton, Beloit Snappers

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mark Preuschl at 6:32 p.m.

REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 12, 2014 MEETING

Chad Larson made a motion to approve the minutes seconded by Carol Mankiewicz. Motion passed unanimously.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

None

OLD BUSINESS- None

NEW BUSINESS – ACTION REPORT ITEM

- A. Consideration and review of the proposed Batting Cage addition to the Clubhouse for the Snappers at Pohlman Field.** In order to comply with MiLB requirements, the Snappers need to expand and build a new Batting Cage facility at Pohlman Field. This information was previously presented to the Parks & Recreation Commission in June of

2013, and their conceptual plan to build an enclosed addition onto the Snappers Clubhouse was unanimously supported and approved by the Commission. Joe Stadleman with Angus Young presented an updated design plan for the Batting Cage and addressed any questions. This batting cage will have an open concept so that the building can breathe. The floor will be asphalt because it is very economical. The building will be approximately 14' high, 6" above the ground, and lined with ply wood. The foundations will be done soon and shortly after the season starts, the building should be finished. There will be no adding to the landscaping. Whatever is already there stays. The old batting cage will be removed. Also since shade areas are limited the new batting cage could serve as a pavilion. When it's not being used as a pavilion it could become a second bay area to wait out rain during bad weather. The high school will also have access to this area. Chad Larson made a motion to accept the detailed drawings as presented and continue support in moving this project forward, seconded by Therese Oldenburg. Motion passed unanimously.

- B. Consideration and review of a proposal from Vintage Bliss to host a Vintage Fair in Horace White Park.** On February 20th, the City Clerk, and members of the City Planning Department and Brian met with Kristy Pearson-McLaughlin, owner of Vintage Bliss in Beloit, regarding her desire to coordinate an antique-style fair in Horace White Park. We review various other similar events that have been held in public parks and requirements she would need to meet in pursuing this event, including obtaining the appropriate permits for vending operations. Unfortunately, the City Ordinance is very specific in regards to what NFP groups are allowed to host these various events as defined within Ordinance 18.02 (Park Regulations), (15) Outdoor Sales & Solicitation Prohibited in City Parks. In order to proceed, the City Council needs to review and mend the Ordinance as it exists. Mark Preuschl made a motion to recommend adding Vintage Bliss to the Ordinance to replace Village Green seconded by Therese Oldenburg. Motion passed unanimously. Also Mark Preuschl made a motion to have the City Council Clerk's Office revise the Ordinance totally to make it easier for events to happen in our parks seconded by Carol Mankiewicz. Motion passed unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Correspondence-** We received a letters from Walt Ebersohl, Environmental Grants Specialty, about the LWCF Program in regards to the Riverside Park development and Turtle Creek Park acquisition. The City of Beloit agreed to permanently manage the entire property for public outdoor recreation purposes in compliance with the provisions of the LWCF program. James Washebeck composed an email with his opinion of the dog park in which Brian assured him that we try to address the snow and ice issues the best we can given the rough weather we have been having this winter. Lastly we received an email from Viviana Nadowki about Equestrian Trails and where horses would be permitted to walk. Brian suggesting checking with Rock County Parks Division and gave her website information to research.
- B. 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. We are continuing cleaning and repair projects to the Snapper's Clubhouse at Pohlman Field. Repairs were completed to the Cabin in Big Hill Park at a cost of over \$18,000. Parks crews are making repairs and tuning up turf equipment in preparation of summer mowing.

C. Horticulture Report- We continue to be involved in Snow Removal and have had over 30 Snow events to date; that's an average of a snow event every other day since January 1, 2014. Crews assisted the Streets Division in clearing storm inlets of snow and ice in order to prevent flooding during the brief warm-up/thawing events we experienced during the month of February. The Hort Crew attended the Landscape Expo in Schaumburg, IL and are continuing to clean-up and repair the Golf Course Clubhouse specifically the concession area and kitchen. The new vendors should be starting next week and we hope to be done modifying the Clubhouse by next week also. The walls and floors have been painted. The vinyl flooring has been removed and the new tile floor is partially completed. The grille & fryer have been cleaned as well as the exhaust and stainless steel equipment. We are still waiting to re-install equipment and clean the carpet. We attended the Milwaukee Road Planning meeting regarding installation of new planting beds and trees within the boulevard from Lee Lane going westward.

D. Grinnell Hall Senior Center Report- The most recent events that have taken place at Grinnell Hall are as follows:

February 5- Acting Classes (10 attendees)
February 6- Handcrafted Valentine Box Class (8 attendees)
February 10-Wood Burning Art Class (12 attendees)
February 11- Hearing Screening (3 attendees)
February 13- Learn Sudoku (7 attendees)
February 14- Valentine's Day Bake Sale & Chili Lunch (127 attendees)
February 19- Foot Clinic (10 attendees)
February 21- Craft & Chat with Cori (7 attendees)

Daily attendance drop-in numbers in February of 2013 were 1,707 and this year are 1,877 which is a 10% change in increase with 170 more than last year. The AARP Tax Assistance Program has begun and is daily from 8:00am-12noon. There is no charge and appointments are required. The March newsletter was passed out to the commission for reference of activities and events.

E. Leisure Services/Recreation Report- We continue to collaborate and be involved with BYHA, Welty Environmental Center, Facility agreements with the SDB for several events and leagues, WPRA, Greater Beloit, Visit Beloit Board and Junior Achievement at Aldrich Middle School. Krueger pool started working on the summer schedule and hiring process. BYHA submitted an ice time check for \$10,419.79. Various tournaments are being held during February and March. At Telfer we have been contacting vendors of replacing tarps with garage doors or airplane hanger doors. Also we continue to fix the leaky roof in the lobby and locker rooms. Volleyball leagues are winding down after a 14

week regular season. Post season, seeded tournaments are on the horizon. The last week of February all previous and potential team managers for the adult softball leagues were mailed a Manager's Packet. In March the plan is to meet with the advisory committee, iron out umpires, and promote with newspaper ads, email blasts, and PSA's. The Earth Day Celebration is in the planning process. The date has been set for Saturday, April 26th at Riverside Park. The kaleidoscope is set to be introduced along with signage for the Wood Family Bridge. We are in the process of reaching out to entities to host a table at the Earth Day Celebration. We are receiving quotes for new tile carpeting at the Rotary Center. BIFF was held there Thursday-Sunday. Sonya Baden will serve as representative for our division at the DPW Public Education and Spencer Waite will attend the first meeting. We are finalizing plans for UW-Whitewater intern Matthew Christidis.

F. Special Projects/Miscellaneous-

- 1) **2014 Playground RFP:** The 2014 Playground RFP has been revised and will be mailed directly to playground vendors by March 14th, as well as publicly advertised in local Newspapers. The deadline dates for vendors to submit their response to our RFP is indicated below:

- April 11, 2014 Hinkley Park Playground \$50,000 Max Cost
- April 25, 2014 Townview Park Playground \$40,000 Max Cost

The 2014 CIP includes the purchase of new swings for Vernon Park, however based upon our City Purchasing Policy, we are not required to go out to bid for any purchase under \$10,000, but will be included as one of this year's Capital Projects.

- 2) **2014 New Park Furnishings:** Within the 2014 CIP, funding has been allocated for purchasing new park furnishings including new park benches and bike racks in designated parks. Attached is general information and selected reports which highlight the criteria involved in selecting these furnishings:
- Park Bench Donation Program/Brochure
 - Standard Park Bench Comparison Report
 - Park Bench Inventory Report
- 3) **Leeson Park South Access Gate:** At a previous meeting, members of the Commission inquired about the access gate at the southern point in the upper area of Leeson Park and if the land south was available as an area to construct a Bike path. Unfortunately, this land was vacated by the city when the current owners purchased this property, and the emergency access was realigned to run parallel with the south property line towards the intersection of Springbrook Court and Sager Lane.
- 4) **Krueger Swim Team Survey Results:** As the Commission is well aware, in January we met with members of BATS as they were concerned that the City Parks & Leisure Services Division was considering offering our Krueger Swim Team program year-a-round, using the new pool at BMHS, and joining the USA Swimming Program. Basically, BATS indicated that they perceived our desire to extend our program as a threat to their Club, and that they already offer this program. We are simply attempting to respond to our residents and provide them with programming they have requested from

our Division. Therefore, to ensure that we were responding to the majority of members of our summer program, we sent a survey out to 180 individuals who were registered in our program this past summer (2013), results were attached for reference. Out of 180 surveys sent out, we had an excellent response rate (33%) with 60 responses by the deadline date of February 21st. Of the responses 95% indicate that they want us to provide them with this program year-a-round. Based on the results of the survey, Brian directed the Leisure Services staff to go ahead and expand this program offering, and include it in our Summer Brochure.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTS

- Therese Oldenburg- Attended the Chamber of Commerce and informed Mark Preuschl that one of his photos was displayed. Is also involved with Jeff Adams and the Nature of Confluence and is very excited about this opportunity.
- Mark Smullen-Youth service day is coming up. He would like to work on connecting the cities and schools together.
- Chad Larson-Learn how to skate had about 28 attendees. Hockey is coming to an end. The U-14 and U-12 teams went to state. To end the season, there will be in house tournaments.
- Greg Boysen- None
- Carol Mankiewicz- None
- Roger Christiansen- None
- Brian Ramsey- None
- Mark Preuschl- Can't wait to see the Riverbend utility work.

ADJOURNMENT

Therese Oldenburg made a motion for adjournment; seconded by Chad Larson. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Travia Foy.