

MINUTES
PARKS, RECREATION AND CONSERVATION ADVISORY
COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2014
DPW OPERATIONS CENTER
2351 SPRINGBROOK COURT, BELOIT, WI

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeff Johnson, Chad Larson, Carol Mankiewicz, Mark Preuschl

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rebecca Charles, Roger Christiansen, Keston Geistwalker, Therese Oldenburg

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

GUESTS: John Pfeleiderer, Family Services
Margery Wakefield
Tom Finley

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mark Preuschl at 6:34 p.m.

REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 10, 2014 MEETING

A change was made to Item C under Old Business. Ex. (permeable surfaces as option and waiving curbs) was changed to (permeable surfaces as option and waiving the need for curbs). Also an amendment was added to Item C under New Business. There was a discussion about the CIP funds proposed budget for 2015 will not be affected by acquiring the building. It will not take away funds for other parks projects either. Carol Mankiewicz made a motion to approve the minutes seconded by Mark Preuschl. Motion passed unanimously.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

None

OLD BUSINESS-

None

NEW BUSINESS – ACTION REPORT ITEM

- A. Review and consideration of a Remembrance Garden in Horace White Park.** John Pfleiderer, Margery Wakefield and Tom Finley, from Family Services, were all in attendance to talk about possibly developing a Remembrance Garden in Horace White Park. They are trying to create a design that will include a pergola, benches, a deep-tone wind chime, a central rock sculpture, perennials, and a brick-style patio area. They are interested in sponsoring this new feature within the park and have received offers of donations as well to support the cause. Family Services would donate the garden and pay for the install but there may also be additional fees and maintenance. There is no direct cost to the city. The purpose of this garden is to dedicate to those who have suffered from interpersonal violence. There was discussion about contacting the sub-committee that original came up with the Park Master Plan to run this idea by them and the surrounding neighbors before settling on a location. We don't want to lose the focus of this garden or the focus of the Memorials located in the park. Jeff Johnson made a motion to contact the Horace White sub-committee to discuss these issues at the next Parks Commission meeting to be held in November seconded by Carol Mankiewicz. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Consideration and appointment of a new Chairperson for the Commission.** Chad Larson nominated Mark Preuschl to remain Chairperson for the Commission. Chad Larson made a motion to approve seconded by Jeff Johnson. Motion passed unanimously. Chad Larson nominated himself to be the Vice Chair for the Commission. Sheila DeForest made a motion to approve. Seconded by Mark Preuschl. Motion passed unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Correspondence-** Therese Oldenburg and Chad Larson are incumbent for a term ending September 30, 2017. The Teen Center Task Force Committee will be holding their first meeting on October 9, 2014 at the Boys and Girls club at 4:30 pm. This is an initial meeting to develop and program for Teens at Risk.
- B. Parks Report-** Attached for Committee review.
- C. Horticulture Report-** Attached for Committee review.
- D. CIP Funds/Projects-**
- 1) **Hinckley Park:** There have been problems with fraying of the east and west side cables so the Zip-Line swing was removed. There is a design flaw with this unit but once a replacement part is available, it will be corrected. The suspension bridge in the Lower Level of Big Hill Park needed to be re tightened. It's normally three to four feet off the ground but right now it has no suspension and is just lying there.
 - 2) **Townview Park:** The new playground has been completed and is open for play.

- 3) **Big Hill Park:** The new pedestrian bridge across Goose Creek has been completed. It is now open from the north-side of the bridge to Walter's Road.
- E. **Recreation Report: September's Program Report-** Will be attached with next month's packet. Was not available for review this month.
- F. **Miscellaneous-** The Wisconsin Parks & Recreation State Conference is going to be held at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells, November 4-7, 2014. The Director as well as the supervisory staff will all be in attendance at this annual educational conference.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTS

- Sheila De Forest- Was contacted by Jerry Murphy. He states that a lot of families are going to Floral Lawns to bury their loved ones and wanted to give the City a heads up. Sheila suggests we take out an ad that compares the rates of the City to those of Floral Lawns to show the community the difference in pricing. Brian states that all of our information is on the City Website and available for all citizens to view. Floral Lawns is a private entity as the City is not. There was discussion about Floral Lawns getting to families before they have a chance to decide between using the City services and Floral Lawns. Sheila would like to have further discussion about lowering our initial fees and prices to reflect those of Floral Lawns in another meeting and add this to an agenda in the near future.
- Chad Larson- The Ice Rink opened last night. On October 18th and 25th there will be free skate held. There will be 5 invitational tournaments going on with 6 teams per tournament also there will be a 2015 Midget State Tournament.
- Mark Smullen- Talked about social media and how he thinks it would greatly help the Parks and Recreation department if they could advertise more of what's going on in the City. Sonya Baden puts stuff on Facebook but there are limitations to what can be done. Mark offered to point her into the direction of people who could help her get more information out there.
- Jeff Johnson- Attended the Goose Creek opening. He's really excited about how the park has been opened up for bikers.
- Carol Mankiewicz- None
- Mark Preuschl- Is stunned by the reuse of playground equipment and using old tunnel slides in the Dog Park for them to play in and Big Hill is looking good.

ADJOURNMENT

Chad Larson made a motion for adjournment; seconded by Carol Mankiewicz. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Travia Foy.