

**PARKS, RECREATION, AND CONSERVATION ADVISORY
COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES FOR
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2015
DPW OPERATIONS CENTER
2351 SPRINGBROOK COURT, BELOIT, WI 53511**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeff Johnson, Carl Lange, Carol Mankiewicz, Therese Oldenburg,
Mark Preuschl

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chad Larson, Anthony Stewart

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS: Brian Ramsey, Director of Parks & Leisure Services
Greg Boysen, Public Works Director
Sheila DeForest, City Council

GUESTS: John Pfleiderer, Family Services

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mark Preuschl at 6:35 p.m.

REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 12TH, 2015 MEETING

Mark Preuschl made a comment about the entry gates in Vernon Park and would like to modify and make them look nicer sooner than the master plan scheduled. Carol Mankiewicz made a motion to approve the minutes as amended seconded by Carl Lange. 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 as proposed and presented by Beloit Family Services.** John Pfleiderer, Executive Director of Family Services was in attendance again to review the design and location for the Remembrance Garden in Horace White Park. A design plan from Angus Young was provided showing the construction of a Pergola which will be the central focus point of the garden. Family services is donating the garden and paying for the installation of all materials. He is looking for the support of this project by the Parks & Recreation Commission. Construction details have been provided and the area has already been staked out. The entranceway would be facing south and grading work needs to be done. This is a good location and more trees can be planted. Depending on the number of plantings it could end up being between \$3500 and \$5000 according to our horticulture staff. A different retaining wall could also be built. The decision has to go through the Landmark Commission before it makes it to Council. Fundraising will be done to help maintain this project. The Landmarks commission meets on the third Tuesday of each month. Brian will be speaking with Drew Pennington to see if this project can still be added to the agenda for next week. The committee that helped to design Horace White will also be contacted and shown the design plan before the project is completed. Lange made a motion to support this project and approve the general plan as submitted seconded by Jeff Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Review and consideration of the landscaping plan surrounding the Historic Plaque of Roy Chapman Andrews on Turtle Island in Riverside Park.** Brian handed out the correct design plan that has been approved by the RCA society. There isn't that much difference but the newer one will cost much less. This is an area in Turtle Island that will be spruced up and hopefully attract more people. There is a lot of shade on the back side but the plants will be ok. Landscaping will not exceed \$5000 and the RCA Society has agreed to fund the entire cost related to the landscaping project. The benches will be stone, similar to the existing seating wall around the telescope. We are currently trying to find out what the cost of the benches will be. Carol Mankiewicz made a motion to accept the concept as presented seconded by Carl Lange. Motion passed unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Attached for Committee review.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTS

- Jeff Johnson- How are we coming along with all the dead trees? The Forestry crew went out for a bid to get contractors but did get any bids so they will be breaking up the original RFP into separate parts. Friday will be the last "Music at Harry's Place" and the lighted Boat Parade will be after that. How is the Bike

Trail in Big Hill coming along? Brian stated that Andy Hill will be meeting with the contractors tomorrow and will get an update. Hopefully they will have enough funding to do the entire project at one time. Otherwise it will be separated out in sections. Brian will ask Engineering to attend next month and provide an update report.

- Carol Mankiewicz- Caught 53 turtles at Harpers Prairie over 2 days and caught 4 at the golf course.
- Mark Preuschl- Thanks Brian and everybody, the Dirty Dash was amazing. Thanks for taking care of Vernon Park issues.
- Sheila DeForest- The highest number of participants in the program for kids was at Vernon Park. It is a highly used park and it is really critical that we make it a high priority park. Special appreciation to Sonya on the Dirty Dash. The promotion was fantastic
- Therese Oldenburg- Out enjoying Big Hill Park, the overlook looks great. Lots of people stopped to admire it.
- Carl Lange- The Ride across Wisconsin went well. We don't know about doing it again next year, if so, it may be for two days. The earlier that we know the dates for next year; it will be easier to plan. Had BMHS annual local meet at Leeson's Park, it has gotten bigger so it will have to be run the way the Conference Championship was run and will also need more volunteers. Was walking in the SW corner of the Stateline Restoration Prairie noticed an area where the homeless gather. Brian stated that it is technically Illinois, and is a policing issue.

ADJOURNMENT

Jeff Johnson made a motion for adjournment; seconded by Carl Lange. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Travia Foy.