

**PARKS, RECREATION, AND CONSERVATION ADVISORY
COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES FOR
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH, 2016
DPW OPERATIONS CENTER
2351 SPRINGBROOK COURT, BELOIT, WI 53511**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeff Johnson, Carl Lange, Carol Mankiewicz, Mark Preuschl,
Anthony Stewart

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chad Larson, Therese Oldenburg

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

GUESTS: Kevin Kawula, Welty Environmental Center
Lena Verkuilen, Welty Environmental Center

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mark Preuschl at 6:30 p.m.

REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 13TH, 2016 MEETING

Carl Lange made a motion to approve the minutes as presented seconded by Carol Mankiewicz.
Motion passed unanimously.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

None

OLD BUSINESS-

None

Jeff Johnson made a motion to move New Business Item B in front of New Business Item A to
allow our guests to present first, seconded by Mark Preuschl. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS – ACTION REPORT ITEM

- A. Review and consideration of a proposal from the Welty Environmental Center to develop and maintain an Educational Garden within close proximity of the Big Hill Center-** Kevin and Lena were in attendance to present their idea to Commission about developing an Educational Garden within close range of the front entrance to the Big Hill Center. It would be a nice looking attraction. It would be nice to start off small and work around to placing the garden on both sides of the front instead of just the one side. This garden area named the Richard Newsome Educational Garden in honor of one of their founding members, and Emeritus Professor, Richard Newsome. The policy for naming Parks & Recreation Facilities has been shared with the WEC and was attached for the commission to view. Sheila made the suggestion that a proclamation be done when it gets closer to the time of reveal. Jeff Johnson made a motion to accept the proposal as presented seconded by Carol Mankiewicz. The next step of this process will be to go to City Council for review of the naming.
- B. Consideration of converting two (2) Tennis Court at Wootton Park to be appropriately striped and designated as a Pickleball Court-** Sonya Baden and Spencer Waite were in attendance to present to the Commission that they would like to add paint and additional stripping to the Tennis Courts at Wootton Park for Pickleball. They showed a video to the Commission of what it looks like to play Pickleball and what type of crowds are attracted to playing the sport. Pickleball has become quite popular with numerous residents over the past couple of years. In order to accommodate the growing number of players, the staff would like to consider converting two (2) of the Tennis Courts at Wootton Park to Pickleball courts. A revised estimate cost includes stripping and checking scaling of the courts at approximately \$4000 per court. Jeff Johnson made a motion to accept the proposal as presented including the stripping as well as sealing the cracks on the court seconded by Carl Lange. Motion passed unanimously.
- C. Discussion and consideration of potential projects as related to the development of the 2017 CIP Plan-** There was a highly active conversation about the potential projects of the CIP Plan for 2017. The Master Capital Plan was included in the packet again. The staff has reviewed and updated this list again and we would like to narrow down our requests to a maximum level not to exceed \$500,000. The request is that each Commissioner selects their top 10 priorities and we have a majority agreement as related to these projects. There was also a spreadsheet with Priorities 1, 2, and 3 laid out. Again, neighborhood parks was part of the conversation because none of them are listed on the priority project list. Just replacing playgrounds isn't the answer. It would be best to redo a whole park at one time instead of just replacing the equipment at each of them and leaving the maintenance part for later. This list will be finalized in April to be presented by May. Some members feel as if the human factor isn't being taken into consideration when these projects are lined up and put on the schedule. The POROS Plan is there for a reason and it addresses all parks, not just some of them. A list is constantly made of what needs to be changed and improved. That's why we have the Park's Tour Fewer and fewer members fill out our evaluation forms each year for the Park's Tour so it's hard to address concerns if they aren't brought to the fore-front. In conclusion, PARC members were requested to review the priority list presented by staff and rate their priorities

1-18 (1 being the highest priority). Hope Park Playground & fencing was added to this list. Each member turned in their priority list to Brian, he will review them to determine a collective score for each project and promote a new list with the PARC ranking levels next month.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Attached for Committee review.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTS

- Laurie Endres- Appreciates all of the comments. Will take the information back to the school district about having a student opening on the Commission.
- Jeff Johnson- None.
- Carol Mankiewicz- Finally went for a walk down the bike path at Big Hill Park.
- Carl Lange- None
- Sheila DeForest- Went to the Ice Arena and it feels warmer inside now. Viewed the locker rooms and other improvements. Looks good.
- Mark Preuschl- Wants to know if Turtle Island Playground got tagged or not. Brian will check to see.

ADJOURNMENT

Carl Lange made a motion for adjournment; seconded by Jeff Johnson. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Travia Foy.