

**PARKS, RECREATION, AND CONSERVATION ADVISORY  
COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES FOR  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2016  
DPW OPERATIONS CENTER  
2351 SPRINGBROOK COURT, BELOIT, WI 53511**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jeff Johnson, Carl Lange, Carol Mankiewicz, Therese Oldenburg,  
Anthony Stewart

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Chad Larson

**EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:** Brian Ramsey, Director of Parks & Leisure Services  
Greg Boysen, Public Works Director  
Marilyn Sloniker, City Council

**GUESTS:** Kari Champion, 2124 Linway Drive Beloit, WI 53511  
Sandra Kincaid, Co-Chair Women's Fund of the Stateline  
Community Foundation  
Sheila DeForest  
Mark Preuschl

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Jeff Johnson at 6:30 p.m.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 13<sup>TH</sup>, AND APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup> SPECIAL  
2016 MEETING**

Anthony Stewart made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting seconded by Carl Lange. Motion passed unanimously. Carol Mankiewicz made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 27<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting seconded by Therese Oldenburg. Motion passed unanimously.

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

Kari Champion was in attendance to address the concerns that she has about the Krueger Pool area and provided photos for the Commission to look over with her. She thanks everyone for all that they do. She recently started walking there, the stairs are really nice for exercise. The surrounding area is crumbling, there is some graffiti on the wall and there is water all over the place. A lot of things have been removed from the surrounding area. The baby pool, gazebo, and high dive aren't there anymore. She would like to know if there is anything that can be done to

fix up the area. Jeff Johnson mentioned that we will take this into consideration and informed her that we will be doing a tour of the westside of town parks this year and will have time to look at and address these issues then. Brian stated that the graffiti issue has been addressed and cleaned to the best of his knowledge. Because of the type of surface it is, it's hard to get it all out. Some corrections and improvements are in our Capital Plan. Many of the changes that Kari spoke about were already complete once he arrived to the City. Staff has tried to deal with some of the issues with the draining however, since it was a rock quarry once before, it's going to be hard to deal with the water issue.

**OLD BUSINESS-** None

### **NEW BUSINESS – ACTION REPORT ITEM**

Jeff Johnson made a motion to move Action Report Item B in front of A so that Sandra Kincaid could do her presentation seconded by Carl Lange. Motion passed unanimously.

- B. Consideration of an Outdoor Art Exhibit to be displayed in July in Riverside Park Presented by Sandra Kincaid, Co-Chair Women's Fund of the Stateline Community Foundation-** Sandra was in attendance to present. In the packets there is a little background on the concept of what is trying to be accomplished here. The goal is to display an outdoor Art Exhibit in Riverside Park. The display is currently in Racine, WI and will be moving along to other various locations including Riverside Park if the approval and support is given from the Commission. The City Manager is on board with this concept.

Other cities are far ahead of us when it comes to this cause. The state has decided to make a mandate to approve services for trafficking victims. Most of them are children who are 12-13 years old when they are being recruited. Their family members are sometimes the ones that get them started into this lifestyle. Carol Mankiewicz asked Sandra if she has seen the Art Exhibit and is it appropriate for small children; and yes, she had. The impact is in the artwork and not the words that are on the paintings. The location of the exhibit would be on the south side of the Rotary center close to the hanging baskets along the steps that lead to the upper area . The subject matter of the artwork is very vague so it would be hard for small children to understand. The focus of this display is to help bring awareness to the community. She passed around photos to show the commission examples of photos that may be shown at the exhibit. The plan is to put the display out around July 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> and leave it up for about 3 weeks. Jeff Johnson asked if there would be something there that would say "this is sponsored by women's fund? Yes there will but haven't decided exactly where it would go and what it's going to say but there will be something physical there so show who the sponsor of the exhibit is. She has spoken with Bill Barth from the Beloit Daily News about doing an article before the exhibit is shown. On the opening day of the exhibit we would like to have a bigger opportunity with all of the people involved such as the City Manager, Community action, and others. Therese Oldenburg made a motion to approve and support the special event to

be held in Riverside Park seconded by Carl Lange. Carol Mankiewicz opposed so the motion was not passed unanimously.

- A. Consideration and appointment of a new Chairperson for the Parks & Recreation Commission-** Jeff Johnson brought up a little discussion about how the Commission works and a new list should be created for the member directory. The term ends in September and we should know when everyone's term is up. It is understood that a person can serve two consecutive terms and if they are finishing the term of another member it is possible that 2.5 terms will be served for that individual. Therese Oldenburg nominated Jeff Johnson to be Chairperson for this term seconded by Carl Lange. Motion passed unanimously. Anthony Stewart nominated Carl Lange for Vice-Chair seconded by Jeff Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.
- C. Review and consideration of the proposed schedule for the annual Parks Tour-** This year the west side parks will be viewed. We will meet at Krueger Haskell Golf course at 5pm and start the tour from there. Jeff suggested that everyone takes a look at our POROS plan for this year and for next year in order to save time on the tour so that it would be possible to make it through the whole thing before dark. Brian indicated that the schedule is tentative and flexible based upon the input of the Commission as the tour moves along. Carl Lange made a motion to approve the schedule seconded by Anthony Stewart. Motion passed unanimously.
- D. Review and consideration of projects proposed for the 2016 CIP Plan-** We voted on this back in April and since then, as we prepare the documents to be submitted to Finance, we found a small math error. Our original budget went from \$505,000 to \$565,000 and Brian just wanted to make the Commission aware of that. He mentioned that maybe considering eliminating an item from the list could bring that total back down. Since this plan was developed we've had a fence contractor come out and review our fence structure around the pool. The fence repairs can be made for much less than \$100,000 and still get another 20 years out of the fence before other repairs may be needed. Jeff Johnson made a motion to approve the 2017 CIP Proposed Project List with the modification of eliminating the pool fencing seconded by Carl Lange. Motion passed unanimously.
- E. Discussion and consideration related to potential long-term use and/or purpose of the old Bath House building in Turtle Creek Park-** Brian provided the commission with more information regarding the Old Bath House which was built in 1938 and last surveyed in 2005. More information can be found by going to the Wisconsin Historical Society website. The Friends of Turtle Creek Park met in January of 2001 to talk about the upcoming master plan for Turtle Creek Park. Lack of funding is probably the reason that nothing ever took off from these meetings. An itemized list of park improvements and cost estimates added up to \$857,000. The pool cannot be resurrected but what is an alternative use for the bath house? It may be able to be repurposed to some extent but the Commission is trying to find out in what way. The question is where do we go from here? Brian suggests that a new plan would enhance the park. If we added a shelter and provided space for parking, it would have everything that groups look for as far as renting

goes. There are a lot of things there for kids to do. The park has ability to become something. Brian also suggested memorializing a facade of the facility and recognizing it for what it was is an idea. Anthony thinks it should be refurbished or kept up and other African American families could have a chance to voice their opinions. The question came up as to whether anyone was able to contact any of the original people from the group that was formed years ago. Brian indicated there is a list of people who were involved and he knows that some of them are deceased but the list could be used to foster up another meeting. This all comes down to if we are going to focus on the Bath House or the Park. This is a landmark building and the clarification needs to be made about what can and cannot be changed to Landmark buildings. Mark Preuschl made a point that the Bath House had to be sealed because of being used by the homeless who were sleeping inside of the building. Carol Mankiewicz has always envisioned it as being a shelter but the police may not like that idea because they will have to monitor more closely. Therese Oldenburg made the suggestion that we hold a listening session similar to what is done for the park playground equipment selections and see who shows up to bring their input. Brian recommends that a consultant is the one to facilitate a meeting like that. He would be more than happy to assist but a consultant should be the one facilitating it. Jeff Johnson believes that we need to put out the opportunity for someone to take over this project. Sheila DeForest suggested that we get in contact with all the African American churches, organizations that serve African Americans, schools. Get the people who this is important to all together to come to a conclusion on how to approach the Bath House. Brian will speak with Julie Christiansen Planning Director, Community Development; we need to verify if the park is a landmark or the building? Also we need to reach out to the Historical Society to see what information can be received from them. We will keep this on the agenda for next month, and follow up on it.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Attached for Committee Review.

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTS**

- Carl Lange- None
- Carol Mankiewicz- None
- Therese Oldenburg- Works with the Rock River Trail initiative, the official launch will be next year June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017. It will be national trails day and will be held in Beloit/South Beloit. We are the only national water trail that crosses the Stateline. Will be working with other groups around the area. Will be attending the Child of Nature Network in St. Paul. Is also involved with Friends of Turtle Creek group and helps clean bridges. Will have first meeting in June. Students from Whitewater will be paddling from there to Beloit with probes on their

kayaks to monitor the Rock River on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Also signing up to monitor the Turtle Creek.

- Anthony Stewart- None
- Marilyn Slonker- Excited to be on the Parks & Recs commissions. Loves our parks and grew up playing in them. Meeting with Alex Morganroth tomorrow and may be able to help out with information with the Landmarks Committee.
- Jeff Johnson- Was at the boat launch, and sees the posts are put in for the Pickle Ball courts. Brian stated they will be done soon. The Stateline YMCA with the Wisconsin Bike Federation is doing a share and be aware program on June 4<sup>th</sup> at 9am. For people who want to step into biking but they are afraid. There will be a slow ride through town.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Carl Lange made a motion for adjournment; seconded by Therese Oldenburg. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Travia Foy.