

Parks & Recreation Committee Minutes

Date: June 8, 2010
Time: 8:30am
Place: J.P. Coughlin Building – Volunteer Room (Room 601)
625 East County Road Y
Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901
Present: Parks Committee Members – Chair Jerry Finch, Vice Chair Tom Konetzke, Secretary Travis Swanson, Don Miller, Mike Norton
Also Present: Winnebago County Executive Mark Harris, Winnebago County Parks Department Rob Way, Winnebago County Parks Department Loren Dieck

1. Call to Order – Meeting called to order at 8:30am by Chair Finch
2. Approval of May 3, 2010 and May 27, 2010 Minutes – Chair Finch called for a motion to approve minutes. Mike Norton moved to approve, Don Miller seconded. Motion carried 5-0
3. Public Comments – no public present
4. Discussion of Racetrack Contract Issues – Rob Way talked about the racetrack contract. Mr. Way proceeded to describe the issues at hand. The first issue involves payment of the electric bills. The amount of payment is arrived at by Parks each year late-in-November-early-December Parks and a subsequent invoice is put together in order for Impact Motorsports to be able to reimburse the County. A dispute is ongoing about additional charges that Impact Motorsports begs-to-differ-with. The second issue deals with the contract terms for the subsequent agreement. Currently, the contract has grandstand users paying approximately \$2,000 per year billed on a per event basis; not including “special races”. It was suggested that under the new proposal the fee would become fixed instead of per event and include all overhead costs encumbered by the Parks Department. During the discussion Mr. Way noted that because the department now has the ability to determine the exact storm water fee associated with the racetrack premises, the invoice amount would jump from the approx. \$85/per event (\$1,870 in `09) to upwards of \$4,700/6 month period starting in `11. That amount would go up annually depending upon what yearly adjustment is applied by the City; estimated amounts \$5,397/6 month period in `12 and \$6,323/6 month period in `13. A committee member asked staff to report on improvements that the racetrack promoters have been made to the grounds and Mr. Way and Mr. Dieck indicated that while the racetrack promoters had been involved with projects on the premises they were improvements focused on addressing the needs of Impact Motorsports; no ancillary benefits were realized outside the racetrack operations.

County Executive Mark Harris talked about an issue the promoters had brought to his attention during a recent meeting involving their drawing of water from an Expo fire hydrant to water the track. They are supposed to be taking water from a nearby retention pond however they have said that the pond needs dredged so they it does not dry up. Mr. Way indicated that the issue at hand deals with the breaking of City code whenever the Parks allows the promoters draw water from the hydrant in lieu of the retention pond. He added that the hydrant also becomes a problem to monitor since the draw is taken-off of both sides of the fixture and there is only one

meter available to keep track of the volume used; this creates a problem from a billing perspective. Mr. Way finished by stating that the department has restored the 2" service in the front of the grandstand as per the contract; the 2" will replace the hydrant. Executive Harris mentioned that we should consider a contract less than 5 years. He also mentioned that we are responsible for the storm water fee whether the structure is in use or not and that having the promoter using the facility helps off-set some of those fees. Loren Dieck said that the pond was designed exclusively as a run-off basin that would catch the storm water coming from the racetrack area. By virtue of how the racetrack operates, the clay inevitably gets deposited within the racetrack storm water drainage system as well as onto the surrounding roads. He added that the pond is doing its job in picking up the sediment and that is why it may require dredging in order to increase its storage capacity. Executive Harris mentioned that the initial contract was entered with the County knowing that it would be losing money, but it went forward with the intent of keeping racing alive in Winnebago County, however, the goal was to eventually breakeven or perhaps turn a profit. Mr. Way was then asked to appraise the committee on the status of what was being brought-in by the racetrack operation vs. County expenses. Mr. Way responded by indicating that the County's overhead is greater than what it takes in from the promoters.

5. Determine Standing Policy Regarding Options for Parks Concessionaire to sell Malt Beverages within Community Park – Mr. Way discussed that we have a vender that is interested in selling malt beverages near the ball diamonds in the evenings. The individual thinks it would be a good revenue and is asking for permission to sell via the Parks sponsorship/licensing program. Currently, malt beverages are allowed as carry-in into the parks but are not allowed to be sold. Mr. Way indicated that there would not be much more than \$500± in monetary benefit for the County and the operation would more-or-less be considered a "service or amenity" available to the public. Current ordinance says no glass bottles are allowed in Community Park. Mr. Way mentioned that there may be some favorable affect through the contract if it diverted persons to the can beverages she would sell rather than the bottled type that park users tend to carry in with them.

There was discussion about the potential for underage drinking, '... if it happened who would be liable?' Would it be the County for contracting for the license holder? Executive Harris said there is likely a degree of government recreational immunity for cases like this if the government is not involved in the direct sale. Mr. Way asked if the committee would consider giving a consensus as to whether-or-not it supports allowing the sale of malt beverages by venders in Community Park. Mike Norton made a motion to allow sale of class B beverages and food concessions in Community Park in areas designated by contract as a trial run expiring the Tuesday after Labor Day 2010. Cigarette sales prohibited. Seconded by Travis Swanson. Motion carried 3-2 with Jerry Finch and Don Miller voting nay.

6. North County Dog Park Update – Mr. Way met with Bob Pfeifer the property owner of the area we are considering near the intersection of County Road CB and County Road II (Winchester Road) in the Town of Menasha. The committee had been informed that vehicle access could not be developed off of County Road CB and all access to the park would have to be done via Oakview Drive. The adjacent residents at 1612 Oakview Drive have expressed concern about the traffic volume through their dead end street if the County moves forward. Mr. Way reported that Mr. Pfeifer has put forth a suggestion that, in order to reduce this conflict, he would be willing to provide additional property that would facilitate an access to a site off of County Road CB and he

would assist with the cost including a turn lane off of County Road CB. However, there is an outstanding issue dealing with the ability to develop an access point off of CB.

The committee also discussed the idea of considering the property that it recently toured near the intersection of Oakridge Road. While a separate portion of the property contains pulp mill contaminants it might be acquired at no cost. Members would like to discuss with the owner the possibility of taking only the eastern portion of the property and not the contaminated section.

7. Parks Director's Updates: Winter Navigational Aids Special Committee Update – the Winter Navigation Aids Special Committee made a recommendation that buoy 100 be deactivated when the other buoys are pulled out and re activated when they are put back in. The subsequent June 16th meeting is likely to have the final decision made on whether-or-not to recommend that a winter navigation aids program be put into place for the County's sections within the Winnebago Lake Pool.
8. Committee Chair Updates – (none)
9. Committee Member's Updates – (none)
10. Staff Updates – Loren Dieck mentioned that he welcomed any questions the members might have about the GSI intern.
11. Future Agenda Items: Policy Statement Regarding Buoy 100's Role as a Boater Navigation Aid
12. Next Meeting Date – July 13, 2010 at 8:30am
13. Adjournment – Chair Finch called for a motion to adjourn. Travis Swanson moved to adjourn. Don Miller seconded. Motion Carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:45am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Travis R. Swanson
Secretary, Parks & Recreation Committee