

## PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Name of Commission,  
Board or Committee: Parks & Recreation Committee  
Date & Time of Meeting: Monday January 4, 2010 at 2:00 P.M.  
Place of Meeting: Coughlin Building (Volunteer Room)  
625 E. County Rd. Y, Oshkosh WI

Present: Jerry Finch, Mike Norton, Nancy Barker, Arlene Schmuhl, Tom Konetzke.  
Also present: Rob Way, Vicky Redlin – Winnebago County Parks Dept.

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Finch at 2:00 p.m.. All present.
2. Approval of October 30, 2009 & December 1, 2009 Minutes – Chairman Finch called for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 30, 2009 as well as the December 1, 2009 meeting. A motion was made by Nancy Barker to approve the minutes of the October 30, 2009 and the December 1, 2009 meetings. Mike Norton seconded. Motion passed 5-0.
3. Public Comments - none
4. Old Business: Discussion of Dog Park Options in North Section of County – Chairman Finch indicated that he would like to resurrect the north county dog park feasibility topic and that it had been a subject that the county and several of the nearby municipalities had been involved in researching some time ago. Several members then proceeded to fill the committee in on the history of the research that had been done and the ground it covered. Nancy Barker described how the need for a dog park has existed in the northern communities of the county for some time and that part of the problem with acquiring a site has been the issue of people not wanting to travel any appreciable distances to get there. Chairman Finch added that his constituents very much want a dog park and believe that locating a site is long overdue. Discussion then ensued regarding what would make a suitable site and mention was also made of what would make a site “impractical”. Rob Way replied to Mike Norton’s subsequent question about ‘what makes for an adequate size facility’ by stating that the Community Park site is approximately 9 acres in size and is barely sufficient. He added that along with the dog park itself, any site that might be considered must also take into account the need for at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  - 1 acre of parking and for the access routes needed to support the lot. Mike Norton proceeded to express his concern over the issue of how to pay for acquiring and maintaining a new dog park. Chairman Finch went on to provide information on what he would like to see for an approach to the subject. He then stated that he had already contacted the Clerk Treasurer’s office and left a formal request that the department contact the Parks Department anytime that an adequate size property on the north end of the County might come-up that was being foreclosed upon. Tom Konetzke mentioned that he would like to see the land donated if at all possible and that perhaps the option of having the naming rights might help attract a sponsor. Nancy Barker then pointed-out a concern over the unlikelihood that anyone would be interested in donating land because of the extremely high value of any of the property that can house this type of programming. Arlene Schmuhl asked about what particular action the committee is supposed to take on this item and Chairman Finch responded by indicating that he was inclined to think that the municipalities should considered meeting again to go over the topic. Tom Konetzke responded by providing that he felt that it was important to keep on this topic. No action taken.

5. Capital Improvement Needs within Parks System – Community Park – Rob Way went over the capital improvements needs for the Winnebago County Community Park in a similar fashion as the presentation on the Expo Center at last month's meeting. A list of items was included in the committee members' packets. A few items noted were; outdated lighting system, (can a bond issue for a lighting conversion for both Expo and the Park take place over multiple years?), road system upgrade request submitted again for 2010, lighting system and road system as a joint project, and the tennis court redo submitted in 2010. Rob Way also updated the committee on the consideration for a small size restroom with attached shelter overhang to be installed at the south end of park in the newer area soccer field complex. He also mentioned that the typical course of action for these types of projects is to invite the clubs to come in and split the cost of the project. Other items on the list were minimally discussed. The committee would like staff to prioritize items for the March meeting after hearing a presentation on capital needs for the nature areas, boat landings and trails.
6. Parks Director's Updates: none
7. Committee Chairman's Updates: No word as of yet from the Town of Clayton on the wording for the Public Enemies commemorative bench.
8. Committee Member's Updates: - Arlene Schmuhl reported that Discover WI will be doing a segment in February and she is working on getting the WIOUWASH and the dog park submitted as a portion of the segment. Also she questioned the Picnic Point project's status. Mike Norton reported on the formation of the beach ad hoc committee and the first meeting that took place 12/29/09. He stated that the next meeting will take place 1/18/10 at 3:00 p.m. with another meeting scheduled for 1/27/10 at the same time (2:00 p.m.).
9. Staff Updates: none
10. Future Agenda Items: public comment items on agenda only, picnic point, update on marketing/branding of parks, capital needs for nature areas, boat launches and trails.
11. Next Meeting Date – Feb. 1, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.
12. Adjournment – Chairman Finch called for a motion to adjourn. Arlene Schmuhl moved to adjourn. Mike Norton seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned 4:10 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,  
Vicky Redlin  
Asst. Expo Mgr.