

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

DATE & TIME: April 10, 2014 @ 8:30 a.m.

PLACE: JP Coughlin Center
Volunteer Rm.
625 E. Cty. Rd. Y
Oshkosh WI 54901

PRESENT: Parks Committee - Jerry Finch, Mike Norton, Tom Konetzke, Harold Singstock. Absent – Chuck Tews.

ALSO PRESENT: Rob Way, Vicky Redlin, Loren Dieck – Winnebago County Parks Dept., Harrison Sturgis – Town of Neenah resident, Ernie Winters – Cty. Hwy. Commissioner, Emily Dieringer – ReThink, Guy Hegg – County Board.

1. Call to order –Chairman Finch called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m..
2. Approval of Minutes from March 13, 2014 Meeting – Chairman Finch called for a motion to approve the March 13, 2014 meeting minutes. Tom Konetzke moved to approve the minutes. Harold Singstock seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
3. Public Comments – Harrison Sturgis, 167 Rockwood Way, Town of Neenah, commented that he was disappointed to see no representation from Town of Neenah or Menasha staff at the meeting that took place on April 8. Ernie Winters stated that he is here to present on item #9.
4. Approval of 5 – Year Oshkosh School District Recreation Department Softball Diamond Lease Agreement – Rob explained that this lease was first initiated about 28 years ago and was in effect for 25 years, then 5 years, and is now coming up for another 5 years. The shorter term was implemented to be able to account for any changes within the park that may have an effect on a longer term lease. There are no major changes to this lease. There is a concession clause that is new and allows for ORD to have concessions sold during their events. That clause has been approved by Corporation Counsel. Tom Konetzke moved to approve the lease. Mike Norton seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
5. Discussion of EAB – Rob went over where the Parks Department has been and is going regarding EAB. There was a meeting held over a year ago, which was well attended, with WDNR where area municipalities were invited to learn about the infestation and opt to join together to form a plan. This group did not follow through with a county-wide plan at that time. Consequently the Parks Department looked to partner with Arborjet as a sponsor to inoculate 90 trees within the park and expo at no charge in exchange for a meeting space and erection of a sign describing EAB for public information. This inoculation has been tested and proven to be 98% effective over 3 years. After 3 years Parks staff would be trained to re-inject the trees if necessary with a minimal cost for the product. That agreement was voted down by the County Board. Since then the Facilities Department has applied for and been awarded a grant from the U.S. Forest Service to do a tree inventory of county properties. According to the facilities department head the bid for hiring a consultant to perform the inventory would be a tiered approach taking the office buildings within the city of Oshkosh and Neenah first, then the Community Park, and finally the hwy. roadways and recreation trails. The inventory would include species, condition, age, and treatment options for all trees with an emphasis on ash. It is expected that the second tier involving the Community Park stands a 50-50 chance of being included in the contract. A very timeline for completion of the survey by the paid consultant isn't set but a fall or winter finalization could be expected. The expo has had all its trees mapped with GPS though the park has not. This was done using an intern from UWO a few years ago. Guy Hegg would like to form a committee to address this issue county-

wide. He will take the info gained at this meeting and pursue that avenue with the contacts mentioned from UWEX and WDNR.

6. Capital Budget Transfer – Rob explained that the truck and mower purchased from this year’s capital budget came in under the budgeted amount and the chipper came in over. Therefore a transfer is needed to cover the additional costs for the chipper from the savings on the truck and mower. This is a capital outlay transfer within the department’s budget so it does not have to be approved by the Personnel & Finance Committee nor the County Board. Chairman Finch noted that the agenda does not specify that approval is being sought. Rob contacted the Corporation Counsel’s office and was told that the committee can vote to amend the agenda to incorporate approval of the transfer and go ahead with the item. Rob was also instructed to double check with Corporations Counsel the next week to make certain as to the correctness in following this process. Tom Konetzke moved to amend the agenda to include “Approval of . . .” in the wording of Item #6 on the Agenda. Mike Norton seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Tom Konetzke moved to approve the transfer. Mike Norton seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
7. Update on Status of Tribal Heritage Trail as well as Setting of Date and Time for County Board’s Proposed Tour of Facility – Chairman Finch reported that he has discussed the possibility of a County Board tour of the Tribal Trail with the County Board chairman and it was decided to discuss potential dates at the May 8 parks meeting and then invite the County Board to attend on the date decided upon at their next County Board meeting. Supervisors would have to rsvp in order for parks to plan for use of golf carts.
8. Approval of Parks Run/Walk/Roll Policy Requirements – Rob went over the application and administrative directive included in members’ packets. This is the formal information that was mentioned at the last meeting. A permit will be put together for each approved event and the administrative directive will be attached to it as exhibit C, as is done at the expo. Tom Konetzke moved to approve the administrative directive policy for run/walk/roll events within the community park and recreation trails. Harold Singstock seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
9. Approval of Resolution to Support and Fund a Future Budget Appropriation for a Wisconsin DOT `14 - `18 Transportation Alternatives Program Grant – Ernie Winters and Emily Dieringer described the TAP grant application for funding to provide a map of the areas’ bike and pedestrian trails and plan for additions and connections to those trails as construction takes place. Such a document would not only help for future planning but would alleviate extra steps currently necessary for construction projects. The first phase of the approval process has taken place and has been approved. The second phase if granted will require County Board approval. The grant is 80/20 split. Tom Konetzke moved to approve supporting and funding a future budget appropriation for a TAP grant. Mike Norton seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
10. Review of April 8th Public Input Meeting – Rob and Chairman Finch reported on the meeting held April 8th regarding a north county dog park to gauge public support. There were approximately 28 attendees. Rob also reported that after talking with the DNR a written statement absolving the county of liability for any future incidences regarding the current landfill site property is not possible. Mark Harris had requested such a document be supplied before any offer to purchase the property was made. Mr. Harris has not yet been informed of the DNR’s position as it was just obtained within the last 48 hours. Any further negotiation regarding the property currently under consideration is pending notice to Mr. Harris of this decision.
11. Parks Director’s Updates: Breezewood Property Update; Memorial Day Weekend Hmong Festival; Community Park Road/Shared Use Path Project Update; - Rob

reported that the Breezewood property is going per schedule, the well has been capped, the asbestos has been abated and a permit stating that the Town of Vinland's permit for razing the building was being obtained. Demo is tentatively set for the week of April 21st but is weather dependent. The property cannot be burned due to the unknown aspect of all the material within the building which could be hazardous if ignited. The delay in razing the house and the subsequent county cost(s) associated with performing the work came about because a Brownfield grant was originally in the works to fund the demo and after the current governor took office the Brownfield program was discontinued for municipalities and only given to private entities. Another year was lost because the agency that took over the grant program again encouraged the Parks Department to re-submit the application. Ultimately, the grant process met a deadend. Unfortunately, the delay that was brought about in trying to do all of this meant that another budget cycle had to go by before the department could set aside the funds required to do the work. The Hmong Assoc. is still undecided on who is the president of the organization and is awaiting a court case to determine that position. Currently both entities have signed the contract for the Memorial Day Hmong Soccer Tournament and are awaiting approval of the special events permit from the city of Oshkosh. The road/path project is going as per schedule, notifications have been sent to park users, and the media has been informed as well as notices in the ORD book, the Scene, the parks newsletter, website, and Facebook pages and flyers in kiosks will be put up as soon as the park road opens for the season April 11.

12. Committee Chairman's Updates: Chairman Finch reported that he will be facilitating the formation of a north county dog park committee to meet initially April 29 or May 5. This committee will then be tasked with site location and fundraising for a north county dog park once they have a board elected. County Board Chairman Albrecht has been asked to officially open the racing season at the Speed Zone as Chairman Finch is unavailable.
13. Committee Member's Updates: Harold Singstock stated that any northern dog park committee must eventually demonstrate very strong support for such a facility in front of the County Board. Tom Konetzke noticed that the TAP resolution has an issue with line 27. Rob will notify Emily to remove the word 'hereby' to clarify the verbiage.
14. Staff Updates: Vicky stated that a groundbreaking for the road/path project will be taking place during the week of April 21st when the hwy. dept. has a large backhoe on site. This is going to be weather dependant so she will keep members appraised as to the specific date and time.
15. Next Meeting Date: May 8, 2014 at 8:30 a.m..
16. Next Meeting Agenda Items: dates for County Board tour of Tribal Trail
17. Adjournment – Chairman Finch called for a motion to adjourn. Tom Konetzke moved to adjourn. Mike Norton seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned 10:27 a.m..

Respectfully Submitted,
Vicky Redlin