

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

DATE & TIME: July 2, 2015 @ 8:45 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, Brady Kiel, Guy Hegg.
ALSO PRESENT: Rob Way, Vicky Redlin, Tom McInnis – Winnebago County Parks Dept..

1. Call to order – Chairman Finch called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m..
2. Approval of Minutes from June 8, 2015 – Chairman Finch called for a motion to approve the June 8 meeting minutes. Tom Konetzke moved to approve. Brady Kiel seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
3. Public Comments - none
4. Discussion and possible Approval of User Fee(s) as Applied to the Community Park - Chairman Finch introduced the subject by stating that he had made sure to invite the County Board to attend and give their opinion on user fees within the parks. No one has come to this meeting or any of the previous meetings where the user fee topic has been on the agenda. This topic was a result of a few comments by 3 or 4 supervisors at the November 2014 budget hearings. Rob went over the latest addition to the user fee packet that has been revisited several times in the past. Rob noted the necessity of accounting for the possible ill will that can be generated by a user fee that does not provide for the betterment of the facility often expected by a patron. He added that it was up to the members to decide if the estimated amount of revenue to be gained by one or both of the new permit fees being proposed will be worth the added scrutiny that will be generated from the users. Mike Norton stated that if we do not have enforcement from 7am to 11pm daily year 'round that he will not support a fee. Brady Kiel stated that he is reluctant to charge a fee to OYSC as they provide a tremendous amount of support for the facility as per Leslie Burns' presentation at the last meeting. Discussion followed of what type of fees should be looked at, how enforcement would take place, what would need to be included in any resolution that is set to become a County ordinance, and the administrative costs involved. Said discussion took into consideration disc golf, archery, and the dog park. Guy Hegg made a motion to send a resolution to the county board regarding instituting a user fee for the dog park, disc golf, the multi-sport court, RC Boaters, and archery of \$2.00 per person per day or \$15.00 per person per year with those 15 years old and under exempt. Brady Kiel seconded. Jerry Finch stated that he was in favor of charging organized groups for using specified areas that would not allow them to be used by others ie. a tournament. He also questioned if fees would cover costs. Vicky Redlin reminded that it has been her experience as well as that of other parks departments across the country that were included in a recent online chat that sponsorship suffered when user fees were instated. Since there are many improvements desired that would benefit from sponsorship that could be a long term problem. Chairman Finch suggested that each member put together their own resolution for consideration at the next meeting. Vicky Redlin asked that the issue be settled quickly as there are several funding sources that she will be pursuing now that the road/path project is finished. Guy Hegg withdrew his motion. Brady Kiel withdrew his second.
5. Highlights of Parks Proposed `16 Budget – Rob went over handouts of the highlights of the 2016 budget which includes a budget neutral elimination of 4 seasonal positions along with curtailing of various other expenses in favor of a full time parks caretaker. Currently

- there are safety and logistic issues only having one full time parks caretaker. Since losing 2 positions several years ago preventive maintenance has been compromised and projects put off due to lack of qualified individuals to undertake them. There is also the tremendous job of invasive species control that must be done including EAB. Without another full time parks caretaker it will not be possible to begin to take-on either the invasive species problem or the issues that are soon to be raised with the coming EAB. Rob went on to point out that he is submitting a request for a new Toolcat to be included in the budget with the trade in of an older Bobcat, as well as a starter playground structure for shelter #2.
6. Approval of Resolution Allowing for Submittal of Grant Applications Dedicated to Acquiring Full Funding for a Canoe-Kayak Launch/Fishing Pier Installed at Asylum Point Park – Brady Kiel moved to approve. Tom Konetzke seconded. Motion carried 4 yeas, 1 abstain Guy Hegg.
 7. Parks Director's Updates: Community Parks Road/Shared Use Path Project Update; After-hours Seasonal Patrolman - paving is finished and backfilling is underway. Signage and landscaping will follow. Seasonal worker is patrolling various sites and doing some project tasks to provide a presence during off hours.
 8. Committee Chairman's Updates: Will be requesting \$100,000.00 be put into budget for north area dog park. He also went through the park and noticed for one of the first times the absence of ruts that may perhaps be due to the new road/shared use path facilities. Also, he noted that numerous people are starting to use the path and that some of the people he has talked to about have stated that they love it.
 9. Committee Member's Updates: TK – approves of the idea to add the \$100,000.00 for 2016 budget to fund a north area dog park.
 10. Staff Updates: LIFEST Preparation – Vicky Redlin reported that the July newsletter is available on the website. The park map has been updated and is also on the web site. Lifest has begun initial set up, those planning on attending who wish to use a golf cart please contact her prior to arrival. There will be 3 groups touring the facilities during Lifest with the OCVB to ascertain how the grounds would benefit their future events. The Logging Congress has confirmed their convention at the expo for September 2016. Tom McInnis reported that there has been a lot of behind the scenes accomplishments undertaken that make a big difference in operations. There are several areas that have been cleaned up and the trails have been receiving many compliments. Also he will be putting together a list of facility maintenance projects that need to be undertaken in the future as well as preventative maintenance issues.
 11. Future Agenda Items: Approval of Updates made to Sunnyview Exposition Center Policy Statements a.k.a. Exhibit C
 12. Next Meeting Date: Request for meeting to be rescheduled for Thurs., Aug. 13 @ 8:45 am
 13. Adjournment – Chairman Finch called for a motion to adjourn. Guy Hegg moved to adjourn. Tom Konetzke seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned 10:55 a.m..

Respectfully Submitted,
Vicky Redlin
Program Manager