

## **PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

DATE & TIME: July 8, 2014 @ 3:30 p.m.  
PLACE: JP Coughlin Center  
Volunteer Rm.  
625 E. Cty. Rd. Y  
Oshkosh WI 54901  
PRESENT: Parks Committee - Jerry Finch, Mike Norton, Tom Konetzke. Absent – Guy Hegg, Brady Kiel.  
ALSO PRESENT: Rob Way, Vicky Redlin – Winnebago County Parks Dept., Ken Young and Kathy Casperson – E.S.C., Koby Schellenger – County Board Supervisor, Bill Roh – County Board Supervisor District #7.

1. Call to order – Chairman Finch called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m..
2. Approval of Minutes from June 11, 2014 – Chairman Finch called for a motion to approve the June 11, 2014 minutes. Mike Norton moved to approve. Tom Konetzke seconded. Motion carried 3-0.
3. Public Comments – Bill Roh stated that he is interested in the north county dog park presentation and would like to ask questions during that segment of the meeting. Chairman Finch indicated that this would be okay and that the committee appreciated whatever input he has to offer.
4. Detailing of Provisions Contained within Validated One Year Licensing Agreement with Vines & Rushes Winery – Rob Way explained that the contract is ready for County Executive approval, we are just waiting for an insurance certificate. Rob added that the department has typically gone with a one year term with these licensing agreements to start-out with and, if all goes well, a 3 – 5 year term follows pending committee and county board approval. He went on to go over the salient points highlighted in the copy of the one year contract provided in the committee members' packets.
5. North County Dog Park Presentation – Kathy Casperson and Ken Young presented on the work of the sub committee of the Friends of Winnebago County Dog Parks (FWCDP) on locating a north county dog park. Kathy proceeded to distribute material to the members pertaining to her presentation. She went on to explain that advertising has been done for public input about a north county dog park and properties that might be available. Results have been positive so far. Kathy went on to state that it is the sub committee's desire that once land is procured fundraising can begin in earnest with several grant opportunities pursued as well as identified donors; members of the sub committee hope to assist in those endeavors. Upon completion of Kathy's presentation Tom Konetzke asked Rob where things were at regarding potential properties. Rob proceeded to explain that the investigation has reached a point where an "exploratory meeting" has been scheduled for next week that includes involvement by Corporation Counsel. The information brought forth in the meeting will play a crucial role in determining whether or not the county will hereafter entertain leasing or purchasing landfill property in its land search/consideration process. Rob continued by explaining that included in this issue is the question of liability of former landfill properties as it relates to possible ownership consideration that could be given with a supposed change that took place 3 – 4 years ago in state regulations. Once things are made clear regarding these ownership/leasing liability matters the topic will be brought before the County Executive and Parks Committee for further review.
6. Approval of Forwarding of Request for North County Dog Park Presentation to be placed on County Board's August Agenda – Tom Konetzke moved to approve forwarding a request for the presentation conducted by Kathy Casperson of the FWCDP sub committee, to be made to the County Board at its August 19, 2014 meeting. Mike Norton seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

7. Approval of Resolution Demonstrating County Board Support of Efforts to Establish a North County Dog Park Site – Mike Norton moved to approve a resolution of support. Tom Konetzke seconded. Rob explained that unlike previous meetings where resolutions have come before the committee already made up, he decided not to put together a draft resolution yet as there are many variables to consider once next week's meeting has taken place. He added that in this case it would be particularly desirable to draw input from the members before putting the document together. He went over the points the members may want introduced into the resolution; these points included a few elements already displayed in documents provided by other local municipalities who are showing their support for a north county dog park. It is noted that the approved Winnebago County Open Space Plan includes mention of the need for establishing a north county dog park due to over use of the current park. Various committee members voiced their opinions on how important it is to focus on settling on a single candidate property in order to continue towards establishment of a north county dog park. It was added that once acquired via leasing or ownership, it is almost a given that the property will have to be developed in phases over a 2 – 3 year period. A \$100,000.00 appropriation would be requested in subsequent action as per Chairman Finch. Mike Norton moved to postpone approval of the motion until next month when more information is available for a draft resolution. Tom Konetzke seconded. Motion carried 2-1. Chairman Finch voted no.
8. Natural Way Presentation – Vicky Redlin proceeded to provide details pertaining to the establishment of the Natural Way area within the Community Park. She provided a description of the site location and the physical features located there. Vicky went on to list the improvements that will include: nature based education elements, Universal design, interactive play area, and examples of prioritizing sustainable outdoor habitat settings and due to the limited time left the Chairperson opted to continue discussion at a future meeting.
9. Overview of Proposed 2015 Parks Department Budget – Rob went over the hand-out on the budget highlights that were included in committee members' packets. The operational and capital projects portions of the budget are primarily static with payroll and benefits taking up most of the allocation available for increasing the Parks 2015 Budget. Therefore Rob presented the goals and objectives for 2015 and included details on what the intent and desired impact of each one would be. Lastly Rob explained the anticipated increases and decreases in the 2015 revenue projections.
10. Parks Director's Updates: Labor Day Weekend Hmong Festival – the parties involved in the Hmong Service Center dispute continue to be in court ordered mediation though as of yet they have not met. Community Park Road/Shared Use Path Project Update – there are still delays coming from permitting with the city and DNR but Rettler Associates is continuing to represent the county well in trying to expedite the respective approval processes. County Fair's Run or Dye Event – this event is being put on through the Fair and has to have a Special Events Permit issued from the city; the request is again going before the city's Special Events Review Committee on Thursday with Rob attending. Lifest Event Preparations – the expo grounds are saturated so parking is at a premium and camping is being consolidated onto hard surface areas where possible. Finally, Rob added that there has been a request from a neighborhood to the west of Community Park for an access into the park similar to the one required by the city for the apartment development going in just south of the Sunnyview Community Church. Rob indicated that he had just sent back a response to the requestor that included an explanation that the neighborhood would need to follow channels similar to that of the apartment developer which could possibly include acquiring funding for the path from within that particular neighborhood.
11. Committee Chairman's Updates: Chairman Finch reported that upon county board approval of a north county dog park site, fundraising should subsequently get underway.
12. Committee Member's Updates: - Tom Konetzke asked if the access path to the new apartment development will be maintained by the county. Rob put forth that sweeping

twice a year will be done and it will not be plowed in the winter. One other possible upkeep expense would be minor hole and/or crack filling perhaps in 5 – 7 years. Taking the sweeping as well as the future hole and crack filling into account, the budget is \$95.00 annually for upkeep.

13. Staff Updates: none
14. Discussion and Selection of Dates and Times for Committee's Monthly Meetings – Tuesdays and Thursdays were the days that were, for the most part, considered the best for scheduling of the meeting dates. It was decided to start with the first Thursday of the month at 3:30 p.m. and if there are too many conflicts then the last Tuesday or Thursday would be considered. The next meeting date will be August 7, 2014 at 3:30 p.m..
15. Next Meeting Agenda Items: Natural Way discussion, budget goals for 2015 continued discussion, north county dog park resolution for County Board approval.
16. Adjournment – Chairman Finch called for a motion to adjourn. Mike Norton moved to adjourn. Tom Konetzke seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned 5:45 p.m..

Respectfully Submitted,  
Vicky Redlin  
Program Manager  
Winnebago County Parks/Sunnyview Expo Center