

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

DATE & TIME: August 13, 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 Konezke, Guy Hegg, Brady Kiel – excused.

ALSO PRESENT: Rob Way – Winnebago County Parks Dept., Larry Lautenschlager district #19 – Winnebago County Board

1. Call to order – Chairman Finch called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m..
2. Approval of Minutes from July 2, 2015 – Chairman Finch called for a motion to approve the July 2 minutes. Tom Konezke moved to approve. Mike Norton seconded. Guy Hegg questioned if the wording in the minutes accurately reflected Tom Konezke’s remarks concerning item #9 and his backing of \$100,000.00 for a north county dog park. Mr. Konezke indicated that he stands by his original statement indicating support for a total of \$100,000.00 in funding for a north county dog park. M.C. 3-1 Guy Hegg voted no.
3. Public Comments – Larry Lautenschlager – asked about signage in the park and in particular the directional signage showing the location of Shelter #1. Rob responded by saying that many of the traffic and directional signs have not been installed yet however a sizeable portion of it is presently on order and some of it may have already arrived. ADA striping and cross walks have yet to be installed as well as transition plates. Concrete pads and concrete work for the transition plates and dumpster areas will be performed in September. Mr. Lautenschlager also indicated that he had concern over the rough condition of the area around the pavement near the Shelter #1 entranceway and how it could impact mobility impaired individuals. Rob noted that that area had yet to be paved and that Highway would be addressing it within the next 3 – 4 weeks. Lastly, Mr. Lautenschlager put forth that the lighting around Shelter #1 needs to be brighter. Rob followed-up by indicating that he will double check to see if the outdoor lighting around the shelter is working and then look into placing wall pack units on the exterior shelter walls. He added that installation of the wall packs might not take place until next year because of the painting that the crews will be doing at the shelters later this month and into fall.
4. Discussion of Outcomes Pertaining to County Executive’s `16 Parks Budget Review Meeting – Jerry Finch stated that the meeting went well, with a few cuts here and there. The majority of the proposed budget stayed in place. Rob added that he had explained to the County Executive the importance of acquiring the new caretaker position and how some of the cost of instituting it would be off-set by 4 seasonal positions being cut. Rob went on to address the advantages of having a full-time trained year ‘round position over a seasonal position where the County retains a trained/skilled person from one year to the next. Advantages of part-time, full-time and seasonal workers and the total number of Parks employed was discussed. Rob explained how Mike Collard, HR Director, was present during the review meeting and that he was in agreement that there was an advantage in having a full-time person versus what is being giving up in doing away with 4 seasonal positions. The account for water and sewer, which also facilitates the source of funding for paying of the Oshkosh Storm Water Fee, will be going up again next year. Besides having to accommodate the City’s usual increase, funds were also be increased in

order to address the likelihood of added City charges levied in response to the additional impervious surface(s) created as a result of the Community Park Road/Shared Use Path Project. However, the County Executive opted to cut the water & sewer back \$10,000 but also commented that he would support a budget transfer next year if the account came up short. Advertising got cut by \$1,000.00 for the entire park system to \$18,000.00. Types of advertising used in 2015 were discussed. Guy Hegg questioned the tie between the playground equipment going into the budget and the possibility of the county funding a north side dog Park. Jerry Finch stated he would not support putting in playground equipment unless something is going in on the north end of the county. Rob put forth that those in attendance at the Executive's budget review meeting seemed to come to a consensus that the budgeted amount would continue to be applied towards playground equipment for Shelter #2 however if a property came available for a north county dog park then it could be considered to repurpose the funding for that property instead of playground equipment. Early on, any effort to redirect the funding would have to go through the Parks Committee.

5. Final Tally of Committee Members Planning to Attend WPRA Conference in November – info is provided via Impact magazine which all members receive with their county membership in WPRA. First week in November 3-6, 2015 at the Kalahari in WI Dells. Forms can be filled out with Sue Ertmer to pay for conventions. Rob indicated that he would put together a summary of dates and email out the info to committee members.
6. Parks Director's Updates: Com. Park Project – Rob provided an update on the park project. He said he would be meeting with Hwy. today to go over what still needs to be done. Backfilling, seeding, some paving and ADA access routes, grading on south end hill, silt fence must remain until next year. Striping and speed bumps need to be installed. Rob went on to mention that although \$10,000 of tree plantings had already occurred out of the Parks operational budget during 2014 – 2015, he planned on using park project funding to replace the 55 trees removed for the project. He also pointed-out that this will also help to absorb the loss of ash trees to EAB in the future. Rob included a statement that made note of how well the park project was doing funding wise and because of this he was looking for Finance to give the okay to proceed with dedicating some of those funds towards finishing off the remaining lighting project in the south end of the park. Guy Hegg wants to have a written project update with monetary expense/balance levels at the next meeting. He went on to ask that the 2016 Budget numbers also be presented. Rob stated that between 85% - 95% of the project is finished and that approximately \$1.25 million of the \$2.1 million budgeted for the project has been spent. The remaining Hwy. expenses should come in at approximately \$500,000 - \$700,000; he will know more after discussing with Hwy. what needs to be done yet and what the possible costs may be. Given the above scenario, there could be as much as \$200,000.00 available to put in new lights in the south end. Getting an updated quote from the contractor who put in the lights on the north end of the park as well as having the project engineer draw-up a new set of specs will take up to a month or more. In the meantime Rob is hoping to hear back from the Finance Director on whether-or-not the available funds can be spent or if Parks will require Board approval to proceed. Rob finished by informing the committee that the Fair contract is up for renewal.
7. Committee Chairman's Updates: Lifest Observations – Good comments from those attending for the most part. "This is paradise" best quote gotten this year. Attended the fair as well. Fair attendees asked for more electrical and water hook ups. He supplied a list of comments from attendees of both events.

8. Committee Member's Updates: Guy Hegg mentioned that during the recent Facilities Meeting Chuck Farrey had made mention of the road conditions along Butler Ave and that he was going to talk to Hwy. to have it redone. It is officially a county road. Guy went on to mention conversation that was held during the Facilities Meeting and that it was suggested that Parks should go for the DNR urban forestry tree grant because Facilities got it last year. Rob pointed out that it continued to be his understanding that that particular grant was directed towards funding of municipal tree/forestry related planning efforts and not for the purchase of trees. Rob said he would investigate and get back to the Committee during the next meeting. Guy went on to mention that there was a sentiment that the various county entities should be more united on EAB (i.e. create a task force to tie all efforts together). He asked that EAB coordination be on the next agenda. RW again reiterated that Parks had recently spent \$10,000.00 for trees out of its operations budget and that another \$10,000.00 is slotted from the road project for Community Park tree planting. Additionally, Parks will continue planting in anticipation of 500 ash trees being affected in the Community Park with additional ones put over at the Expo as well. The removal process will not begin until an infection is confirmed by the UWEX arborist. Guy Hegg went on to play a voice mail message from a resident of Parkview Estates located on the south west side of the Community Park concerning the individual's seeming to take exception to the response provided by Rob about Parks' installing a paved path from his neighborhood out into the park; Dave Binder (sp?) was believed to be the resident's name. Rob acknowledged that Mr. Binder was likely one of the three people who had called the Parks Office about this request and that in each case he had responded by explaining that it was not something that Parks could do because of the situation that was playing out in the north end of the park where the developer of the large apartment complex that was going in next to the park was having to pay for the path that he was installing from his property line over to the new Shared Use Path (Cost - \$13,000±). Rob said that he explained to the parties that it would likely present a legal problem if Parks were to require the developer to pay for his path and then turn around and install a path for North Park Estates courtesy of the County; the developer to the north might have a case for questioning if the County were applying *unfair practices*. Rob went on to indicate that, contrary to what the person said in the recorded message, he did not tell him to take up a neighborhood donation but instead suggested that he contact the City to see if there might be a vehicle within its ordinances that would allow an assessment to be applied to the residents in that area for the purpose of putting in the path. Rob finished by saying that the path was installed by the City over a decade ago with no prior notification given the County.

Mike Norton asked if the lack of rain and the ensuing reduction in lawn mowing has benefited the Parks operations budget? Rob responded by stating no it did not have an impact on the operating budget. He added that even though there's been less mowing the department has simply switched gears and been able to dedicate resources towards getting more of the "smaller projects" done (i.e. rehab of the support walls and surfacing materials around the WIOUWASH bridges).

Tom Konetzke wanted the phone number of the local resident that had made the statements to Guy Hegg about the North Park Estates path. Guy indicated that the person's name is Dave Binder and went on to provide Tom Konetzke with the phone number.

9. Staff Updates: Fair – Did a good job of cleaning up.
10. Future Agenda Items: Budget changes for 2016 relative to the County Executive's Budget Review Meeting - highlight increases/decreases noted; written report on park project

progress 3 to 5 major portions and where the budget sits; review of item regarding the path to Parkview Estates with option available for potential action; discussion of tree grant application as well as option for forming a committee to explore options for dealing with EAB. Larry Lautenschlager interjected with a question directed at Rob in which he asked if the County Board hadn't already rejected the notion of using ash tree inoculation as a counter method for saving some of the Parks' ash trees? Rob indicated that yes, two years ago Parks had submitted a request to the County Board for doing tree inoculations in the Community Park that was tied into a company sponsorship arrangement. The Board did not approve the inoculation item that centered on treatment of a grouping of ash trees along the East Cnty. Road Y frontage at a significantly reduced price. A final item to be considered for next month's agenda is the September opening of the Shared Use Path.

11. Next Meeting Date: September 3, 2015 @ 3:45
12. Adjournment – Tom Konezke moved to adjourn. Mike Norton seconded. Carried 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m..

Respectfully Submitted,
Vicky Redlin
Program Manager