

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

DATE & TIME: September 4, 2014 @ 3:30 p.m.

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

PRESENT: Parks Com. - Jerry Finch, Mike Norton, Tom Konetzke, Guy Hegg, Brady Kiel.

ALSO PRESENT: Rob Way, Vicky Redlin – Winnebago County Parks Dept., Koby Schellenger – Winnebago County Board Supervisor District 13.

1. Call to order – Chairman Finch called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m..
2. Approval of Minutes of August 7, 2014 – Chairman Finch called for a motion to approve the August 7, 2014 meeting minutes. Tom Konetzke moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Guy Hegg seconded. Motion carried 3-0-1. Guy Hegg abstained.
3. Public Comments - none
4. Approval of Resolution Addressing Revisions made to Updated Five-Year Expo Rental Fee Schedule – Rob Way explained that a new five year fee structure for the Expo Center is necessary for future planning by promoters and those long term contracts which are coming due. An overview of competitive venues is difficult to ascertain as there are none that have all of the same amenities. Therefore those with similar amenities were used for price comparisons. The new pricing structure phases out the 15% multi-day discount over two years with no price increase. This discount was initially enacted to increase multi-day events and was intended as an incentive for events to locate to the facility, which is no longer needed. The following three years have a price increase of 2.5%, basically ½ of what was proposed and voted down by the County Board last month. When looking at the CPI (Consumer Price Index) for 1990, when the first expo pricing was approved, through 2013 overall inflation, including many ups and downs, has increased 102.25%. Pricing for durable goods, electricity, natural gas, storm water fees, and fuel have all increased over time and are all annual expenses for operation of the facility. The percentage increase between 1990 and 2013 for current expo pricing has been approximately 44% or less than half of the increase in CPI over those same years. Pricing has generally kept up with the competition without increasing fees to an unmarketable level in order to maintain and grow the client base. During the recent recession price increases were kept to a minimum in order to avoid losing events and the tourism revenue they bring in to the County as well as the rental fees charged. Chairman Finch asked that a print out of the current storm water fee total for parks properties be provided at the next committee meeting. Guy Hegg asked if a comparison can be made of expenses versus revenue for individual structures at the facility. Currently the Finance Dept. has just allowed use of account codes to break down expenses further so that individual expense/revenue per facility can be calculated. However, at least one year of data is necessary to establish a base line and another minimum of one year of data is necessary to establish a trend. Once these numbers can be calculated a full report will be made available for the committee. Tom Konetzke noted that some of the expo facilities are nearing a crucial time in their life span where after 20 years there may be major maintenance needs that need to be taken into consideration due to the age of the structure. Guy asked that an attempt be made to examine what events are not breaking even. Guy

Hegg moved to approve the expo fees schedule for 2016-2020 as revised. Tom Konetzke seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

5. Recognition of Funding Levels Associated with Donations made towards a North County Dog Park Facility – Chairman Finch explained the idea of funding levels for donors to a north county dog park. He noted that a designated fund strictly for construction and maintenance of a north county dog park would have to be put in place by the County Board. He would like staff to develop a marketing piece with donation levels for fundraising and asks the committee's opinion of this endeavor. It was noted that the County Executive instructed the Finance Director to allocate \$100,000.00 within either the reserve funds or the proposed parks budget for 2015 as good faith seed money for the project. This money would need to be officially approved in the 2015 budget and eventually earmarked to a designated fund for a north county dog park. Mike Norton asked if other parks departments do this type of fundraising themselves. Rob stated that typically a friends group, foundation or not for profit does this type of fundraising for other parks departments. Chairman Finch noted that this is a one time amount to be included in the budget and not carried over if the amount is not spent as intended. There are currently two sites under consideration and meetings are taking place with the County Executive, the WDNR and Corporation Counsel regarding the feasibility of each site as they are both former landfill sites. Chairman Finch asked that Corporation Counsel be asked to the next committee meeting to answer questions regarding the possibility of liability the may take on with possession of or lease of a former landfill site. Guy Hegg stated that he does not believe the county should be in the business of constructing and maintaining dog parks. He would like to see the current dog park expanded instead though there are some acknowledged obstacles to obtaining the land necessary adjacent to the park for such expansion and wet land issues with the WDNR must be addressed. Mike Norton stated that in his opinion fundraising should be left to the current friends' group subcommittee. Rob Way stated that he does not want to impede any progress the friends' group subcommittee has made thus far by changing fundraising procedures if possible. Chairman Finch then stated that the friends group should raise the money as they see fit and it will be put into a designated fund for future maintenance and development of a north county dog park.
6. Discussion and Selection of Dates and Times for Committee's Monthly Meetings – Discussion of committee members' availability took place. In order to have things approved prior to P & F committee approval the last Thursday in the month will not work. Committee members were again asked to bring a schedule of availability with them to the next meeting to decide once and for all when monthly meetings will take place by majority.
7. Parks Director's Updates: County Bike/Ped Route Planning, Community Park Road/Shared Use Path Project, Asst. Director Position – Rob stated that the county has received a TAPS grant to put together a bike/ped plan for rural areas beyond the plan that has been put together by east central planning commission linking to the county line and beyond. A steering committee is being formed with Hwy. Commissioner, Health Dept., Parks and ReThink and will begin meeting soon. The plan is expected to take up to 4 years to complete. The park road project has finally gotten a DNR approval permit however the city has not permitted the construction. Today trees were taken down to make room for the new road/path while a logging convention was doing urban logging demonstrations. This process was a great help to the project as there was no charge for what would otherwise be

an expensive element of tree removal. The assistant director position has not had a lot of applicants so the timeline for applications has been extended to September 18.

8. Committee Chairman's Updates: none
9. Committee Member's Updates: Mike Norton stated that Shelter #1 restroom was very messy when it was rented during the fair. Rob stated that the Run or Dye event that took place during the fair apparently used the restroom without permission and we were not made aware of this until after the fact. Once staff was notified they proceeded to clean up the area, though not in time for the event taking place earlier that day. Brady Kiel – none. Guy Hegg would like to know the options for expanding the current dog park. Rob will ask the OYSC to attend a future meeting to explain soccer field use and the areas that they program. Tom Konetzke asked if there have been any issues with Lifest. Vicky reported that though there has been a minor shake up in the Life Promotions staff the event this year ran smoothly and there has been no word to date of any cancellations for upcoming events.
10. Staff Updates: Vicky noted that the WinnebagoLand BMX recently hosted the WI State BMX Championships and the event was a big success. Also this month's Scene as a couple of articles on events and amenities within the parks department as well as our usual advertising.
11. Future Agenda Items: begin bringing in long term lessees for presentations, meeting dates of availability, DNR or Corporation Counsel for landfill liability questions, OYSC to explain use of soccer fields.
12. Next Meeting Date: October 2, 2014 at 3:30 p.m..
13. Adjournment – Chairman Finch called for a motion to adjourn. Tom Konetzke moved to adjourn. Guy Hegg seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned 5:13 p.m..

Respectfully Submitted,  
Vicky Redlin  
Program Manager