

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

DATE & TIME: October 2, 2014 at 3:30 p.m.

PLACE: JP Coughlin Center  
Meeting Room - B  
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 – Winnebago County Parks Dept., Larry Lautenschlager – Winnebago County Board District #19, Ken Olson – Winnebago County Board District #15, Harold Singstock – Winnebago County Board District #23, Tom Egan – Winnebago County Fair, Kathy Doyle – WQHA, Lance Treptow – AQHA, Diane Baier – WQHA, Douglas Baier – WQHA, Gwen C. Fresia – WQHA, Nikki Schultz – WQHA, WAQHA, NEWQHA, Matt Felton – UWES/4H.

1. Call to order – Chairman Finch called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. after a quorum was declared present.
2. Approval of Minutes from September 4, 2014 – Chairman Finch called for a motion to approve the September 4 meeting minutes. Brady Kiel moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Mike Norton seconded. Motion carried 3-0.
3. Public Comments – Tom Egan spoke on behalf of the Winnebago County Fair Assoc.. He thanked the committee for the opportunity to address the issue of the outdoor arena at the Expo. The fair uses this arena for its horse pull, which is considered a farm pull due to the horses not having a spiked shoe which limits tearing up of the footing. The fair would like to continue using the outdoor arena for it's horse pull as the pull was previously held in the grandstand and the people involved did not like that venue.  
Nikki Schultz – stated that it was her belief that the horse jumping and barrel racing were not the cause of the significant breakdown of the base in the outdoor arena. She stated that the patch attempt made earlier in the summer did not hold up. She also stated that these types of events have been happening at this facility for seventeen years. If the outdoor arena is not used for horse jumping and barrel racing it would not be feasible for her events to continue to program their events at this venue. She also opposes the idea of the PA system not being used for announcement to the barns. She would like the arena to be fixed and maintained for the future.  
Diane Baier – stated that she has been holding her events at the 'fairgrounds' since 1986. She stated that the covered arena shouldn't have been built if the outdoor arena was not going to be maintained as an arena usable for showing. She showed photos of the outdoor arena prior to her event with standing water from a recent rain. She also stated that her people evacuated the water from the outdoor arena on their own with no help from staff.  
Lance Treptow – stated that he as been involved with this facility almost from the beginning after its move to the Sunnyview site. He has met with Rob and staff on the problem with the outdoor arena base and drainage. He acknowledged that some uses have damaged the base though it is difficult to pinpoint what specific types of events did the damage over time. He understands that the county must set parameters that all users of the facility must live by but does not wish to have the horse jumping, barrel racing, and horse pulling eliminated from the facility. He stated that most facilities of this sort require a redo after 20 or so years and this one is that old. He also said that the original area where the facility is located was not the best area to have built an outdoor arena. He has not seen any evidence of drain tile at the site and the base is probably not anywhere near the 4 feet of gyro that was placed under the covered arena footing.  
Kathy Doyle – stated that if there is no barrel racing then there can be no horse shows.

4. Approval of Amendment to Expo User Guidelines – Exhibit “C” – Rob explained that coming from a liability stand point there is a broad range of activities that may or may not have compromised the base. Due to the fact that we know such an issue exists we must make every effort that the conditions do not deteriorate to such a state after the area is redone. There have been according to staff present on site, more high impact activities taking place in the outdoor arena over the last three to four years. Rob drew a diagram on the white board of the areas that he personally identified as having a solid base and areas where there was a compromised base with a depth of 8+”. Questions remain as to why these particular areas are compromised that correspond directly to the spots where these relatively new high impact events are taking place. Rob went on to state that the outdoor arena will be redone but the issue is what if the same thing happens again after the same types of activities have taken place? Lance Treptow commented that basically the ground is low there and there is no drain tile in place while horses following the same path continuously over time will cause compromise to the base. Rob stated that the cost of the redo will be somewhere in the \$15,000.00 to \$25,000.00+ range and the Hwy. Dept. will be doing it; Expo grounds maintenance funds will be directed towards the project. They will attempt to install drain tile but there is no guarantee that they will be able to due to the very flat terrain. Guy Hegg questioned where the events would go if they leave. Nikki Schultz stated that they would go to Dane County where the pricing for the new arena there is comparable. Vicky Redlin added that she had spoken to Dane County officials regarding pricing and using the formula given that a show in Dane County would cost approximately twice what is charged here. Nikki Schultz stated that they will receive several special discounts at Dane County and Kathy Doyle stated that the main difference was that here the event must rent additional stalls from an outside company for approximately \$12,000.00 which makes up the difference. Jerry Finch compared the arena base to that of a road where continual use by heavy equipment or frequent repetitive activities will compromise it over time. Chairman Finch also stated that in the end tax payers are paying for this facility as well as other parks facilities that they may or may not use. The facility in question is mainly used by one type of users though it does bring some economic impact to the Oshkosh area. Matt Felton from 4H stated that the 4H Horse and Pony group has been doing very well and has \$20,000.00 in the bank. Rob Way again clarified that the outdoor arena is going to be redone. Lance Treptow indicated that there are three types of events that are in question for the future. Some of these types of events require the accessibility of a practice area set up with jumps etc. for participants while other classes are being held in the covered arena. That is where the significant need comes from. It is also a great attribute to have the outdoor arena for general practice and warm-up. Brady Kiel asked if there was a way to allow these events once the area is redone. Guy Hegg stated that 4H doesn't pay for use and the other events are paying for their use. Rob Way stated that the PA system issue could be eliminated if the client does the pre-event walk through with staff, the PA system is then set to an approved volume and the area is locked and off limits to the client and show participants for the duration of the event. The problems stem from too many people having access to the PA system and trying to 'fix' a perceived problem. Mike Norton moved to amend item #11 in Exhibit C to allow the PA system to be used as previously with the client signing off on the set up and volume at the pre event walk through and not being allowed to access it once these are set. Guy Hegg seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Guy Hegg moved to amend item #9 taking out 'horse jumping, barrel racing, and horse pulling'. Mike Norton seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Tom Konetzke arrived 4:50 p.m.. Item #10 will remain as is with staff looking into breaking up the hard surface prior to events. Mike Norton moved to approve the exhibit C as amended. Guy Hegg seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
5. Update and Discussion of Park Road Project – Harold Singstock had requested this item be put on the agenda for today's meeting. Rob reported that the weather has played a big part in getting started as well as delays from the WDNR and City of Oshkosh in permitting requirements. Currently the road expansion base work is done. The staking and grade setting is taking place for roundabouts and intersections as well as parking lots. The path is 2/3 complete with the base in. The electrical contractor has been installing wire for the lighting. The lights will go in with 36” high cement bases to alleviate the problem of vehicles hitting them and knocking them over. There will be four electrical services

(circuits) for the various sectors. The milling of the roadway should start next week with build up of the base to follow. If asphalt can be done prior to the plants closing for the season the path will be done first; Rob noted that the delay in paving may be favorable because it would allow the base to settle and compact over the winter. Finishing the project may end-up extending into April or early May of 2015. Harold Singstock indicated his dissatisfaction with the administration of the project in the way it failed to anticipate the difficulties that were come with the permitting process.

6. Selection of Day and Time for Committee Meetings – committee members each submitted their preferred day, and time on a slip of paper. Vicky Redlin tallied up the slips and there were three for first Thursday at 3:30pm (or 3:45 pm on one), one for Tuesdays at 6pm and one with the question of ‘when was it’ (*when did the meetings take place in the past*). The three votes for the first Thursday at 3:30pm prevailed with the compromise of going to 3:45 pm.
7. Parks Director’s Updates: Asst. Director Position, Boat Landing Projects – Interviews will take place next week for the open position. Someone should be on board by the end of October. The Asylum Point boat landing work has been done, the Boom Bay lot does not need repair so the money that was budgeted for that will be put towards the back parking lot at Eureka. Butte des Morts will have the ramp fixed and ditch line cleared-out within the next three-to-four weeks.
8. Committee Chairman’s Updates: Chairman Finch reported on a phone conversation with Rob and the representative from Glatfelter regarding the northern dog park. Any decisions regarding liability of the former dump site and issues of lease or own must be approved by County Executive. There will be a future meeting set up with all parties to go over these for a final time.
9. Committee Member’s Updates: Mike Norton asked if Rob had gotten answers for the criticisms that were brought by Tom Egan at the last County Board meeting. He asked that a comparison of other facility pricing be provided at the next meeting. Tom Konetzke asked for clarification on the amendments to Exhibit C, which he received. Guy Hegg stated that he has an issue with the minutes where it was stated that he wanted to expand the existing dog park. He stated that it should be understood that he was talking about the money that is being spent on the roadway and path project being diverted to include an expansion of the current dog park. He also would like a report on options for expansion of the dog park at the next meeting. However, Thursdays at 3:45 pm will not be convenient for him. Brady Kiel none.
10. Staff Updates: Vicky asked the committee members to check out the work done in the park on the road and path. It is very exciting and she has been receiving favorable comments from many people.
11. Future Agenda Items: options for expansion of current dog park, pricing comparisons for expo
12. Next Meeting Date: November 13, 2014 (due to WPRA conference) at 3:45 pm.
13. Adjournment – Chairman Finch asked for a motion to adjourn. Mike Norton moved to adjourn. Brady Kiel seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned 5:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Vicky Redlin  
Program Manager  
Winnebago County Parks