

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

DATE & TIME: November 12, 2015 @ 3:45 p.m.
PLACE: JP Coughlin Center
Parks Department Volunteer Rm.
625 E. Cty. Rd. Y
Oshkosh WI 54901

PRESENT: Parks Committee - Jerry Finch, Mike Norton, Tom Konetzke. Brady Kiel – excused. Guy Hegg – arrived approximately 4:10 p.m., departed approximately 5:05 p.m..

ALSO PRESENT: Rob Way, Tom McInnis – Winnebago County Parks Dept., Lyle Conrad- citizen.

SUBJECT MATTER OF THE MEETING

1. Call to order – Chairman Finch called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m..
2. Approval of Minutes from October 8, 2015 Chairman Finch called for a motion to approve the Oct. 8 minutes. Tom Konetzke moved to approve. Mike Norton seconded. Motion carried 3-0.
3. Public Comment Relevant to Items on the Agenda – Lyle Conrad will address his letter to the department in the next item.
4. Address Citizen Letter Concerning Boat Landing Issues – Lyle Conrad provided input on his letter regarding landscaping at the Community Park, weeds close to the roadway at Asylum Point Park, road repairs at Asylum and Grundman/Osh-o-Nee and weed removal at boat landings. Mr. Conrad asked for consideration in having Parks include in the literature it hands-out to persons purchasing a boat launch sticker, a statement urging that whenever boaters use the landings they bring a rake along to help pull the aquatic weeds out of the ramp area and push them off along the sides. In response the committee indicated that it would like Rob to ask Corporation Counsel how prudent it is to encourage the citizenry to bring rakes with them to the boat landings in order to voluntarily pull the aquatic weeds out of the launch area and locate them off along the sides of the ramps. Discussion of liability for volunteers raking at landings may be taken-up at the next meeting pending input from Corporation Counsel.
5. Approval of Army Corps of Engineers Lease for Long Term Placement of a Water Gauge Station at Lake Butte des Morts Boat Landing – Rob went over the basics of the contract which is similar to the one at Boom Bay. No problems or complaints have been received on the current Boom Bay gauge. Tom Konetzke moved to approve, Mike Norton second. Motion carried 3-0.
6. Approval of 5 – Year Winnebago County Fair Association Rental Agreement – not a whole lot of changes to this contract from the last long term contract. The perceived problem of what happens with the liquor license for the entire grounds during the Fair that would have the effect of temporarily negating the race track license, is a non-issue. Questions about the new agreement and clarifications ensued. Smoking versus vaping distinction, e-cigarettes are currently included in the City and County ordinances. Mike Norton moved to approve. Tom Konetzke seconded with addition of clarification regarding e-cigarettes. Motion carried 3-0-1 Guy Hegg abstaining.
7. Approval of Extending Available Funds within the Community Park Road & Shared Use Path Improvement Project towards Replacement of Outdated Road Lighting Fixtures present in the Soccer Complex Area – Mike Norton moved to approve. Tom Konetzke seconded. Rob indicated that there is upwards of \$400,000.00 left from bond issue going into 2016 to add the last portion of lights to be replaced along the southern area of the park roadway (\$200,000 is still needed to cover Hwy. Dept. costs). The light replacement project estimate came in at \$165,140.00 - all

inclusive. Rob noted that at the time the project was being proposed to the County Board the item wasn't included as we were trying to keep the total project cost under \$2M plus the project focus was on the upper 2/3rds of the Community Park. In addition, the lights in question were new in 1998 but unfortunately still matched the original park lighting installed in the late 60's; both the model and style of the light fixture and pole are now obsolete. Rob went on to say that it would be wise to make use of the bond issue overage now as these will need to be replaced sooner rather than later and if an altogether new bond is to be issued for the project in the future then it's likely that the cost of the new issue will invoke a higher interest rate as well as added administrative costs. Guy Hegg stated that he is in opposition to this project being included in the current project and to using the overage in the bond amount as described. He went on to describe how he would like to have the light replacement brought in as a separate project. In response to an inquiry by Mike Norton about what happens to the left-over pool of money from the bond, Rob put forth that he did not believe that the bond money goes back to the general fund. He added that he thought it was a 2/3 majority that would have to be acquired in order for the resolution to be approved by the County Board. It is Rob's belief that it may be difficult to get this project approved in the future as he feels there is a perceived period of time that probably should go by before again requesting funds for improvements in the Community Park. Jerry Finch would like a presentation made to the County Board to eliminate questions. Rob will approach the County Board chairman on whether it is appropriate to do a presentation to the entire County Board on this addition to the original project as it has already been approved and bonded for. Jerry Finch stated the committee's consensus to bring back this item next month after checking if P&F approval is necessary, and when and if a County Board presentation will take place. Guy Hegg left the meeting at this time – 5:05 approximately.

8. Approval of Transfer of Funds into Parks Travel Expense Account- Mike Norton moved to approve. Tom Konetzke seconded. 3-0 carried.
9. Parks Director's Updates: Rob reported that the race track contract is in the process of being finalized. The current operator will have a chance to accept the county's final offer and if rejected then a request for bids will go out for contracting of the race track operations. After research into other county track operations such a move is necessary to break even on facility expenses.
10. Committee Chairman's Updates: Jerry Finch reported on the WPRA Conference as one of the better conferences attended.
11. Committee Member's Updates: Mike Norton noted a resolution changing P&F approvals for changing a department budget from \$3,000 to \$15,000. Tom Konetzke – enjoyed the WPRA Conference, learned a lot and networked.
12. Staff Updates: Tom McInnis stated the he also learned a lot at his first WPRA Conference and is looking forward to the new parks caretaker position being filled.
13. Future Agenda Items: presentation on addition of new lights on south end of the park using left over bond money from the current project, corp. counsel input on volunteer raking of boat landings, 2016 project priorities list, race track contract update.
14. Next Meeting Date: December 10, 2015, 3:45 p.m., due to conflicts with other meetings, etc..
15. Adjournment – Chairman Finch called for a motion to adjourn Tom Konetzke moved to adjourn. Mike Norton seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned 5:20 p.m..