

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

DATE & TIME: December 4, 2014 @ 3:45 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, Brady Kiel. Excused – Guy Hegg.

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

1. Call to order – Chairman Finch called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m..
2. Approval of Minutes from November 13, 2014 – Chairman Finch called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from November 13, 2014. Tom Konetzke moved to approve the minutes. Mike Norton seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
3. Public Comments - none
4. Discussion of Park User Fees – Chairman Finch stated that he asked for this item to be put on the agenda in response to comments made by Supervisors during the County Board budget hearings regarding the Parks operating under a deficit. The pricing structure for the Neenah Parks Departments was passed out along with some information about Menasha Parks. Tom Konetzke reported on what Menasha Parks charges for soccer fields and baseball diamonds. Rob went over how the current Community Park Use Permit policy works. ORD does all programming at baseball diamonds along with lights, maintenance of the infield, score boards and announcer's towers for both diamonds. This is a 5 year contract with first right of refusal. Parks mows the outfields, takes care of the warning tracks and bleachers. For rugby Parks mows the grass and once per year supplies some extra garbage barrels for a tournament, when they rent shelter #3. At the soccer complex we mow, clean the restrooms which are open daily, and supply extra garbage barrels for tournaments. OYSC schedules fields, uses the soccer shelter for concessions and storage, lines fields, supplies goals, patches fields where needed, and fertilizes fields. If other groups do soccer tournaments they are charged for rental of shelters in relation to the size of their tournament. They are held responsible for fencing and extra garbage dumpster and porta-john needs. For a large Hmong tournament Parks revenue can add up to \$3,200.00 to \$4,000.00 however a good deal of administrative time goes into assisting and monitoring them. The Omro contract with their athletic association was passed out for reference. The information on Winneconne fees is all on line, though they basically run their own programs and everything is team fee based. Mike Norton stated that he is not in favor of fees in general but a trail fee might be appropriate in the future. However how would individual fees be enforced? Rob stated that as a possible alternative to obtaining more revenue through use of fees it may be better to counter the notion that the Parks Department does not account for its impact on the tax levy by having staff put together an economic impact presentation for the board to show what is generated in actual tax as well as tourism dollars. Staff has already begun to work with the OCVB on the project and there is a possibility that a presentation could be done sometime in late spring. As an FYI, Rob indicated that the current impact for parks on the levy is about \$1,000,000.00. Tom Konetzke stated that given the \$1,000,000 shortfall any increases in fees with the Parks system would likely not make much of an impact as far as the levy goes. Rob stated that charging fees will also raise expectations for users. As a consequence, sizeable portions of the revenue that would be gained would be expected to go back into the related facilities

- for high end upkeep and quality improvements. Additionally, there would be increased expectations for strong enforcement of the fee requirement(s). Consequently, a sizeable portion of the fee revenue would need to be redirected towards creating and maintaining policing efforts. Chairman Finch asked for members to come to next month's meeting with thoughts for a consensus from the committee as a whole on whether or not to pursue user fees.
5. Parks Director's Updates: Update on Expo Economic Benefits Report – as already discussed above. Next racetrack contract will not be involving facility the promoters having to share in conducting repairs due to aging facilities. Staff is proposing a 2.5% increase as board approved for expo fees. Mark Harris will have to weigh in on their request for Saturday practices which he has previously denied.
  6. Committee Chairman's Updates: Chairman Finch reported that Mark Harris will still be negotiating with Glatfelter on the property for a northern dog park. He also suggested that all committee members take advantage of their WPRA membership.
  7. Committee Member's Updates: Mike Norton commented on the Scene article regarding the difficulty to use city parks for events. He also would like the parks newsletter distributed to board members, and is looking into developing a marketing program for the county as a whole. Brady Kiel – no report. Tom Konetzke stated that he supports Mr. Harris continuing negotiations with Glatfelter and the development of a northern county dog park. He would like a breakdown of pavilion rentals from 2014 for the next meeting.
  8. Staff Updates: Vicky Redlin reported that she will be working with the OCVB on an economic impact statement and presentation in the coming months with a spring deadline.
  9. Future Agenda Items: user fees, pavilion rental breakdown.
  10. Next Meeting Date: January 8, 2015 @ 3:45 p.m..
  11. Adjournment – Chairman Finch called for a motion to adjourn. Brady Kiel moved to adjourn. Tom Konetzke seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned 5:25 p.m..

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