

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

DATE: May 2, 2013

PLACE: J.P. Coughlin Center
Meeting Rm. A
625 E. Cty. Rd. Y
Oshkosh WI 54901

TIME: 8:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Parks Committee - Jerry Finch, Mike Norton, Tom Konetzke, Harold Singstock and Don Miller.

ALSO PRESENT: Rob Way and Vicky Redlin, - Winnebago County Parks

1. Call to order - Meeting called to order by Chairman Finch at 8:30 a.m..
2. Approval of Minutes from April 11, 2013 Meeting – Mike Norton moved to approve the April 11, 2013 minutes. Don Miller seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
3. Public Comments - none
4. Discussion of North County Dog Park Proposal – Rob Way reported that the meeting with the Town of Neenah board and planning commission was moderately attended. A presentation of all three options including dollar amounts, for a dog park was given stressing partnership with the other municipalities in the area. A question and answer session followed the presentation. Some of the questions asked included, ‘what is in it for the Town of Neenah?’ and ‘why does the County want to build a dog park?’ Only one of the three option that were presented would be selected and not the entire 72 total acres that all three of the options added up to. There was a suggestion by a town supervisor to buy the property rather than enter into a long term lease. This presentation was designed to show the possibilities and give cost estimates and was intended to open a dialog with the Town. The town chairman is putting together an ad hoc committee to look into the development of a dog park with the County and surrounding municipalities. Rob stated that in running the numbers based on the acreage buy back or \$12,500 for each property, the numbers are as follows: for the 18 acre site \$11,000.00 annually excluding interest, the 17 acre site would be \$10,000.00 annually excluding interest and the 41 acre site would be \$25,000.00 per year excluding interest; the proposed lease was for approx. \$5,000.00 per year. Assuming that the \$5,000.00 amount that Parks was original going to put towards the annual lease payment would now instead go towards an annual mortgage payment, an additional \$5,000.00+ would needed to come from a source(s) outside the Parks Department ; the Parks budget could not accommodate a depletion of \$10,000.00 without overburdening its already limited resources. These estimates don’t take into consideration the other municipalities costs for maintenance such as mowing and snow plowing which all had hoped would be donated from those entities. However the other municipalities can’t commit budget amounts for upcoming years until a budget for their municipality is set and there is a great deal more certainty that a deal for purchasing one of the Town Neenah properties is at hand. The parks department would also take on about \$3,000.00 annually in dumpster rental, port-a-potty rental, bags and other supplies. Public support is needed from those in the town who wish to have a dog park. Members of the Parks Committee who attended the Town of Neenah meeting indicated that a show of public support from the citizenry was lacking. The number of dog licenses issued in the Town of Neenah would be a good place to start to identify dog owners and possible users of a dog park. Projections were

distributed showing possible revenue if a permit program were instituted for users of the dog park. This option will incur more expenses as expectations will be higher due to the buy in of users. It was suggested that information on dog parks within the state and specifically within a 50 mile radius be studied regarding permits and usage. There is also a possible option of tacking on a small fee to dog licenses though much research on this must be done. It was decided by the committee to have Rob attend the ad hoc committee meetings and request a counter proposal for one of the sites. If there is no counter proposal or movement on the issue within one month then the sites will be dropped as contenders for the new dog park.

5. Breezewood Property Update – The environmental study has been completed through phase one and part of phase two. Rob will provide a brief summary of the study at the next meeting. Phase two must be completed before demolition can be done. So far there is asbestos within the floor tile only and can be removed by taking up the tile by a licensed contractor. There was no other asbestos found inside the buildings. The phase two study completion will focus on underground tanks. Those tanks must be analyzed to see what they contain and the contents disposed of properly. Jerry Finch proposed a resolution for the county board to consider to fund the final testing and demolition of the site. Mike Norton seconded. Rob explained that there is a grant program from the DNR that may pay for the clean up but if there's already a resolution to fund the project then the grant may be in jeopardy. He will make further inquiry with the DNR.
6. Parks Director's Updates: Ice storm clean up is progressing and almost finished. The DNR installed a new fishing pier at Asylum Bay and the Parks will be assuming maintenance responsibilities henceforth.
7. Committee Chairman's Updates: Chairman Finch reported that he has had remarks directed to him that the boat launch parking fee is used for general purposes. The boat launch fee is a segregated account that is only allowed use for boat launch improvements and maintenance of the launch area. Picnic tables, port-o-potties and other amenities at the landings such as lighting are not included in the items that the fee covers. Chairman Finch also asked for available dates to take the annual parks tour. A date of May 28 at 8:30a.m. was decided. Committee members will submit their wishes for sites to visit to Rob before that date.
8. Committee Member's Updates: Mike Norton asked if a mobile vendor has contacted Rob about setting up in the park. There has been no contact. He also asked how committee members can get into events. They are to show their county ID card as it is written into all contracts that county officials are allowed to visit during events. Don Miller announced that there is a plan in the works for a trail around lake Butte des Morts. He also has put his house up for sale and may be moving out of his district. Harold Singstock asked about the progress of the storage building. Rob stated that it is in Facilities hands and that with the shifting of Parks operations the department can get along without a new building as long as the current expo garage remains in usable. Mr. Singstock also asked if the committee was still planning on having an OPD officer come and talk about park security. He also asked when the CUP will be acted on for the racetrack hours extension. That meeting is set for the city on May 7. He also had comments on the five year open space plan but that will be discussed in depth at the June meeting. Tom Konetzke asked if the hills at the Y end of the park are being used. They just had disc golf baskets installed on them and are now part of an addition to the existing north GOLD COURSE of 12 holes.

9. Staff Updates: Vicky Redlin reported on the new WCP News bulletin that is available on the web site. It was suggested that the bulletin be sent to area parks departments, libraries, and all supervisors.
10. Next Meeting Date – Tour May 28, 2013 at 8:30 a.m.. and regular meeting June 6, 2013 at 8:30 a.m..
11. Next Meeting Agenda Items: agenda will be kept short for May 28 as tour is taking place. Committee members' requests for stops on the tour are to be in to Rob one week out.
12. Adjournment – Chairman Finch called for a motion to adjourn. Tom Konetzke moved to adjourn. Don Miller seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned 10:25 a.m..

Respectfully Submitted,
Vicky Redlin
Winnebago County Parks