

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

DATE: May 8, 2012

PLACE: JP Coughlin Center
Volunteer Rm.
625 E. Cty. Rd. Y
Oshkosh WI 54901
8:30 a.m..

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

ALSO PRESENT: Rob Way, Vicky Redlin – Winnebago County Parks Dept.,
Michelle Kennedy – FWCDP, Erik Heagle

1. Call to order
2. Approval of April 10, 2012 Minutes – Mike Norton made a motion to approve the April 10, 2012 Minutes. Motion was seconded by Don Miller. M.C.
3. No public comments
4. Update on Winnebago County Dog Parks Developments – Michelle Kennedy, president of the Friends of Winnebago County Dog Parks group provided information of the organization's recent activities. Michelle briefly described a couple of fundraisers they've had within the past couple of months. She also detailed the extraordinary efforts the group is putting into grape vine removal within the dog park. Jerry Finch complemented the organization on its success in improving the aesthetics within the facility. Michelle added that cleaning up the dog park grounds has changed the looks out there and given it a more functional and practical look. Tom Konetzki asked which look the typical person prefers out there and Michelle indicated that they seemed to prefer a rougher - - less pristine site. Michelle went on to present a summary of where things are at regarding the search for a north county dog park. The committee then proceeded to discuss options for acquiring any property that might be made available. Mike Norton then proceeded to ask about where the funding would be derived from to develop a north side dog park. Rob Way indicated that the majority of it would come through the group's fundraising efforts.
5. Lifest Updates – Rob Way provided the committee with an update on the upcoming Lifest event. His statements included:
 - The organization plans to make use of the pavilion to help in coordination of their parking operations;
 - There will be no conflict with soccer programming on Wednesday evening due to the heavy traffic load going into the south end of Community Park. OYSC has opted to cancel games for that day;
 - Lifest will be working again with the BMX people to integrate the track as a BMX demo area; and,
 - Parks is hoping that the crosswalk fixtures will be in place in time for Lifest. Jerry Finch reminded members that it would be a good idea for them to visit the Expo that weekend to see how the Parks Department interacts with these types of larger events
6. Approval of submittal of Grant Application to Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation for Site Remediation at Breezewood Road Property -

Rob shared the letter he received from the Town of Vinland asking for an update on remediation of the site. Grant possibilities were discussed. Rob will gather more grant info for a later meeting.

7. Development of an Itinerary for the Parks Properties Tour – The Parks Committee tour will take place May 29, at 8:30 a.m., encompassing the Expo and Community Park, possible dog park sites, boat landings of Rob’s choice, the BMX Clubhouse, the Pavilion and the Public Enemies kiosk.
8. Parks Director’s Updates: ADA – BMX Clubhouse improvements, pavilion update, listing of projects completed by corrections work crews - Rob gave an update on the improvements at the BMX Clubhouse incorporating ADA regulations. He also reported that the interior of the pavilion is finished and the first official rental is this coming weekend, rentals so far have exceeded expectations. The corrections crew was here for 2 weeks and prepared the barns for the season as well as doing a lot of brushing both at the expo and the area around the former beach pond. The County Board Tour will be going to Asylum Point and Picnic Point this year.
9. Committee Chairman’s Updates: none
10. Committee Member’s Updates: Mike Norton noted that he is hearing some radio advertising referring to the expo as the Winnebago County Fairgrounds. Vicky will contact the promoter and correct this. Mike also noted some vandalism to the softball diamonds and asked about OPD patrols. There has been some minor vandalism in the park but nothing significant, the OPD has been put on notice. Mike also asked if Rob had been consulted on the resolution passed by the County Board on trail development through the Hwy. Dept.. Rob has been mentoring Ernie on the projects that have taken place and the need for more as well as the various long range in place for trails. Mike commended staff on notification of the parks closure last week due to flooding. Harold Singstock noted the amount in the capital budget for an expo workshop for 2013. Rob explained that the entry was made before the various joint meetings regarding what is to be done about a facility. There has been no official notification, however Parks will be modifying the garage as necessary and will make do with what is currently in place by enforcing the OFD requirements. Tom Konetzke asked if there had been any inquiries about playing La Crosse at the park. No inquiries have been made. Tom also asked if the idea had been taken into consideration for moving the current dog park further to the east to reduce the flooding problem. He also stated that there should be a report from someone on the expo workshop/UWEX storage building regarding a finalization of the issue. Tom also asked if the Parks had a float for parades. The parks used to participate in the Christmas parade however it became too expensive to pay employees overtime to operate the equipment necessary to pull it.
11. Staff Updates: Vicky Redlin reported on the Tourism Breakfast from which she just arrived. Winnebago County is now 10th in the State for tourism dollars! She also reported that the Public Enemies kiosk sign is being printed and should be done next week.
12. Future Agenda Items: Mike Norton would like to discuss the future of the tennis courts.
13. Next Meeting Date - June 12, 2012 @ 8:30 a.m.
14. Adjournment – Ton Konetzke moved to adjourn. Don Miller seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned 10:23 a.m..

Respectfully Submitted,
Vicky Redlin - Asst. Expo Mgr.