

PARKS & RECREATION MEETING COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: May 12, 2011
PLACE: J.P. Coughlin Building – Volunteer Room
625 E Cty Rd Y, Oshkosh WI
8:30 a.m..
PRESENT: Parks Committee – Chair Jerry Finch, Vice Chair Tom Konetzke,
Mike Norton, Don Miller. Travis Swanson - excused.
ALSO PRESENT: Rob Way, Vicky Redlin, Bob Lohry – Winnebago County Parks
Dept.

1. Call to order – Meeting called to order at 6:30p.m..
2. Approval of April 7, 2011 and April 12, 2011 Minutes – Chairman Finch called for a motion to approve. Tom Konetzke moved to approve. Don Miller seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
3. Public Comments – Norm Elsinger, 1310 Ohio St., Oshkosh. Question on Oshkosh Dog Park. Will wait for item #4 to be discussed. No further comments.
4. Further Discussions Regarding April 7th North County Dog Exercise Area Public Input Meeting – Discussion with those in attendance. Rob Way summarized and provided an overview of the April 7, 2011 meeting and the need for a ‘friends’ group for fundraising and other items related to the creation of a north area dog park. Options are an informal group or a formal 501C3 organization. Michelle Kennedy, 708 Stillwell, Oshkosh stated that she has started discussions with an attorney to begin the process of starting a 501C3 group. Jill Haygood, 1350 Julie Ct, Town of Menasha, questioned why the county is not taking the lead on this project. Rob Way explained that the county has exhausted its resources in finding a site and that fundraising by the county would be an issue as well as budget constraints. Tom Bartz, 645 Belmont Ct., Neenah stated that he believes that citizen involvement is necessary. He questioned who negotiates for the property and who ultimately owns it. Rob Way explained that the county would do both negotiations and would own the land. The citizen group would help search for prospective locations and fundraise. Quin Ayers, 616 Grand St., Oshkosh asked if expanding the Oshkosh park is an option. Rob Way stated that it is the county’s belief that a northern area park is necessary to serve the northern end of the county. Kris Holbrun, 344 Oak St., Menasha asked if funding had been looked into to expand the road for 2 way access year round at the Oshkosh park as he doesn’t want to drive around the circle to get to the park in the warmer months. Rob Way explained that funding had been looked into and an engineering study found that the entire road must be widened in order to have any two way traffic. Funding has been denied for this in the past. Tom Konetzke stated that a north end park would be more convenient for those residing in the northern areas of the county and that many properties have been investigated without positive results. More discussion ensued with Rob Way explaining that he will provide guidance via a hand out on 501C3 organization. It was questioned if a sub group of the county could be formed ie. Dane County. It was reiterated that the county will not match funds raised at this time. George Moorcroft, 1078 Reed St. Neenah, Becky Ulrich, 901 Olive St., Oshkosh and Sara Otto, 1417 Monroe St., Oshkosh all expressed their support for a park and questioned how grants are dispersed. Rob Way stated that a 501C3 can apply for grants as well as the county from the state and DNR. At this time those interested in forming a 501C3 group adjourned to an adjoining room to discuss.

5. Acceptance of Green Lake Greenways' Donation towards Improvements on the Mascoutin Valley State Recreation Trail – Tom Konetzke moved to approve the donation. Don Miller seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
6. Discussion Pertaining to WI Dept. of Tourism's '10 Economic Impact Fact Sheet – Vicky Redlin provided an overview of the handout she provided from the state department of tourism and summarized the impact on the county of tourism dollars that was discussed at the morning's tourism breakfast which she and Rob attended.
7. New ADA Policies Applicable to Parks Department Facilities – Rob Way went over the new ADA policies regarding recreation areas. He went over the possible needs for each avenue within the department from boat landings to nature areas. Some questions will be answered at an upcoming meeting regarding trails with Greenways and the DNR. Chairman Finch would like this issue put in each upcoming agenda for updates.
8. Planning of Parks Committee's Summer Tour – June 7, 2011 @ 8:30 a.m. for Parks tour. Meet at Coughlin Center.
9. Parks Director's Updates: Trail Property on Breezewood, Trail & Com. Park Kiosks and Asylum Point Boat Landing Improvements – Rob Way stated that a Brownfield Grant will not be available for the Breezewood property clean up. The DNR will be directing its application more towards business interests who may require brownsfield clean-up help. Once the kiosk policy is approved by the County Board kiosks will be put up for soccer field closures and at the Public Enemies site. The DNR is moving ahead with the Asylum Point project and could possibly begin as early as mid-summer.
10. Committee Chairman's Updates: Chairman Finch stated that he and Rob Way are looking at a potential site for a north county dog park.
11. Committee Member's Updates: Mike Norton asked Rob to contact Tim Cook of Clarity Care regarding the erection of a Miracle Field at the park. He also noted the item in the Facilities minutes regarding the electrical and plumbing repairs on Parks property. Tom Konetzke reminded to send ideas for where the committee would like to visit during the tour to Rob. He also complimented the cleanliness of the expo building.
12. Staff Updates: Bob Lohry reported that the new nav lights led bulbs were much brighter but the new batteries were using a lot of water. Vicky Redlin reported that as far as she knew the HVAC project at the expo building should be finished next week. Also a light controller unit has been installed and will be programmed tomorrow.
13. Future Agenda Items: ADA update
14. Next Meeting Date: June 7, 2011 @ 8:30 a.m..
15. Adjournment – Chairman Finch moved to adjourn. Mike Norton seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned 8:25 p.m..

Respectfully Submitted,
Vicky Redlin
Asst. Expo Mgr.