

PARKS & RECREATION MEETING COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: August 9, 2011
PLACE: J.P. Coughlin Building – Volunteer Room
625 E Cty Rd Y, Oshkosh WI
8:30 a.m..
PRESENT: Parks Committee - Jerry Finch, Mike Norton, Don Miller, Tom
Konetzke, Travis Swanson.
ALSO PRESENT: Rob Way, Vicky Redlin, Bob Lohry – Winnebago County Parks
Dept..

1. Call to order - Chairman Finch called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m..
2. Approval of July 12, 2011 Minutes – Tom Konetzke moved to approve the July 12, 2011 minutes. Don Miller seconded. Mike Norton asked that the time listed be corrected to a.m. from p.m.. Motion carried 5-0.
3. Public Comments - none
4. Update Regarding Coordination of Efforts between UW-Ext. & Parks in relation to Development of the Proposed Expo Workshop – Rob Way discussed the proposed expo shop/UWEX storage building with Chris Kniep. The project has not been formally introduced to the UWEX committee. Rob and Chris agreed that this could and should be a joint project. The UWEX committee will tour the proposed site on August 18, 2011. They will first meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Coughlin Building and then adjourn for a tour of the proposed building site at the expo. The Parks committee will not officially meet at this time. If any Parks committee members wish to join the tour please contact Chairman Finch.

At this time Rob Way asked that item #8 be moved ahead so that a deadline can be made for items to be put on the County Board agenda . Mike Norton moved to address item #8 at this time. Don Miller seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

8. Approval of Resolution for setting of Community Park Pavilion Rental Rates – Rob Way provided a brief review of the findings of the Ad Hoc Beach Committee. It was recommended that the beach house be turned into a rental pavilion as the operational expenses and facility upkeep costs are such that it would require the Parks Budget be increased by a minimum of \$75,000 in order to start-up and run the beach in 2012. Each subsequent year would require that the Parks budget receive an added \$50,000+ in order to support beach programming involving a lifeguarding operation. Rob went on to state that if the building is dedicated as a pavilion there are few things that need to be updated inside and outside the building. There currently is money in the 2011 budget to address the dismantling of the outdoor shower access areas and turn them into sitting areas with picnic tables and awnings however the labor source from the Dept. of Corrections that Parks had counted on for performing the work will not be available in 2011. Enclosed in members' packets are comparisons of area rental pavilions. There is currently no comparable facility in the City of Oshkosh. Tom Konetzke stated that he likes the idea of renting out the facility. Travis Swanson stated that he spoke to Donna Lohry (ad hoc committee member) and stated that the public wants the beach to remain open as a beach. Rob Way stated that if the facility was turned back into a swimming facility life guards would be required. The previous supplement to operate the beach (with losses going back a number of years) is

\$40,000.00 to \$50,000.00 per season. Mike Norton questioned the amount of the security deposit required for all shelter rentals. Jerry Finch and Tom Konetzke objected to lowering the security deposit. Rob Way explained that the security deposit is per the director's discretion, as proposed in the ordinance change. Mike Norton moved to approve the rental rates. Tom Konetzke seconded. Motion carried 4-1. Travis Swanson voted no. Parks will review the rates after next year for needed adjustment.

5. Overview of Parks Proposed `12 Budget Submittal as well as the Inclusion of new ADA Policy related Items within – Rob Way went over the proposed budget for 2012. There will not be many changes from 2011 other than in the capital accounts. A handout was provided with the preliminary budget targets for 2012. The biggest items are for ADA compliance. Jerry Finch questioned if the amount employees pay towards their pension goes directly to WRS or is held in another account within the County Budget. Rob will check on where the money goes. Mike Norton requested more detail on the budget including billing of other departments for use of parks equipment. This will be taken up at another meeting. Rob described the replacement of the bleachers needed to comply with the latest ADA requirements. Current bleachers are not up to this code and also require replacement to meet IBC requirements. The operational budget will remain largely unchanged from 2011 with the exception of some minor account adjustments.
6. Discussion Pertaining to Updating of the Parks and Recreation Plan – Rob Way stated that this item is a preliminary discussion requesting direction for the update of the plan. There are several options including, hiring and outside consultant for which there is \$6,000.00 included in the budget, doing the update in house, adding the plan as an appendix to the county's comprehensive plan requiring permission from the planning dept., and using East Central Planning Commission for help with the plan. Rob will discuss with the planning dept. if an appendix option exists. Tom Konetzke commented that this is a very progressive department in anticipating the public's needs. Rob will report his findings from the planning dept. and East Central at the next meeting.
7. DNR Progress at Picnic Point – Rob Way provided an overview with a map from Steve Easterly of the WDNR showing the new plantings at the Picnic Point property. There are plans for a small parking lot on the west side of the property, and unspecified trail extensions and oak plantings at the ropes course area. DNR will work with parks on adjoining trails.
9. Parks Director's Updates: Park Kiosks Project – The kiosks have been received from OCI and they are very well done. The Public Enemies kiosk has been installed and the soccer field kiosks will be put in after the August Hmong tournament. The boat landing project undertaken in 2012 will be the Osh-o-nee landing parking lot extension and break wall repair. Rob attended the Waterways Commission meeting and a grant has been received for 40% of the project. It was noted that the Waterways Commission no longer has a standing contingency fund for future projects due to the new state budget. Specifically, monies must now be totally expended on projects in the current year otherwise the funds that are not spent go back to the State General Fund and further count against what the Waterways Commission receives the following year.
10. Committee Chairman's Updates: - Chairman Finch reported that he attended the fair this past week and the expo building roof did not leak, however there was a problem with one downspout. He also stated that the fair board was asking about drainage in the main parking lot. He has spoken to the OFD regarding permission to burn prairie areas. He prefers using a gator for events and brought up the

suggestion of another fundraiser for parks. A complaint of garbage at Grundman was discussed. The rangers will be rechecking the port o potty area of the landing for said garbage.

11. Committee Member's Updates: - Tom Konetzke questioned the repair of ruts in the turf from the fair. The fair is billed for turf repair. Travis Swanson reminded everyone to vote today. Don Miller would like an update on a north area dog park. At some point in fall a meeting will be held with the new dog park group. Mike Norton stated that he attended the fair on Sunday and heard from fairgoers that our facility is the envy of the state.
12. Staff Updates: - Bob Lohry stated that 4 of the parks seasonals will be leaving at the end of the month, with the remaining 3 part time. Vicky Redlin stated that most of the expo seasonals will also leave at the end of August as they do every year thought there are 2 staying on for the full 165 working days and there are also 2 GPS workers. She also reported that a check has been received for \$200.00 from the disc golf tournament as a donation from their raffle at their June 4 event.
13. Future Agenda Items: results of UWEX committee tour, detailed budget with charge for other department's equipment use, committee direction for open space plan including input from planning and East Central, dog park update from meeting with current dog park group.
14. Next Meeting Date – September 13, 2011 at 8:30 a.m..
15. Adjournment – Chairman Finch called for a motion to adjourn. Mike moved to adjourn. Travis Swanson seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned 10:15 a.m..

Respectfully Submitted,
Vicky Redlin
Asst. Expo Mgr.