

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

DATE & TIME: September 5, 2013 @ 8:30 a.m.
PLACE: JP Coughlin Center
Volunteer Rm.
625 E. Cty. Rd. Y
Oshkosh WI 54901
PRESENT: Parks Committee - Jerry Finch, Mike Norton, Tom Konetzke, Harold Singstock, Chuck Tews.
ALSO PRESENT: Rob Way, Kim Delcore, Vicky Redlin – Winnebago County Parks Dept., Dan Goggin, Nancy Hacker – Tri County Recreation Association, Trish Nau – ECWRPC, Michelle Kennedy – FWCDP, Larry Lautenschlager, Guy Hegg – County Board Supervisors, Harrison Sturgis – citizen.

1. Call to order – Jerry Finch called the meeting to order at 8:30am.

Approval of Resolution regarding 3-Year Licensing Agreement with Arborjet – Rob Way explained the process for EAB injection for the trees and the advertising that will go along with the project. Tom Konetzke brought up the concern that the company was based out of Maine and if Rob was comfortable with them being based out of state. Rob stated they are moving to this area and is comfortable going with this company because of its affiliation with a state based company – John Deere. Chuck Tews asked if all 90 ash trees will be injected and it was discussed that only the trees that we want saved will be injected. Tom Konetzke motioned to approve the resolution of the 3-Year Licensing Agreement with Arborjet. Mike Norton seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

2. Approval of Minutes from August 22, 2013 Meeting – Tom Konetzke motioned to approve the minutes. Mike Norton seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

3. Public Comments – Guy Hegg inquired about the Tri-County Arena resolution. He stated how he was disappointed Supervisor Eisen wasn't present to discuss this matter (Supervisor Eisen had indicated ahead of time that he would not be able to be present because of a previous engagement). Guy Hegg wanted more information on the responsibility of Tri-County and Winnebago County as far as to who would oversee the cost of operations within the county. He went on to state that this could not be voted on until the monetary factors can be accounted for in the 2014 Budget when it goes before County Board. Guy Hegg requested a breakdown of user groups contributing to the Tri-County arena. He would like to know who Winnebago County's partner would be if the issue of naming rights of the Tri-County arena were to arise. A report on racetrack revenues was also requested by Guy Hegg before turning over Tri-County to the Park & Rec Committee. Guy Hegg indicated that the Tri-County committee stated they are broke and asked about the infrastructure of the building and who would be responsible for those repairs and maintenance of the building. Jerry Finch motioned to end the public comments. Tom Konetzke seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

4. Approval of Resolution Authorizing Adoption of the Winnebago County Outdoor Recreation Plan ('13 – '17) – Rob Way opened up discussion by indicating that this particular meeting marked the final opportunity for any changes or suggestions to be included in the plan. He went on to state that he would like it if the committee would review and update the plan at least once a year. Trish Nau thanked everyone for the work on the plan. She also stated that with the approval of the plan it will ensure that the Parks Department will be eligible to apply for stewardship grants and money over the next 5 year period. Harold Singstock said some areas of the plan may have gone into too much depth but overall Trish did an outstanding job. Harold also requested a letter be sent to Eric, Trish's boss, recognizing her for all of her hard work on the plan. Mike Norton said there is a great amount of detail that Trish put into the plan on all of the county programs that are

offered and liked the maps attached outlining those programs. Jerry Finch stated Trish did an excellent job of addressing the negative comments from the public and agreed to a letter being sent to the director of ECWRPC on Trish's work. Jerry Finch motioned to approve the outdoor recreation plan. Tom Konetzke seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

5. Discussion and Approval of Resolution Authorizing Parks Department to Accept Oversight of the Tri-County Arena – Mike Norton asked if this was going to the county board for approval. Jerry Finch stated the parks committee would have to send it to the county board with a vote of approval if indeed the members wanted it to go that direction. Harold Singstock stated he was uncomfortable with the statement that “neglect” of the facility had taken place while Outagamie County had been included as a partner in oversight of the Tri-County Arena. Jerry Finch stated Winnebago County was willing to dedicate funds towards making improvements but the partner had backed out. Harold Singstock said Mr. Eisen and the committee need to consider the operations of the facility to be put under the Facilities and Management Department and Tom Konetzke agreed with that comment. Jerry Finch put forth that it is accurate to say that the Tri-County Arena can be viewed as a county wide recreation and expo facility where all types of events can be held and those events enhance Winnebago County on the whole. Harold Singstock inquired if a report containing the answers to questions raised at the previous joint meeting had ever been generated. Dan Goggin stated that Mark Harris had tried to find a mediator through the Conflict Resolution Center but no one would agree to take on that role. Mr. Goggin went on to state that the Town of Menasha Town Chairperson has agreed to mediate an agreement between the Tri Cty. Rec Assoc. and the Youth Hockey Club. Mike Norton stated that he is against Parks running the facility and Harold Singstock brought into question how the situation with the Parks Committee involved in a role that entailed oversight of the facility would be managed while at the same time the Tri-County Board provided its oversight. Tom Konetzke commented that the term “oversight” in this resolution is ambiguous however he believes that the county should help the rec assoc whenever it can on non-budget items. Rob interjected that if “oversight” is meant as a wholesale take-over of the facilities operations and programming it would be problematic because Parks does not have the necessary personnel to take on such a role. Therefore, current Tri-County Arena employees would need to be brought on as county employees. Jerry Finch stated that he would like to end discussion at this time and bring the matter back at a later meeting after mediation by the Town Chairperson and reworking of the resolution to include a particular definition of “oversight of lease” as opposed to “oversight of programming” which can be two entirely different concepts.
6. Discussion and Approval of Action Regarding the Disposition of Matters Concerning Town of Neenah Property Being Considered for Use as a North County Dog Park – Rob Way explained the status of the Town of Neenah Board Meeting that took place the previous week. The County's item regarding leasing of town property was not on the agenda. What did take place at the meeting was that the Town Board agreed on a year-to-year cropping lease for the land on both sides Oakridge Road at \$47 per acre. Rob Way also stated that he would notify the Town of Neenah and let them know that the town's property was no longer being considered but the committee opted for not taking any action along that line.
7. Discussion Regarding Continuing Evaluation of Properties Suitable for Development of a North County Dog Park – Rob Way talked about the touring of the Sturgis property and stated it does have potential for serving as a dog park. Worry about the neighbors being in close proximity is of some concern. Jerry Finch stated he also liked the property but would not want to approve a lease for shorter than 20 years due to all the money that would be stuck into the property as far as the hauling of materials, fencing, etc.. Tom Konetzke asked Michelle Kennedy about the water pond and she stated the DNR is not likely to allow a water pond to be built because there would be digging and the question remains as to whether any digging can occur on the site. The option may still remain to instead build a splash pad instead of a pond. Harold Singstock said with the park project coming up for approval at the same time as a dog park property, it may be bad timing to be asking for approval on both from the county board. Tom Konetzke asked about the possible donors for the dog park property and Jerry Finch stated he will still work on it. Rob

Way said that pending the County Executive's approval, he would continue to discuss with Mr. Sturgis options for use of the property.

8. Discussion and Approval of Resolution Regarding a Donation and Release Agreement with the Oshkosh Youth Soccer Club – Rob went over the OYSC Board approved agreement regarding building of a new soccer shelter in the southwest section of the Community Park and as a reference he reminded committee members of the presentation OYSC representatives gave at a previous meeting. There is no timeline for fundraising but this formal agreement with the County allows OYSC to begin looking for funding for this project. The OYSC role will also be expanded to formalize what is already occurring regarding scheduling of programming on the fields and field maintenance; it is done cooperatively between the Parks and OYSC with OYSC playing the main role in programming/scheduling. Jerry Finch moved to amend the contract item #3 to a 30 year term. Mike Norton moved to amend. Chuck Tews seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Rob asked to have a motion to change the date in #3F from second week in April to first week. Tom Konetzke moved to change from second week in April to first week. Mike Norton seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Tom Konetzke moved to approve the amended agreement. Mike Norton seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
9. Parks Director's Updates: Breezewood Property, Tennis Court Rehab, Bleacher Replacement Project, and Hmong Labor Day Soccer Tournament/Festival – Rob reported that next Thursday the second phase of the environmental study will be conducted at the Breezewood property using a back hoe to collect soil samples around the underground tank. After those samples are analyzed a better picture of what needs to be done prior to demolition will be obtained. Also the Town of Vinland notified Rob that it was planning on serving a condemnation and raze order for the property. The tennis court is ready for fencing as soon as highway finishes the northern edge of the blacktop. Specs for the tile surface are being sought. The bleacher project was completed in late May and some modifications were made to accommodate ease of transport of the structures. The Hmong Fall Festival this passed weekend went well, only a minor amount of turf damage was reported.
10. Committee Chairman's Updates: Chairman Finch reported that the park looked especially good after the big festival this passed weekend. He also noted that his grandson Josh has completed his Eagle Scout project of installing an informational kiosk at Asylum Point Boat Landing.
11. Committee Member's Updates: Mike Norton reported that the vendor that was on site over this past weekend for the softball event was inadequate. He would like more variety of foods when releasing an RFP for a concessionaire in the park. Harold Singstock stated that he believed that this meeting went well and that Chairman Finch did a good job today. Tom Konetzke noted that the pickleball court/tennis court is a bit behind projected completion date but would like to see a large amount of marketing of the facility upon completion.
12. Staff Updates: Vicky Redlin reported that the two items before the P&F committee this morning passed 3-0.
13. Next Meeting Date: Oct. 10, 2013 at 8:30 a.m.
14. Next Meeting Agenda Items: Sturgis property
15. Adjournment – Chairman Finch called for a motion to adjourn. Tom Konetzke moved to adjourn. Mike Norton seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned 10:11 a.m..

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Delcore
Vicky Redlin