

PARKS & RECREATION MEETING COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: September 13, 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. Excused - Travis Swanson.
ALSO PRESENT: Rob Way, Vicky Redlin, Loren Dieck, Bob Lohry – Winnebago
County Parks Dept.. Jamey Gosz – Winnebago County Highway
Dept., Lauree Renaud – Green Lake Greenways.

1. Call to order – Meeting called to order by Chairman Finch at 8:33 a.m..
2. Approval of August 9, 2011 Minutes – Chairman Finch called for a motion to approve the August 9, 2011 meeting minutes. Mike Norton moved to approve. Tom Konetzke seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
3. Public Comments – none

Motion to move item #6 forward at this time to accommodate this items’ addition to the County Board agenda for their next meeting. Tom Konetzke moved to forward item #6 at this time. Don Miller seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
6. Approval of Amendments to Sections 19.24 and 19.25 of the General Code of Winnebago County to Reflect the Elimination of Swimming Activities at the Community Park Swim Beach and Establish the Beach House as a Pavilion Available for Day Rentals – Mike Norton moved to approve the amendments. Don Miller seconded. Tom Konetzke questioned the term ‘day rental’ on line 19. Rob Way stated that the shelter would be rented on a full day basis with charges applying per day. Tom Konetzke also moved to add ‘Parks and Recreation’ before the word ‘Committee’ on line 33. Mike Norton seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Vote on amended resolution carried 4-0.
4. Friends of Winnebago County Dog Parks, Inc. Report and Approval of Establishment of Permanent Dog Memorial Fixture as well as Brick Donor Walkway within the Community Park Dog Park – Michelle Kennedy from the new Friends of the Dog Park group could not attend today’s meeting. She will be asked to present at the next meeting. Tom Konetzke moved to approve the memorial and donor walkway. Mike Norton seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
5. Green Lake Greenways Report – Lauree Renaud reported that the donated gravel and grading project is now complete. Usership on the trail is way up. Rerouting of the trail around the shooting range has been completed. She will present a donation check for \$5,000.00 at the County Board meeting on Oct. 18, 2011. Green Lake County also agreed to finish the final segment of the trail and would some day like to add a parking lot. A brochure on the trail that was produced by Greenways was passed out. The committee thanked Mrs. Renaud and she was excused.
7. Follow-up on Remarks Relating to Furnishing of the Hwy. Department’s Equipment Repair Services to the Parks Department and Instituting of Equipment Usage Fees – Tom Konetzke questioned the original purchasing of the lift truck. Rob Way reported that the truck was originally purchased for the Parks Dept. with the Parks Electrician as the primary user. Bob Lohry stated that in his opinion the

lift truck should be transferred to the Maintenance Department as they are the primary users and so it would follow that the cost of upkeep would also be picked-up by Maintenance. However, it was noted that a large portion of the use by the Maintenance Department is for parks work. Rob Way went on to state that Maintenance performs work for Parks that certainly offsets the expenses involved in upkeep of the lift truck. He went on to indicate that he would prefer to keep intact the system that is in place and not institute a fee system that would charge other departments for use of the lift truck. Jerry Finch would like to see the current “understanding” put down in writing to help verify the arrangement if it ever became necessary at some distant future date. Tom Konetzke asked Loren Dieck where he thought the lift truck should be stationed. Loren stated that he would like it to remain as is so that parks staff has easy access to it when needed in an emergent situation, especially on weekends. Tom Konetzke then questioned the amount for repairs that the parks department has been charged by the highway department so far for this year. Rob Way stated that he has no problem with the current amount charged. He explained that all parks equipment was looked over by highway and many necessary repairs were made. This was done so that all parks equipment could be analyzed by the highway department and all safety issues addressed before the beginning of the busy summer season. After the initial inspection and concurrent repairs are completely finished then the equipment will be in basic service mode, meaning that unless there is an equipment breakdown in the field the equipment will not be taken to highway except for annual servicing as was agreed upon with the highway commissioner. As of today there is still \$2,800.00 in the budget to cover any additional repairs or service needed yet this year. Mike Norton questioned whether this was a cost savings over having a designated parks mechanic. Rob stated that he had budgeted \$94,800.00 for the year and \$92,000.00 has been used. The labor charges for the highway department are only incurred when the highway mechanic is working on parks equipment, not 40 hours a week 52 weeks a year as a parks mechanic would be. Rob went on to indicate that next year he anticipates reporting to the Committee that Parks spending on equipment/vehicle repairs will be down 1/4 to 1/3. That would amount to an approximate \$28,000 savings over having a full-time foreman mechanic on staff. Mike Norton stated that if the next year’s budget is not significantly lower that reinstating a parks mechanic should be investigated. Jerry Finch brought up an incident on the trail with a stranded mower out on the WIOUWASH. Jamey Gosz explained what happened in that instance. Discussion of oil change pricing ensued. The price quoted on the attached sheet from Bob Lohry was for a standard vehicle, a quote obtained by Loren Dieck for a diesel truck was substantially more than that quote. Jerry Finch stated that a meeting should take place with Rob, Bob, Jamey and the Hwy. Commissioner to discuss the possibility of lowering highway’s price for oil changes. Rob stated that efficiency is way up regarding the repair of parks equipment; equipment/vehicles that had previously taken weeks or months to get fixed are now being turned around by the Hwy. Dept. mechanics in a matter of a day-or-two. He would like to hold off on any further discussion about alternative modes of oil changes and equipment repairs until the full year has passed and all equipment has been fully looked over and serviced by Highway.

8. Discussion Pertaining to Updating of the Parks and Recreation Plan – Rob stated that he has checked with the County Planning Department and there is no problem adding the parks open space plan to the county’s comprehensive plan as an amendment. However, the Planning Department does not have enough staff to help with the open space plan. An application to East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning must be put in to garner their help with the plan. However, it is unknown what kind of timeline East Central has for approval and implementation of such planning help. Rob will consult East Central on their time line and file an

application with them. If the time line is due to carry out until February or later of next year a private consultant will be brought in.

9. Parks Director's Updates: ADA Item, Implementation of Prairie Burnings and Archery Range Update - Rob reported that he is working with the Oshkosh School District in trying to get funding support for the ADA bleachers at the ball diamonds. He also has a meeting next week with the OFD regarding prairie burning. The archery range was burned down by vandals. Jerry Finch asked that the range be repaired immediately using parks staff and if it is again burnt do not rebuild it. An article should be sent to the local newspaper regarding this item. Rob is seeking sponsor monies to help rebuild the archery targets that were burned.
10. Committee Chairman's Updates: - Chairman Finch attended the Labor Day Hmong festival. He also commented on accolades from the fair board for Loren Dieck that were made at the last county board meeting.
11. Committee Member's Updates: - Don Miller stated that he and Tom Konetzke attended the Neenah High 9/11 ceremony. Tom Konetzke asked what came from the site visit to the Expo with the UWEX committee regarding the expo storage facility and shop. Rob stated that 2 members of the UWEX committee visited the site. Mike Norton questioned when the tennis court project is to be presented to the county board. Rob stated that he will present at the next special orders meeting.
12. Staff Updates: Winter Storage, Hmong Labor Day Event and Storm Damage – Vicky Redlin reported that advertising has been out regarding the winter storage program at the expo and a large amount of inquiries have been made. The program will begin Oct. 7 and will continue until all available space has been rented for the season. Bob Lohry reported that there were estimated to be up to 75 trees down on the northern WIOWASH due to the last storm and 5 down on the south end. There was one down at Eureka. Lasley Point and Waukau have not been addressed yet for any damage. He also passed out photos from Hmong Fest.
13. Future Agenda Items: - dog park meeting with Michelle Kennedy, update on expo shop/storage facility
14. Next Meeting Date – Oct. 11, 2011 at 8:30 a.m..
15. Adjournment – Chairman Finch called for a motion to adjourn. Tom Konetzke moved to adjourn. Don Miller seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned 10:55 a.m..

Respectfully Submitted,
Vicky Redlin
Asst. Expo Mgr.