

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

DATE & TIME: October 10, 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, Vicky Redlin – Winnebago County Parks Dept., Bill Roh – Winnebago County Board Supervisor, Harrison Sturgis – Town of Menasha resident.

1. Call to order – Meeting called to order by Chairman Finch at 8:30 a.m..
2. Approval of Minutes from September 5, 2013 Meeting – Chairman Finch called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from Sept. 5, 2013. Tom Konetzke moved to approve the minutes. Mike Norton seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
3. Public Comments – none at this time
4. Approval of Twenty Year Lease w/ DNR for Maintaining of US Hwy. 41 Butte Des Morts Bridge Wiouwash Trail Bike/Ped Path - Rob explained that this process had been initiated in 2006 and the lease is standard procedure with the DNR regarding recreation trails in the state. The amount of labor needed to maintain this section should mostly be off set by cancelling the MOA with the City of Oshkosh on the portion of the trail that is within the city. The process for terminating the MOA will be coming to the committee in a couple of months. The maintenance on the bridge trail will consist largely of mowing and litter pick up. The fishing areas are the main concern and may need to have special regulations in place if litter becomes a problem there. Harold Singstock asked if there is any funding from the state available. There is some funding through the snowmobile trail program for trails though this section will not be allowing snowmobiles. Rob will check on any other state grants. The parks staff has been working on the trail all this week prior to the official opening this Saturday. The DOT had not mowed or trimmed the trail and there has been little litter pick up by them up to this point. The DOT crews are finished with the exception of their contractor who is still putting up kiosks and rails. There was a lot of work to be done by the parks staff to get the trail ready to open. Mike Norton moved to approve the lease. Tom Konetzke seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
5. Update on Status of Evaluation of Rockwood Lane Property for use as a North County Dog Park - Rob reported that he has been talking to the DNR regarding the previous use of the property as a landfill site. So far the talks have been favorable since no digging will be involved. An official application must be filed for DNR approval. Rob will be headed to Green Bay to look over previous DNR files regarding the contents of the landfill site. The committee consensus is to continue to proceed with the investigation and if approved begin lease negotiations with Mr. Sturgis.
6. CLOSED SESSION

The presiding officer of the Parks & Recreation Committee at this point in the meeting shall entertain a motion of convene in closed session pursuant to the exemption provided in Section 19.85 (1)(e), Stats. for the purpose of deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public property and for conducting other specified public business, in that competitive bargaining reasons required closed session.

At the conclusion of the session, the presiding officer of the committee shall entertain a motion to reconvene in open session.

Mike Norton moved to go into closed session. Roll call vote: Finch – aye, Norton – aye, Tews – aye, Singstock – aye, Konetzke – aye.

Mike Norton moved to return to open session. Roll call vote: Finch – aye, Norton – aye, Tews – aye, Singstock – aye, Konetzke – aye.

7. Parks Director's Updates: Status of Oshkosh section of WIOUWASH Trail (Marine Dr. – Rockwell Ave.); Status of recent letting of RFP's and Com. Park Road A/E RFQ; Expo storage update; and, Breezewood Property - Rob reported that the section of the WIOUWASH within the City of Oshkosh will be given over to the city to maintain with approval needed some time within the next several months. There are RFP's out for the engineer/architect of the park road/path, multi sport court, and Asylum Bay retaining wall projects. The storage issue is partially resolved and staff is moving forward along with UWEX and Facilities to accommodate the needs within existing buildings. The Breezewood property gas tank test came back clean so no additional clean up is necessary and a contractor will be hired to do the removal of the tank as per DNR standards. Rob has also placed a work order into Maintenance to have them fill the small residential well that still exists on the site. Testing for asbestos and contaminants within the house are pending and some of the work may have to be put on hold until the 2014 Budget kicks-in on the new year.
8. Committee Chairman's Updates: Chairman Finch reported that he had coffee with a constituent who had previously complained about the state of the WIOUWASH north of Oshkosh who now is pleased with the refurbishment of the trail and will be sending a letter stating such to the Parks Director. He also stated that anyone interested in attending the November WPRA conference should talk to the County Board Chairman regarding permission to attend.
9. Committee Member's Updates: Mike Norton questioned Facilities need for a tree inventory/plan as was noted in their meeting agenda. Does Parks have one? There is a tree inventory for the expo and park but nothing official for the outlying areas. Of most concern regarding EAB is the park and expo and possibly the Grundman/Osh-o-nee boat landing. The outlying areas will probably not be addressed for about 5 years as there is a need to focus on the 490 ash trees at risk within the park and expo. Chuck Tews reported that he had a call from a constituent that works with Deerfest and questioned the status of the event. Vicky will address the issue in staff reports. Harold Singstock asked if Parks is responsible for providing Supervisor Hegg with all the information he requested at the last meeting. Since Parks has no access to most of the information requested a report of the racetrack revenues will be generated for Mr. Hegg. Was a letter sent to ECWPC on Trish Nau's outstanding work? Rob will be sending something when the project is completed. Rob has also responded to the Town of Neenah that Parks is no longer interested in their property for a dog park. Mr. Singstock also stated that he would like the committees to table the Tri County Arena issue until the regulations are changed regarding which political body will have oversight of the facility. Tom Konetzke asked if there had been any complaints of horse refuse along the trails. Rob responded that he has had no complaints this year.
10. Staff Updates: Deer Fest and 41 Butte Des Morts Bridge Wiouwash Trail Bike/Ped Path opening celebration – Vicky Redlin gave an overview of the trail opening event his coming Saturday. She also explained in depth the development over the past 3 years of an annual contract for Deerfest. Mark Harris has been consulted regarding the request from Parks that Deerfest rent the entire facility due to the fact that another event taking place on the grounds could not occur during the Deerfest event as Deerfest requires all the parking

and is asking for all the camping areas. Rob added that two years ago the Deerfest representative had been provided with written notice that in order to continue to rent with the County he would be required to lease the entire Expo site and that he could no longer go with the status quo. Vicky added that there is still an outstanding invoice with this event from areas used but not contracted for this past event. The requirement of entire grounds rental when no other event has the opportunity to use the grounds follows past precedence as it was applied to both Country USA and is currently in place for Lifest.

11. Next Meeting Date: Nov. 14, 2013
12. Next Meeting Agenda Items: none
13. Adjournment – Chairman Finch called for a motion to adjourn. Tom Konetzke moved to adjourn. Mike Norton seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned 11:00 a.m..

Respectfully Submitted,
Vicky Redlin
Winnebago County Parks