

## **Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes**

Date & Time of Meeting: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 9 a.m.

Location: J.P. Coughlin Center

Present: Mike Norton, Jim Ponzer, Karen Powers, Steve Binder, Josh Belville

Also Present: Adam Breest, Justin DeJager, Tom McInnis, Rick Helms, Ethan Hollenberger

1. Call to order:

Mike Norton called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda:

Steve Binder moved to approve the agenda and Karen Powers seconded.  
Motion carried 5-0.

3. Approval of December 27, 2022 Minutes:

Karen Powers moved to approve the minutes and Jim Ponzer seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

4. Public Comment:

No comment.

5. **Presentation** – Lifest Update – John Dougherty – Festival Director

John Dougherty gave an update about Lifest, entering its 25<sup>th</sup> year. Festival has grown every year, about 4% per year. 25,000 to 30,000 attendees/day and about 12,000 campers. 2022 was one of the best years. Discussed future infrastructure and other improvements.

6. **Discussion** – Resolution NO. 239-112021: Support the State of Wisconsin's Efforts to Provide Funding Opportunities for the Navigational Buoys Located within the Winnebago System. – Update from County Executive Office

Ethan Hollenberger gave an update about the State's efforts to provide funding for buoys in the Winnebago system. The County Board passed resolution for the State to pay for buoys. County would go after program revenue to fund this. Currently working with DNR to find funding. County is hoping for a budget amendment to get some of this revenue.

7. **Discussion/Action** – Changes to Parks and Recreation Ordinance 19.23 Camping, Overnight Mooring

Adam Breest reviewed the current ordinance and proposed changes. We do not need a City fire permit for fire pits on Expo property. Proposing \$40 & \$45 per day fee for electric sites, which is comparable to other local campgrounds.

Steve Binder made a motion to amend Winnebago County General Code Chapter 19.23 "Camping and Overnight Mooring" to include the proposed modifications and to modify the fees listed within this chapter. Josh Belville seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

8. **Discussion/Action** – Community Park Shelter Fees

Adam Breest discussed fees and rentals. The new fee schedule changes fees for all shelters and simplifies the current fee structure. Fees are reduced for the Soccer Shelter and increased for others. Parks will not collect deposits at this time.

Steve Binder made a motion to amend Winnebago County General Code Chapter 19.24a "Community Park Shelter Rental Fee Schedule" to Include the Proposed Fee Schedule for the Community Park Shelters and Pavilion. Josh Belville seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

9. **Discussion** – Netzer Property Annexation Process Overview

Adam Breest discussed the parcels that are currently in the Town of Oshkosh. Two parcels on the Netzer property and one parcel by the BMX track.

Properties can be annexed individually. The annexation process would take nearly four months. Water hookup fee would be about \$25k for one parcel, plus other fees. Stormwater features will be needed, along with yearly fees. Annexing would create an island around YMCA property, which would most likely cause them to have to annex into the city as well.

If the Town of Oshkosh does not grant a permit, Parks could annex just the northern Netzer property with minimal fees and impact.

10. **Update** - Parks Director on Potential International Pyrotechnics Guild (PGI) Conference

Town of Oshkosh is holding public hearing on February 8. Town Board will vote on the fireworks permit after the hearing. Parks staff and PGI staff will be attending this meeting.

11. Parks Director Update:

Request for auto-pay stations from ARPA fund on hold. Candlelight Hike event went well. Waukau Dam grant from DNR looks promising, could be up to \$750k. Next Thursday is bid opening for Grundman.

12. Staff Updates:

Tom McInnis – Working on removing Ash trees, probably cutting down about 120 this winter. About 20 buoys are being repaired this winter. Eight pencil buoys are being replaced. Big willow tree by Asylum Boat Landing will be taken down by the Highway Department - the road will be shut down during this time.

Rick Helms – Working with City on an Easter Egg Hunt event. Contacted by Deerfest to possibly come back to the Expo. Horse Shows remain popular and Quinceaneras have increased as well.

Vaccine clinic going to mobile platform and are reducing their footprint at the Expo. Testing is still ongoing, but they do move out if a big event comes in. Has had inquiries about expanding expo for event groups.

Justin DeJager – Candlelight hike went very well and hope to do it again next year. BAGO programs will continue with next large event being a nighttime egg hunt in April. Shelters are open for reservations and boat landing trailer parking permits are for sale online.

13. Committee Member's Updates:

Mike Norton – No comment.

Josh Belville – Inquired about Mountain Bike program at Ken Robl Park. Parks Department has been contacted about this program and is working with the group. Would like to discuss how Parks Department can get more help at the park this summer.

Steve Binder – Ken Robl Park needs a little more work and the Parks Department should start discussions about it with Solid Waste Department.

Jim Ponzer – Would like updates about the property on Westwind Road.

Karen Powers – No comment.

14. Next Meeting Date:

February 28 at 9 a.m. at the J.P. Coughlin Center, meeting room D.

15. Future Agenda Items:

No comment.

16. Adjournment

Karen Powers made the motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Josh Belville. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Justin DeJager