

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

DATE & TIME: February 20, 2017 @ 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: JP Coughlin Center - Volunteer Rm.
625 E. Cty. Rd. Y
Oshkosh WI 54901

PRESENT: Parks Committee – Tom Konetzke, Mike Norton, Steve Binder. Larry Lautenschlager in at 1:44PM Excused – Jerry Finch

ALSO PRESENT: Rob Way & Tom McInnis – Winnebago County Parks Dept., Jeff Lemiesz – Impact Motorsports, and Dave Romenesko & John Dougherty – Life Promotions

1. Call to order – Vice-chairman Konetzke called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m..
2. Approval of the Agenda – Steve Binder motioned, Mike Norton seconded. M.C. 3-0
3. Approval of Agenda – Vice-chairman Konetzke called for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Steve Binder moved to approve the agenda. Mike Norton seconded. Motion carried 3-0.
4. Public Comment Relevant to Items on the Agenda – Jeff Lemiesz of Impact Motorsports put forth a statement asking that the committee consider an alternative to placing the permanent stage in the grandstand venue. The alternative he presented involved having the County purchase two parcels of land located to the west of the Expo Center and placing the stage in that area. Jeff provided members with a handout detailing the proposal.

Thereafter, Dave Romenesko and John Dougherty of Life Promotions each gave an update on where things are at in the planning of the stage. They provided no timeline for when they thought things would come together in their pursuit of developing partnership(s) for building the stage.

5. Approval of Budget Transfer Accepting \$2500 from Oshkosh Rotary Southwest – Mike Norton motioned to accept, Larry Lautenschlager seconded. Mike Norton asked if the berms near the north end of the Community Park were part of the Natural Way and then went on to say that their appearance is lacking. Rob Way explained that berms are not part of the Natural Way however the sides of each of the berms are planted in prairie grasses similar to areas within the Natural Way. Rob went on to state that the berms are scheduled for “maintenance” burning next year and it is anticipated that both will look profoundly different come 2019 once the prairie grasses begin to re-sprout. Motion carried 4-0.
6. Approval of Resolution Allowing Submittal of DNR Grant Application for Snowmobile Trail Maintenance – Mike Norton motioned, Steve Binder seconded. Rob Way explained that the DNR requires County’s to go through the process of adopting a resolution giving permission to County officials to apply for snowmobile trail maintenance funding. Carried 4-0.
7. Discussion of synthetic Ice Rink Surfacing – Rob Way went over a summary of the research that had been done concerning synthetic ice rink surfaces. Rob indicated that the City of Green Bay had a good portion of the cost of their ice rink funded through a large donation. It is a

very expensive product with high maintenance. Mike Norton stated that he asked that Parks look into the product to see if it was an option for Winnebago County. Steve Binder said there is an ice rink at the YMCA available year round. Larry Lautenschlager asked if there was an outdoor rink at Westhaven in Oshkosh. Rob Way went on to share the struggles that he had experienced with constructing and maintaining outdoor ice rinks at his previous job. He ended by indicating that winters have been too warm over the past couple of decades to make it worthwhile to maintain an outdoor ice skating rink program.

8. Approval of Budget Transfer to increase lodging and Registration Accounts for attendance at WPRA Workshop – Mike Norton motioned, Larry Lautenschlager seconded. Mike Norton asked if staff normally goes to this in spring. Rob Way stated that staff sometimes attends the spring workshop provided the material is worthwhile. It was decided that since the subject matter for this workshop would deal with ways to improve communication with millennial age employees, it would be beneficial for both the Program Manager and the Assistant Parks Director to attend this year's session. Mike Norton asked if Rob would pass on to the Executive Director of the WPRA his request that more educational opportunities be made available for municipal officials (i.e. Board Supervisor and Alderpersons). Rob Way indicated that he would share this sentiment with to the WPRA's Executive Director.

9. Approval of Budget Transfer of \$2,900 for Overage in the 2016 Parks Regular Pay Account – Mike Norton motioned, Steve Binder seconded. Rob Way explained that Parks had exceeded the funding limit in its 2016 Regular Pay Account and that a Budget Transfer would need to be approved in order for Finance to reconcile the overage. He went on to mention that the overage was caused by the extra hours were worked by the two Part-time Caretakers to fill in for a Full-time Caretaker that was out three months on Medical Leave. In order to compensate, funds would be transferred from the Expo's 2016 Heating Account. Approved 3 – 0.

10. Discussion of Asylum Point Bridge Repair/Replacement- Mike Norton stated that he has received inquiries concerning the Asylum Point walking bridge and the damage that has occurred due to the late December ice shove. Citizens have been asking if/when the bridge was going to be repaired. Steve Binder inquired if it could be repaired through grant funding. Rob Way said he is looking into options of repairing or replacing the bridge and is actively pursuing estimates. Options include pulling back the piles and repairing the deck support structure and railings to replacing the entire bridge with a clear metal span that would eliminate future ice damage. Costs could be in the tens of thousands to over \$100,000. It was the consensus of the Committee to proceed with restoring the bridge.

11. Parks Director update – 1.) Ken Robl Nature Area – Rob informed the Committee that the Solid Waste Commission is continuing to work on bringing a park planning person on board to begin the process of laying-out the features of the nature area. 2.) Parks Personnel Update – the Committee was informed that interviews for the Expo Maintenance Supervisor position were going to take place that Thursday. 3.) Lower Fox Nav. Aid Update – a summary was given of the Parks Director's role in helping the various agencies up in Outagamie County workout strategies for developing a buoy program on the Lower Fox River once the locks are opened. 4.) Lifest Update –

plans are moving forward to construct a stage in the area in the racetrack. Earlier in the meeting Dave Romenesko and John Dougherty of Life Promotions had given a brief overview on where they are at in the planning process. Dave finished up by asking if the members had any more questions. Mike Norton asked what the next step is and Rob Way replied by stating that the County is waiting on a final commitment from Life Promotions indicating that they have obtained adequate support for building the stage through partnerships. 5.) WIOUWASH Trail – a report was given on the interest being expressed by an individual who is looking to gain access to the WIOUWASH Trail inside the Oshkosh city limits in order to run Segways on as part of his tour business. Presently, use of Segways are prohibited on the trail except for use by mobility impaired individuals. Rob will keep the Committee informed on what comes of this enterprise.

12. Committee Chairman's Updates: Vice-chairman Konetzke reported that he attended a meeting with Solid Waste regarding the future of the Ken Roble Nature Area. This subject should be put on the next agenda. Vice-chairman Konetzke also noted that he appreciates the good job that is done with the meeting minutes and the agenda overview provided for each committee meeting.

13. Committee Member's Updates Steve Binder – requested an update on the outdoor fitness equipment to be installed near Shelter #2. Rob indicated that the equipment is presently in storage over at the workshop. When ground conditions permit the Parks crew will prep the base that the special surface material will go on top of. After that the crew will install the fitness equipment hopefully around late June – early July.

14. Staff Updates: Waukau Creek Dam Shoreline Erosion – Rob informed the Committee that there is a severe erosion problem occurring on the downstream side of the Waukau Dam. The situation does not present a threat to the dam at this time however if left unchecked the problem could spread and eventually get to the point where it would undermine the abutments. The Assistant Parks Director is working with Highway on installing rip-rap along the bank that will halt the erosion. The project should take place within the next 1 – 2 weeks. The Parks Department has a DNR permit in place that will cover the project.

15. Next Meeting Date and Future Agenda Items: March 20, 2017 at 1:30pm. Possible amendment to Trail Ordinances.

16. Adjournment – Vice-chairman Konetzke called for a motion to adjourn. Steve Binder moved to adjourn. Mike Norton seconded. Motion carried 3 - 0. Meeting adjourned 4:10 pm..

Respectfully submitted,
Tom McInnis
Assistant Parks Director