

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Name of Committee: Parks & Recreation Committee
Date of Meeting & Time: Monday September 16, 2019 at 1:30 P.M.
Place of Meeting: JP Coughlin Center – Meeting Rm. B
625 E Cty Rd Y.
Oshkosh WI

Present: Jerry Finch, Tom Konetzke, Mike Norton, Steve Binder. Excused – Larry Lautenschlager

Also present: Winnebago County Parks - Rob Way, Vicky Redlin. Winnebago County Board Supervisors – Jim Wise, Tom Egan. Public – Shanna Her, Amy Schwab, Steph Perieradasilva, Beth and Don Pachniak, Patty Anderson, Windy Tarnsworth, Theresa Gutchell, Kelly Connor.

1. Call to order – Chairman Finch called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m..
2. Approval of Agenda – Chairman Finch called for a motion to approve the agenda. Steve Binder moved to approve the agenda. Tom Konetzke seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
3. Approval of August 19, 2019 Minutes – Chairman Finch called for a motion to approve the August minutes. Steve Binder moved to approve the minutes. Mike Norton seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
4. Public Comment Relevant to Parks Related Matters – members of the public listed above spoke in favor of allowing dogs in all areas of the Community Park. Supervisor Wise commented on the size of the proposed northern dog park. He questioned the visibility from the roadway as well. Supervisor Wise also noted that he understands the long search that has taken place for a suitable available property and applauded the Parks Committee for their tenacity.
5. Discussion and Possible Approval of Resolution to Amend Chapter 19.13 of the Winnebago County General Code to Allow Increased On-leash Access for Dogs in the Community Park – Mike Norton moved to approve allowing dogs in all areas of the Community Park. Steve Binder seconded. Discussion both pro and con ensued. Mr. Norton stated that an ordinance barring dogs was unenforceable similar to the proposed smoking ban that was not approved by the committee. Steve Binder proposed that dogs be allowed on the shared use path only as a majority of the County Board who must approve any ordinance change probably would not be in favor of allowing leashed dogs free roaming throughout the park. Chairman Finch noted that clean-up of dog feces is a problem. He asked if the North Park Estates Neighborhood Association, of which the majority of the public in attendance are a part, would guarantee that all users walking dogs within the park would obey leash and feces disposal ordinances. Rob Way stated that there is no budget or staff available to administer a program of dog litter bags within the park and it is the consensus among fellow park professionals that with carry in carry out ordinances these receptacles will be misused by other users for garbage. There is no budget or staff to provide pick up of feces, and no monies budgeted to redo current signage or have new signage created and installed. Mike Norton asked if further study is needed. Chairman Finch proposed another meeting to further discuss the issue or a subcommittee to fairly go over the pros and cons, various studies both national and international and what other departments are doing. Tom Konetzke stated that if the ordinances are not followed dogs will again be prohibited. Rob Way stated that the shared use path was put in to provide

ADA required access to primary function areas throughout the park and he is opposed to allowing dogs for this and other reasons along with the majority of parks directors spoken with. The ADA has no opinion on the use of said path as long as it meets the scoping requirements for Title I and II. The proposed resolution was gone over line by line, noting that The Natural Way area of the park would be off limits in order to attempt to retain the advances that have been made to provide wildlife habitat for the enjoyment and education of the disabled, where significant monies have already been spent on foliage via grants and community group involvement. Of note, event holders can choose to not allow dogs on the shared use path within the area of their event to protect the health and safety of their attendees and participants' personal property. Dogs would be allowed on a maximum 6 foot long leash and along the paved shared use path only. Chairman Finch stated that a 1 year trial should be undertaken and Tom Konetzke agreed. Motion carried 4-0.

6. Adding of Provision to Expo Administrative Policy Exhibit "C" Regarding Management of Dogs during Events held at the Expo Center – Mike Norton moved to approve. Steve Binder seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
7. Consideration of submittal of Request to City of Oshkosh for Action to be taken on Improving Transit Conditions on Snell Road as applied to Bicyclists and Pedestrians Wishing to Gain Access to the Community Park Shared Use Path – Mike Norton stated that he brought forth this issue because he feels that Snell Road is dangerous for pedestrians and bicyclists, and he would like this committee to provide a statement to the city of Oshkosh as such. Rob Way provided information from a memo received of Jim Raabe City of Oshkosh Public Works stating that the reconstruction of Snell Road is planned for 2020 and said reconstruction will include the standard for all city streets which includes curb, gutter and sidewalks.
8. Approval of Parks Department Management Plan for the Marilyn Stroud Nature Area – Rob Way noted that this plan was not a requirement from the Winchester Town Board but a request. It will be submitted to the Town Board for their reference. Mike Norton moved to approve the plan. Tom Konetzke seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
9. Discussion of Proposed North County Dog Park – Rob Way stated that Corporation Counsel has weighed in on the proposed lease with the WDOT and a few very minor verbiage changes were requested. The basic document remains the same. Rob will be meeting with Corp Counsel tomorrow morning to go over said changes. The document then must be approved by the WDOT prior to going before the County Board for approval. The outstanding question regarding a possible increase in county insurance premiums is outstanding.
10. Parks Director's Updates: Navigation Aids and Oshkosh's Lakeshore Park Connection to the Tribal Heritage Trail – due to unfounded complaints of misaligned buoys and buoys with lights burned out it has been budgeted to provide a GIS system for all buoys that will provide exact data on their location and status of the lights. This will save the county significantly on contractor fees for responding to these complaints where no problems were found. This system is administered via a chip in the buoy accessed via an app. The connection to the WIOUWASH Tribal Heritage Crossing in Lakeshore Park has proven difficult to obtain updates for. A contractor contacted parks in the last few weeks requesting permission to close the trail for construction. Said construction is proposed to take approximately 3 days and is scheduled to be done yet this fall. No plans or specs have been provided for said connection. The abutment that is being constructed is the biggest concern should it fail.
11. Committee Chairman's Update: none
12. Committee Member's Updates: Mike Norton would like an update on the eminent domain issue, and asked if the parks budget was cut in a category for unused staff time. Rob responded that as previously stated the budget remained intact after meeting with the County

Executive. Parks does not have an account category for unused staff time. Steve Binder asked when the light poles will be installed in the southern end of the Park. A pre-bid meeting took place last week and bids are to be awarded this week. If the weather remains favorable installation of the service could take place this fall but due to steel prices being effected by tariffs it could take longer to get the poles delivered. If that is the case then April 15, 2020 is the deadline for installation. Tom Konetzke – none.

13. Staff Updates: Vicky Redlin thanked Supervisor Egan for referring an inquiry from Cirque Italia to the expo center. They will be performing for 4 days at the Sunnyview Stadium in October. An announcement from PGI is expected this week. There are two horse shows remaining and several other events taking place at the expo. This last weekend's events were successful. It is being determined what clean up must take place by the client inside the stadium from the demo derby.
14. Next Meeting Date and Future Agenda Items: October 21, 2019 @ 1:30 p.m.. North County dog park lease, eminent domain.
15. Adjournment – Chairman Finch called for a motion to adjourn. Tom Konetzke moved to adjourn. Mike Norton seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned 3:30 p.m..

Vicky Redlin
Program Manager