

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date and Time: September 19, 2016 1:30 PM

Place: JP Coughlin Center, ETN Room

Present: Parks Committee- Jerry Finch, Mike Norton, Tom Konetzke, Larry Lautenschlager, Steve Binder

Also Present: Rob Way, Tom McInnis, Winnebago County Parks

1. Call to order – Chairman Finch called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM
2. Approval of the minutes of the August 15th 2016 meeting. Tom Konetzke moved to approve, Mike Norton seconded. Tom Konetzke indicated that in item 2 the word “message” should be changed to say “minutes”. Motion carried 5-0.
3. Public Comments – No Comments
4. Discussion of the Dog Park Water Station – Rob Way explained about the ongoing project to put water in the dog park. Over the years Parks has received numerous request to have water provided to the dogs inside the dog park. Past surveys that have been taken regarding the dog park have indicated that getting a water line into the facility has been the top item of need for dog park users. Over the years the Winnebago County Dog Parks organization has been raising money to fund this project that is estimated to cost approximately \$2,500. An abandoned water lateral is available near the park along Butler Ave.. The pipes are on Facilities property and Parks would need permission from Facilities to cross their property. Together with the Facilities & Property Management’s plumber, Parks would install the pipes and Parks would thereafter pay the cost of the water estimated to be at under \$15 per month. The water line would be shut-off October through mid-April. Rob will communicate with the Facilities & Property Management Director to determine how to address this project.
5. Discussion of the Proposed Fish Sticks Project at Asylum Bay – Rob explained what the project would encompass: Trees that would be bound together and then extend out into the water along the shoreline in order to provide for fish habitat. Tom Konetzke asked how it would be done. The DNR would possibly engage a WCC work crew to address the project. Parks would help with equipment if needed. The majority of the costs would be handled by the DNR.
6. Discussion of Policy pertaining to Regulating of Inappropriate Language on Vendor Signs – Rob informed the Committee that this subject was being brought-up again in follow-up to observations relayed to the members by the Parks Committee Chairman about an incident he had encountered during last month’s County Fair. The Chairman had indicated that he had come across a vendor who had displayed signs with objectionable language. Rob mentioned that in response to what the Chairman had said during last month’s meeting, he had sent a correspondence off to Corporation Counsel for a legal opinion on what if anything could be done to deter these types of displays. Corp Counsel has not yet responded. Additional research will also be do with area governments to search out options.

7. Status of RC boating in Community Park pond #2 – Rob Way talked about the history of RC Boating Club in the park and how it has been taking place at the pond since the 80's. A few years ago some problems had developed within the club leadership. Rob later found-out that although the group had been covering the required insurance needs, there was no official RC boating organization, a 501 C or otherwise. Rob has attempted to work with a representative of the group who volunteered to step in and help address the Parks Department's concerns however the gentleman recently made it known that the group has opted to move their activities to a pond that has come available in Kaukauna. As such, they may no-longer have an established presence in the park. If their status does not change by April of 2017 then Rob recommends that because we are trying to enhance both the fishing and the natural aspects of the pond, the Committee should consider changing the Park Ordinances to eliminate gas powered RC boating within the Community Park.
8. Parks Director Update – Rob Way updated the Committee on three Eagle Scout projects. A life jacket loaner kiosk has been delivered and will be placed at Osh-O-Nee Boat Landing in May 2017. The life jackets are loaner jackets supplied by the DNR for boaters who do not have enough for the number of people occupying their boat. For the second Eagle Scout project new Leopold benches are being built for the WIOUWASH trail and disc golf course. The third project involves the dog park where five 5' X 8' rest area sites will be installed. The rest area sites will have lime stone screening surfaces with Leopold benches secured atop them.
9. Committee Chairman's Update – Jerry Finch updated his schedule with the members.
10. Committee's Member Updates – Mike Norton reported that he and Steve Binder attended the NEWPro meeting in Appleton. The Fall Conference is in November and the Spring Conference will be held in April. The October NEWPro meeting is in Winnebago County at the Wittman Field Conference Room. Tom Konetzke shared an article of Menasha using the tennis courts as a small soccer type court, also that Human Foosball is a popular event. Steve Binder asked if Parks would have any interest in participating in the Holiday Parade.
11. Staff Updates – Tom McInnis updated the Committee on the Labor Day Hmong Festival.
12. Next meeting date – October 17th 1:30 PM
13. Adjournment motioned by Tom Konetzke Second by Mike Norton. MC.