

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Name of Committee: Parks & Recreation Committee
Date of Meeting & Time: Monday October 21, 2019 at 1:30 P.M.
Place of Meeting: JP Coughlin Center – Volunteer Rm.
625 E Cty Rd Y.
Oshkosh WI

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

Also present: Rob Way, Tom McInnis, Vicky Redlin, Rick Helms – Winnebago County Parks, Kate Hancock Cook – Neenah Parks Commission

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. Tom Konetzke moved to approve, Steve Binder seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
3. Approval of October 7, 2019 Minutes – Chairman Finch called for a motion to approve the October meeting minutes. Tom Konetzke moved to approve, Mike Norton seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
4. Public Comment Relevant to Parks Related Matters – none.
5. Addressing of City of Neenah Request for Consideration in Providing County Assistance in Funding the Development of Fresh Air Park – Addressed upon arrival of Kate Hancock Cook. Rob informed the committee of his conversation with Neenah Parks Director Mike Kading regarding the Town of Neenah’s refusal to fund improvements at this park. The City of Neenah has stepped in to fund road reconstruction and a possible restroom and is looking for monetary help from the county. No specific amount was requested. Kate Hancock Cook explained the need for road reconstruction and the various citizen requests for a restroom facility. The cost estimates range from \$35,000 to \$60,000 for road repairs. A port-o-potty repeatedly is tipped over so the residents want a permanent restroom. The preliminary cost estimate for the restroom is \$80,000 which is not in the city of Neenah budget. The area is an unofficial boat launch with ice access in the winter to Lake Winnebago. Steve Binder asked who collects the boat launch fee for the landing. Is it recognized as an official launch by either the Town or City of Neenah? He also stated that a restroom is not necessary for a 1 to 2 acre park with no amenities since there’s a gas station and a McDonalds a block away. Ms. Hancock Cook stated that 5% or 10% of the funding could be the ask from the city. Mr. Binder stated that he would have to visit the site before any decisions were made regarding funding and only after completion of the project should any funding be given. This item would have to go in as an amendment to the budget next week and will need backing from supervisors from the area who are willing to support it. Rob will attempt to get an actual dollar amount from Mr. Kading.
6. Discussion and Possible Approval of the Marilyn & Ron Stroud Nature Area Lease – Rob reported that the lease and management plan have been approved by corporation counsel and the Stroud family. A formal survey needs to be done to determine the exact borders of the property. Some signage will be added for a kick off in spring 2020. The parking lot is budgeted for highway to install in fall 2020. The building can be used for storage. The Wild Ones organization will help with plant identification and advice. Tom Konetzke moved to approve the lease. Mike Norton seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
7. Discussion and Possible Action on Creating one or more Permanent Citizen Based Positions on the Winnebago County Parks & Recreation Committee – Mike Norton stated that he would like to have citizens on the committee since other committees have citizen members.

Steve Binder questioned what expertise would be gained by having other members on the committee? Tom Konetzke stated that citizens can call at any time with questions or comments, making additional members not necessary. Jerry Finch requested research be done on what other committees have and whether they are paid and revisit after January 1, 2020.

8. Discussion and Possible Action on Creating a Dog Owners Advisory Group – Mike Norton stated that he would like another group formed using the people who petitioned for dogs in the park to advise on future issues. Rob stated that the Friends of Winnebago County Dog Parks remains active and has already taken on the role of advising on dog issues and the new north county dog park. He is in the process of an official contract with this group to further their ability to be involved with exclusivity for fundraising.
9. Defining of Roles and Expectations as they Pertain to Recent Changes made to General Code Chapter 19.13 – Rob asked for a definition of rules and expectations since staff has not been consulted on enforcement of the new rule and the drastic change in direction for the park will include a long adjustment period.
 1. Signage – staff does not want an overabundance of signage in the park in an attempt to retain its natural beauty. Most users don't recognize signage and few actually read it as evidenced by current behavior patterns. Staff proposes new signage at parking lot entrances/exits, at official entrances to the park, (those that are illegally cut by neighbors may need signage as well in the future if violations continue), the main rules signs will need to be redone as they cannot be simply changed and the main entrance signs in the roundabouts will also need to be changed. This bare minimum of signage would also include stenciling on the path itself to identify areas where dogs are not allowed. Said stencil and proposed 18" x 22" signs would have to be custom made. There may also have to be additional signage at both ends of the path that traverses The Natural Way as dogs will not be allowed in this nature area. A preliminary total of 16 signs for lots, 5 entranceway signs, stencils and labor to change/install/update signage that would cover legal obligations for any enforcement is estimated to cost \$5,400.00. This amount is not budgeted and must be brought into the budget hearings as an amendment. Jerry Finch stated that the rule should be revisited in a year and if there are issues of noncompliance then dogs will be banned from the park in total. Mike Norton stated that he wants signage in the middle of the park and that OYSC should police their own participants on bringing dogs. Rob stated that OYSC will install signage at either end of the soccer complex that will state when dogs are allowed on the path through this area for tournaments and special events. It was determined that the committee is ok with this plan for signage. Tom McInnis is putting up cameras throughout the park and will be in contact with OPD regarding the app they have for reporting violations. He questioned whether parks staff is supposed to enforce the rule. Jerry Finch stated that staff should be enforcing the rule or it doesn't pay to have it. These concerns also relate to trails and boat landings where the new rule will also take effect.
 2. – the question of user fees for dogs on the park path was brought up at the county board meeting. For this a ranger would be necessary to police violators, funded by the fees. The committee does not want to institute a user fee.
 3. – it is noted that the resolution allows for the parks director to waive requirements for specific events, ie. the FWCDP fundraiser at the pavilion. Jerry Finch stated that a new north county dog park should be the priority.
10. Discussion of Funding for New On-leash Signage to be Installed in Community Park – a reminder that an estimated minimum of \$5,400.00 of additional funding will need to be approved through the budget hearings. Said signage would not likely be installed until spring 2020.
11. Establishment of Soccer Shelter Rental Fee for Tournament Usage – Rob stated that the amount is loosely based on what is charge for the pavilion as that is the closest comparison. Steve Binder stated that he would like to see a security deposit paid by groups using the facility to make sure it is properly cleaned after events. This item can be added any time at the director's discretion. Steve Binder moved to approve the fee, and Tom Konetzke seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
12. Approval of 3-year Expo Rental Agreement with the Wisconsin Futurity Horse Festival Organization - Tom Konetzke noted that the word 'dog' should be removed in the 14th line

from the bottom of the last whereas. Tom Konetzke moved to approve the contract and Steve Binder seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

13. Parks Director's Updates: Soccer Shelter Rebuild Project – weather permitting the work is on schedule. The lighting project will begin next week.
14. Committee Chairman's Update: Chairman Finch would like to discuss help for parks through the budget. Rob will be bringing in the updated CIP to the next meeting.
15. Committee Member's Updates: Steve Binder – update on the DOT lease for the north county dog park? Rob will contact them next week as that will allow for a 4 week turn-around from them. Steve would like to have the park paths brushed every Friday. Mike Norton – asked what the fair will do with the \$10,000.00 put into the budget by the county executive. Rob has given the fair contacts for stage acts. Mike also asked if WPRA reservations have been made. Rob said Julie in the Treasurer's office is the person that does this for the committee. Tom Konetzke complemented staff on the PGI event coming in 2021.
16. Staff Updates: Vicky Redlin – none, Rick Helms – none. Tom McInnis excused.
17. Next Meeting Date and Future Agenda Items: November 18 @ 1:30 p.m.. List of items to be included in CIP Plan, Sunnyview Stadium Update
18. Adjournment – Chairman Finch called for a motion to adjourn. Tom Konetzke moved to adjourn. Mike Norton seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned 3:45 p.m..