

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Name of Committee: Parks & Recreation Committee
Date of Meeting & Time: Monday November 18, 2019 at 2:00 P.M.
Place of Meeting: JP Coughlin Center – Volunteer Rm.
625 E Cty Rd Y.
Oshkosh WI

MINUTES

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

Also present: Rob Way, Tom McInnis, Vicky Redlin, Rick Helms – Winnebago County Parks

1. Call to order – Chairman Finch called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m..
2. Approval of Agenda – Chairman Finch called for a motion to approve today’s agenda. Mike Norton moved to approve the agenda and Steve Binder seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
3. Approval of October 21, 2019 Minutes – Chairman Finch called for a motion to approve the October meeting minutes. Mike Norton moved to approve the October minutes and Tom Konetzke seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
4. Public Comment Relevant to Parks Related Matters - none
5. Approval of Multi-year ATM Sponsorship Agreement with Cornerstone Processing Solutions – Rob Way explained that this is the fourth contract entered into with Cornerstone for ATM service. Sponsorships are solicited annually. Mike Norton moved to approve the contract. Tom Konetzke seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
6. Discussion and Possible Approval of Netzer Farmhouse Lease – Rob Way stated that due to lack of immediate need the demolition of the farm house can be delayed saving \$13,000 which has been budgeted. There should not be a need to demolish the house for at least five years, maybe longer as the Master Plan calls for more work on infrastructure in and around the main lots and roadways within the expo center. The barn structure would still be taken down but an outside contractor could do so for the barn wood which is marketable. There is a need for staff to be available at any time during events to take care of emergent needs like electrical issues that the Facilities Department will not, such as tripped breakers where arc flash requirements may have to be considered. Rick Helms is the first responder in most of these cases and must come from home to address needs in most instances. It would be beneficial to all parties; clients, staff and the County to keep the farm house. Rick could rent it from the County for an additional revenue stream of \$9,600 per year. The house is in good shape and doesn’t need any major repairs. Clients would benefit by having someone close by to attend to emergencies and Rick will have a shorter commute. The lease has been put together using verbiage from the UW System lease, Fond du Lac, State of WI Parks System and WI State statutes. Corporation Counsel will be going over the lease on Wednesday morning. The responsibilities listed in the lease are key to operations at the expo and will benefit the Community Park and adjacent areas as well by providing a presence during off hours. Steve Binder stated that the house seems in good shape and the situation would be a

benefit with someone close by and use of the property that would not otherwise provide revenue right away. Mike Norton moved to approve the lease with the removal of septic repair and inspection responsibilities in Section 3I and changing the lease term to end in 2024. Steve Binder seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

7. Review of 2020 – 2024 Parks CIP Submittal – Rob went over in detail the upcoming submittal. There are several changes to the previous list, which was also provided via handout. The biggest project is undertaking the much needed updates to the expo center. There are two phases of road and parking lot projects for 2020 and 2021 which are crucial to retaining current clients and obtaining long term commitments from those that provide significant economic impact such as PGI. Several horse shows are at or near capacity and lack of camping and hard surface is a significant problem. The sequence of these projects has been carefully illustrated to allow events to continue to take place with as little disruption as possible during this much needed repair of long overdue drainage and surfacing issues. The original structures were not built for longevity as there are many insufficiencies in construction. It was noted that the Economic Impact Study shows that the expo is a significant revenue generator towards the northern end of the county with the airport at the southern end. The benefits to the surrounding communities is apparent and significant. A presentation for the county board with reference to the study should be done when the CIP is presented in January of 2020. The need to begin construction immediately is due to large events with high economic impact coming in 2021 and the displacement required to provide access to preceding events to accommodate all adequately. A User Group Survey is going out this month for input on the Master Plan from expo clients and the results will be gone over with the architectural firm at the Annual User Group Meeting on January 4, 2020, providing confirmation of the ongoing need for repairs and improvements. A vote by the county board should be considered in February in order to get started on engineering for the first phase. Other items in the CIP include purchase of a replacement front end loader through a partnership with Hwy to purchase one of their little used pieces at a discount in spring of 2020. This will save approximately \$30,000. Another item to consider is the continual wash out of the Waukau Dam site due to persistent rain and climate change. This is being addressed in part with a DNR grant but to avoid future wash outs should be looked at for a permanent solution to avoid future expenses. A Waukau project will be eligible for future grants. Purchasing a department field mower is also essential as the current one borrowed from the highway department is at least 25 years old and highway has no plans to replace it. Questions and comments ensued.
8. Parks Director's Updates: Sunnyview Stadium Programming and Soccer Complex Road and Parking Lot Lighting Project Update – Red Rock Productions is currently not under contract though they were the lone bidder on an RFP for Sunnyview Stadium. Other resources will be contacted regarding programming in the stadium for 2020 and beyond. The lighting project in the south end of the park is 75% complete with significant difficulties taking place due to wet weather. It is on time so far and should be completed within the next few weeks. Landscape reconditioning will not take place until spring. The soccer shelter shell is 90% finished and interior work is taking place. Tradesmen will be coming in with electrical and plumbing next. Tom McInnis is impressed with the work so far. Rob passed out the boat launch revenue totals for 2020 showing a significant increase due to the raising of fees last year. A group of neighbors of Grundman Park met with Rob over concerns for parking at the boat launch. Rob is checking over the property deed restrictions to see if use of the park is allowed to alleviate pressure on parking in the launch site.

Steve Binder excused 3:33 p.m.

9. Committee Chairman's Update: none
10. Committee Member's Updates: none

11. Staff Updates: Tom McInnis stated that there have been significant conflicts with those walking dogs within the Community Park, which had been anticipated by staff prior to the County Board vote to allow it. Park staff is requesting body cameras if they are to confront those violating the rules as there has been online social media retaliation and contact with officials which has been misleading and in some cases entirely false. Reliance on OPD to come out to deal with violators is not sufficient as the response time will be whenever there is not anything else pressing for them to respond to. Lack of law enforcement response and reluctance of individuals to contact law enforcement for fear of retaliation by the dog promoters may also be a factor as several complaints have been received from citizens regarding dogs off leash, running at large and waste issues within the park since the rules were amended. This is causing a severe lack of morale among the park staff. If violators are not kept in check the park will probably be overrun by those who see fit to make their own rules regarding their dogs and others will be forced out to look elsewhere for their recreation needs. If this is the case in late fall early winter, spring and summer will have significant issues. Jerry Finch stated to call OPD and have community members call them also with dog violator complaints. Rick reported that much work is being done on the expo Master Plan with plenty of staff input. Vicky reported that progress is being made with a planning group of community officials for PGI similar to what was formed for Country USA in the past. Rob stated that he met with Town of Oshkosh and they are onboard with the event.
12. Next Meeting Date and Future Agenda Items: December 16, 2019 @ 1:30 p.m..
13. Adjournment – Chairman Finch called for a motion to adjourn. Tom Konetzke moved to adjourn and Mike Norton seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned 3:42 p.m..
Respectfully Submitted,
Vicky Redlin
Program Manager