

## **Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes**

Date & Time of Meeting: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 9 a.m.

Location: J.P. Coughlin Center

Present: Josh Belville, Steve Binder, Jim Ponzer, Karen Powers, Rachael Dowling

Also Present: Justin DeJager, Rick Helms, Tom McInnis

1. Call to order:

Karen Powers called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda:

Steve Binder moved to approve the agenda and Jim Ponzer seconded.  
Motion carried 5-0.

3. Approval of March 28, 2023 Minutes:

Rachael Dowling moved to approve the minutes and Jim Ponzer seconded.  
Motion carried 5-0.

4. Public Comment:

No comment.

5. **Discussion/Action** – Netzer Property Home Request to Remove Structures

Tom McInnis gave an overview of the project to remove the home, barn, and garage. Plan to keep the well for gardens, which will be housed to protect it from the elements.

Steve Binder made a motion to authorize a budget transfer in the amount of \$35,000 for the removal of the Netzer home, barn, and garage at the Sunnyview Expo Center to allow for future growth. Jim Ponzer seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

6. **Discussion/Action** – Stewardship Grant – Waukau Dam

Tom McInnis discussed the Stewardship Grant. This grant could potentially match up to \$750k toward the Waukau Dam project.

Steve Binder made a motion to request authority to apply for and accept grant funds from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for the Waukau Dam restoration and improvement project. Jim Ponzer seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

7. **Discussion/Action** – WI DNR Life Jacket Loaner Boar 2-Year Extension

Tom McInnis explained that the Parks Department has been involved with the program for years. This is an extension to continue the program. It's an easy program for the Parks Department to participate in. There is no cost to the project.

Jim Ponzer made a motion to request authority for Winnebago County to participate as a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Life Jacket Loaner Board Partner at the Grundman Boat Landing. Rachael Dowling seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

8. **Discussion/Action** – Sunnyview Exposition Center Land Lease – Marquee Sign

Rick Helms explained that the Parks Department was approached by the Wisconsin Sign Company about a new marquee sign for the Expo. The Parks Department would take down the old sign and this sign company would put up a new sign and pay for all utilities. The Parks Department doesn't have to pay for the sign and would get 10% of available advertising spots on the new sign, and also has the authority to monitor what is advertised on the sign. The sign will be ground level, not elevated.

Committee would like to see specs on the sign before approving the sign.

Steve Binder made motion to table the decision until the Parks Committee is provided with more information about the potential sign. Rachael Dowling seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

9. **Update** – Community Park Disc Golf Course Signs

Tom McInnis gave an update on the disc golf signs. The disc golf course was redesigned and some holes were moved around in the last two years. Now that everything is set, the Parks Department will be installing new signage as soon as weather permits.

10. **Update** - Parks Director on Potential International Pyrotechnics Guild (PGI) Conference

Rick Helms gave an update on the PGI Conference. The Parks Department recently had a meeting with the PGI planning team to finalize the contract. Currently, waiting on signatures to officially complete the contract. There will be two public display nights. Waiting on PGI to finalize the layout for the event before more plans can be confirmed.

11. **Parks Director Update:**

Tom McInnis gave the update. Installing electrical pedestals at soccer complex, should be done this week. DNR did a successful prairie burn in park – the burn helps keep invasive plants down. Boat landings are fully open, docks are set, buoys are in the water, and rangers are patrolling the boat landings. Still in process of hiring seasonals – have five so far and looking for a few more.

12. **Staff Updates:**

Justin DeJager – Beth Brewer from Winnebago Land BMX requests the committee members attend a race this year in celebration of their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Rick Helms – Getting Expo open for the summer season. The Oshkosh Corp Baja event is at the Expo grounds next weekend. A lot of events on the schedule for the summer.

13. Committee Member's Updates:

Josh Belville – No comment.

Steve Binder – Would like to see signs labeling plants in the natural way at the park.

Jim Ponzer – Asked about parcel of land by Westwind Road for parking lot. Waiting to hear from DOT.

Karen Powers – Got email about Jerry Finch Dog Park entrance being full of potholes. Highway Department has corrected the issue, but it is just a temporary fix. Looking into options for paving the entrance.

Rachael Dowling – Looking into a Giving Tuesday event to possibly be at Expo. It would be the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving.

14. Next Meeting Date:

Undecided. The committee members are taking a survey to select a new date for the summer.

15. Future Agenda Items:

Plant labels in natural way at park.  
Summer parks tour.

16. Adjournment

Rachael Dowling made the motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Josh Belville.  
Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Justin DeJager