

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

DATE & TIME: March 28, 2016 @ 9:15 a.m.
PLACE: JP Coughlin Center
Parks Department Conference Rm.
625 E. Cty. Rd. Y
Oshkosh WI 54901

PRESENT: Parks Committee – Jerry Finch, Mike Norton, Tom Konetzke, Guy Hegg – arrived 9:35 a.m., Brady Kiel – excused.

ALSO PRESENT: Rob Way, Tom McInnis, Vicky Redlin – Winnebago County Parks Dept., Larry Lautenschlager Supervisor District #19.

1. Call to order – Chairman Finch called the meeting to order at 9:18 a.m..
2. Approval of Minutes from March 7, 2016 – Chairman Finch called for a motion to approve the March 7, 2016 meeting minutes. Tom Konetzke moved to approve the minutes. Mike Norton seconded. Motion carried 3-0.
3. Public Comment Relevant to Items on the Agenda - none
4. Approval of Renewal of Army Corps Lease of Water Gauge Station at Boom Bay Boat Landing – Rob Way explained that this is a renewal of a lease for a water gauge that has been in place for over a decade. There have been no problems with this lease/access. Tom McInnis noted that this year the ice damaged the gauge so at this time the Corps has it in for repairs. There is no monetary involvement with this lease. Mike Norton moved to approve the lease renewal. Tom Konetzke seconded. M.C. 3-0.
5. Update on Life Promotions Contract – Rob Way put forth that talks are currently taking place with Lifest over their next multi-year contract. Rob then proceeded to preface his ensuing remarks by first mentioning that several of the components he was about to inform the committee of would need to be addressed in the upcoming contract. Key among the items to be considered would Lifest's interest in erecting a permanent stage on the Expo grounds to help alleviate their annual costs for renting one. Guy Hegg arrived 9:35 a.m.. Another component of the new contract might include an option for entering into a ten year contract. Lastly, Rob indicated that if a ten year option were to be considered then Lifest would require that more Expo camping space be made available due to increasing demand. Both Jerry Finch and Mike Norton noted that if a new parks committee is formed after the April elections then this new body should be the one to comment on any further proceedings with Lifest contract developments.
6. Parks Director's Updates: Dog problem at Waukau Nature Preserve, Community Park Prairie Burn, Consideration of Catch and Release Ordinance being applied to Community Park Fishing Pond(s) – The walking of dogs in the Waukau Creek Nature Preserve is of concern because of the likely impact that a dog's presence has on the surrounding wildlife. It was suggested that a new ordinance be drawn up specifically prohibiting dogs in any nature area. Hopefully the weather will cooperate on prairie burning this spring. An email will be sent notifying the committee members if and when such burning will take place. Rob is working on a catch and release ordinance resolution that may center on taking the health of the pond into consideration when determining the type, size and number of fish that are allowed to be caught and removed from the site.
7. Committee Chairman's Updates: Chairman Finch has been in discussion with Glatfelter regarding north area dog park and will continue to pursue information.

8. Committee Member's Updates: Guy Hegg reported that a notice/update should be given at the next county board meeting regarding Impact Motorsports rejection of the proposed contract as well as an update on where the parks is at with tree cutting. Mike Norton reported that he found the WPRA Spring Workshop very informative and that our staff was exemplary during the tour and seminars etc.. He recommended that whenever available a course on life threatening situations should be taken.
9. Staff Updates: Tom McInnis reported that all trees are taken down for the year with the exception of some ash at Black Wolf. The park road will reopen for the season on April 1st with the shelters to follow as temperatures allow. Vicky Redlin reported that this month is pretty quiet at the Expo and the crew will be coming in the last two weeks of the month to open the grounds.
10. Future Agenda Items: catch and release policy/ordinance, new ordinance prohibiting dogs from being allowed within any Parks nature areas, prairie burn notification, update on Lifest contract.
11. Next Meeting Date: Discussion of Future Dates and Times – wait until new committee on committees has met and a new parks committee is selected.
12. Adjournment – Chairman Finch called for a motion to adjourn. Guy Hegg moved to adjourn. Mike Norton seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned 10:40 a.m..