

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Name of Committee: Parks & Recreation Committee
Date & Time of Meeting: Monday June 15, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.
Place of Meeting: JP Coughlin – Conference Rm. B
625 E Cty Rd Y – Oshkosh WI

PRESENT: Tom Konetzke, Steve Binder, Larry Lautenschlager, Mike Norton, Jerry Finch.
ALSO PRESENT: Rob Way, Vicky Redlin, Tom McInnis, Rick Helms – Winnebago County Parks.

1. Call to order – Vice Chairman Konetzke called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m..
2. Approval of Agenda – Jerry Finch moved to approve the agenda and Larry Lautenschlager seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
3. Approval of May 18th 2020 Minutes – Jerry Finch moved to approve the May minutes and Steve Binder seconded. Tom Konetzke noted that in item #4 it is his belief that in the second line from the end of the paragraph the word ‘must’ should be ‘recommends that’ per his conversation with Corporation Counsel. Motion carried 5-0
4. Public Comment relevant to Parks related matters - none
5. Discussion and possible Approval of removing the Nature Area classification for the Community Park Natural Way – Rob went over the history of the project and Vicky handed out the latest Power Point presentation of The Natural Way. This issue was brought up by Mike Norton. Mike stated that he thought the project was taking too long and should be opened up to allow dogs on the path. Rob replied that dogs and wildlife do not mix well and that at among other things, the site serves as a refuge for nesting ducks and other birds. The purpose of the area is to provide a respite from the other programmed areas of the park that is accessible to all and provides an educational element. Also, staff mentioned that there continues to be the intent to move along with plans that involve refinement of a wetland zone within the Natural Way. Steve Binder asked to have signage installed and to put money in the upcoming budget to further the project along. Jerry Finch moved to bring up the subject at the next meeting with input of dollar amounts for outstanding items within the project. Larry Lautenschlager seconded. Motion carried 5-0
6. Approval of Resolution requesting \$10,000 in County funding be provided the City of Neenah in support of the City’s Restroom Development Project at Fresh Air Park – Rob explained that the actual hard copy of the resolution is lost somewhere in the ether and IS is looking for it. He went over the elements within the document. Steve Binder moved to approve the resolution as described, and Jerry Finch seconded. Motion carried 5-0 Jerry Finch excused 9:45 a.m..
7. Approval of modifications to Other Expo Policy Statements, Item 8. of Exhibit “C” – Sunnyview Expo Center Policy Statement/Administrative Directive - Rob explained that a further definition of the causes for facility closure was necessary to specify a pandemic, such is happening now. Larry Lautenschlager moved to approve the modification and Mike Norton seconded. Motion carried 5-0
8. Update and discussion regarding Parks COVID related response(s) – Rob went over the policy that has been in place that mirrors the state park system response. There have been no complaints regarding restrooms not opening and only 2 regarding the road closure. Limited restrooms will open today with a daily cleaning and afternoon wipe down. Port o potties are located at the dog park, and at the boat landings, which will be cleaned by-weekly by the vendor. Parks has been working closely with the Health Dept.. Vicky is providing a weekly update to user group members via email and Facebook. The response to WPRA from the

state was basically ‘refer to your local health department’ regarding questions and further guidance on the state’s current guidelines.

9. Report on Asylum Point Bridge Developments – Rob is having issues getting quotes from vendors. Any variations of the design must be approved by the DNR. He has received no quotes back on replacing the bridge as is with an aerator option. Any other options also require an engineer due to the length of the bridge. The NRDA grant should not be affected by a change the project to an aluminum design however that could change it the County goes the direction of building of the same type wood pile bridge as before. ADA could be an issue with a narrower gangway with an aluminum style bridge. Options are continuing to be sought.
10. Parks Director’s Updates: PGI status, Stroud Property, Parks Personnel update, and WIOUWASH Trail transfer of City trail section – PGI has been sent a letter stating that county corporation counsel will not defer on the specific items that they requested be changed in the county’s standard contract as they pertain to state law. The Stroud Property is on hold while the owner looks into entering it into a trust. Mary Koch will be leaving the administrative assistant position to take over the same position in LWCD. Steve Binder noted that now would be a good time to look at the job description and add some items that would help the program manager. The transfer of the portion of trail to the city of Oshkosh is moving along with a survey currently being done. Unfortunately, a possible impediment to the project may have come-up last week with notice from the owner of the adjacent apartment buildings that they feel the County has over time created an issue with the stopping-up of the drainage ditch that serves their parking lot area. This matter is being looked into. The north county dog park parcel is also being surveyed at present.
11. Committee Chairman’s Update: none
12. Committee Member’s Updates: Steve Binder asked when the landscaping at the soccer shelter would be done, specifically the flower bed in front and the grass around the storage garage. Rob indicated that development of the flagpole landscape area is something that OYSC will be taking-on. Steve Binder also mentioned that the posts for the updated north entrance sign should be painted. Mike Norton questioned how the money the county received for Covid 19 relief is being allocated. Larry Lautenschlager – none.
13. Staff Updates: Rick reported that with no events scheduled, several long-term maintenance items are being addressed at the expo; painting of the covered arena and toilet building, adding arena base, upgrading the access around the Netzer property, addressing drainage around the expo building using river rock from the Highway Department roof project, and the conversion to LED has been completed throughout the expo building. Vicky gave an update on incoming events yet this year and some planning for next year, marketing has been ongoing with WVBO daily noon work out and ads, Covid updates will be provided weekly to user group members. Most responses from clients were positive mainly due to the fact that a decision has been made on procedures and they are no longer left guessing about whether to have their event or not.
14. Next Meeting Date and Future Agenda Items: July 20, 2020 9:00 a.m.. North County Dog Park, charge other departments to use the expo, Covid update, Asylum Bridge, Natural Way signage costs.
15. Adjournment – Larry Lautenschlager moved to adjourn and Mike Norton seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned 11:45 a.m..

Respectfully Submitted
Vicky Redlin – Program Manager