

## **PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Name of Committee: Parks & Recreation Committee  
Date of Meeting & Time: Monday, September 18, 2017 at 8:30 A.M.  
Place of Meeting: **Coughlin Building - Main Parking Lot**  
**625 E. Cty. Rd. Y**  
**Oshkosh WI 54901**  
Present: Parks Committee – Jerry Finch, Tom Konetzke, Mike Norton, Larry Lautenschlager, Steve Binder  
Also Present: Rob Way, Vicky Redlin, Tom McInnis – Winnebago County Parks Department

1. Convene Meeting – meeting called to order by Chairman Finch at 8:32 a.m.. Chairman Finch called for a motion to recess for a park facilities tour. Tom Konetzke moved to recess for the tour. Larry Lautenschlager seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting recessed 8:33a.m..
2. Recess meeting for tour of Parks properties with intent to reconvene at approx. 11:15 a.m. at the Fin N Feather Restaurant. Tour itinerary and tentative timelines: Leave Coughlin Building parking lot at approx. 8:35 a.m. and proceed to Expo grounds – arrive at BMX Track at approx. 8:45 a.m. Following a tour of other areas of the Expo grounds, at approx. 10:00 a.m. proceed to the tour the Community Park (nature area, rugby field, softball diamonds and soccer complex). Leave Community Park at approx. 11:00 a.m. and proceed to Fin N Feather Restaurant in Winneconne. Arrive at restaurant at approx. 11:20 a.m..
3. Reconvene Meeting – Having conduct the first portion of the park tour in accordance with the above listed itinerary, and having entered the Fin N Feather Restaurant in Winneconne at approximately 11:20 a.m., Chairman Finch called for a motion to reconvene. Steve Binder moved to reconvene. Mike Norton seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting reconvened at 11:22 a.m..
4. Approve Committee Minutes of August 21, 2017 – Chairman Finch called for a motion to approve the August 21<sup>st</sup> minutes. Tom Konetzke moved to correct item #5 stating that it was the consensus of the committee that the race track be named Winnebago County Speed Zone. Steve Binder seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Mike Norton moved to approve the minutes as amended. Tom Konetzke seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
5. Discussion of Matters Relating to Parks Properties Tour (if any) - none
6. Economic Impact Analysis II – Community Park Survey Results – Trish Nau from ECWRPC went over the results' highlights of Phase Two of the Parks Economic Impact Study that was done in the Community Park between Memorial Day and Labor Day.
7. Grandstand/Race Track Promoter RFP – This item was moved ahead of item 6 while waiting for ECWRPC to arrive. Rob explained the disqualification of the only bid received for the RFP of racetrack/grandstand venue promoter. The bid did not meet the minimum qualification of \$28,000.00 per year as clearly stated in the RFP documents. Larry Lautenschlager noted that this is a new contract not a renewal of a contract that the only bidder is currently under. Mike Norton agreed and also stated that the minimum amount is

firm. He also stated that the county should stop subsidizing the race track operation for a private business to profit from. Steve Binder questioned whether to rebid the RFP, also stating that if there is not qualified bidder then a different direction can be taken. Mike Norton stated that he is vehemently against rebidding as it would only give the current promoter and lone bidder another second chance to force the county to do what they want. Mike is in favor of turning the grandstand into an entertainment facility as Life Promotions has the funding for a stage and is currently going to erect it in the front parking lot. If the stage is erected in the parking lot then there will be two facilities that are one dimensional which doesn't have to be the case as the racetrack is not attracting any other promoters to bid on running it. Jerry Finch stated that the next step is Corp Counsel and the County Executive's option to re-bid or not, and what direction to take if any with Life Promotions and the new state of the art stage. Tom Konetzke stated he thinks that the county board will not allow the stage inside the grandstand facility, even if there are no qualified bidders to run it. Jerry Finch stated after discussion that the consensus of the committee is to have County Administration decide which direction to go and that the committee agrees that the minimum price is firm and there will be no negotiating.

8. Approval of Winnebagoland BMX – 5 Year Use Agreement – Larry Lautenschlager moved to approve a five year lease agreement with Winnebagoland BMX. Mike Norton seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
9. Approval of Sponsorship Agreement for Bahling Memorial within Community Park Natural Way – Rob explained the significance of Jeff Bahling of Rettler Corp and his role in the current design of the park. Larry Lautenschlager moved to approve the sponsorship agreement with Rettler Corp.. Steve Binder seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
10. Update on Soccer Shelter – working with WDNR for permit to remove the remains and transport to the Outagamie Landfill.
11. Discussion of Property Acquisition adjacent to Expo – The proposal letter from the Netzer was read and it was the consensus of the committee to move forward with the property. As it is evident that the county has need to purchase adjacent property for Expo growth into the future regardless of the turn the race track/stage issue takes.
12. Committee Chairman's Updates: Chairman Finch reported that he was on WVBO this morning regarding the northern dog park meeting tonight.
13. Committee Member's Updates: Mike Norton stated that he does not want to pursue the race track promoter since there were no other bidders and the current promoter has been noticeably vague as to their intentions regarding the minimum amount it is willing to pay the county and that as entertainment goes the argument still stands that more people throughout the county will benefit from larger festivals, concerts and other outdoor entertainment with the stage inside the grandstand facility. There are groups like BMX who contribute to the economy and pay their own way with the facilities that they lease from the county. Those are the kind of partnerships he wishes to pursue. Steve Binder stated that the revenue originally promoted by the race track promoter never came to fruition though racing does offer the community another option for entertainment. Tom Konetzke asked for clarification on where horses are allowed on the trail, where drinking fountains are in the park, and if cross country skiing is becoming more popular. Horses are allowed on the WIOUWASH and Mascoutin not in the park. Water fountains are located

at each shelter and there is a bottle filler by the multi-sport court. Skiing is becoming more popular with two separate courses groomed in the winter in Community Park – a traditional course and a skate ski course. Larry Lautenschlager questioned the budget amount necessary to support the race track and suggested that perhaps it should come from the County Board as the County Board has requested that racing continue.

14. Staff Updates: Vicky Redlin stated that there is a major concert coming in this October that will be using a temporary stage in the front of the parking lot in anticipation of the permanent stage coming in next year and a multi-year contract being signed.
15. Recess meeting in order to continue tour of Parks properties with intent to reconvene at between 2:30 p.m. & 3:00 p.m. at Coughlin Building parking lot: Leave Fin N Feather Restaurant at approx. 12:45 p.m. and travel to Poygan Boat Landing. Depart from boat landing at approx. 1:20 p.m. and travel to Waukau Dam. Arrive at Waukau Dam at approx. 1:50 p.m. . Leave the site at approx. 2:10 p.m.. Return to the Coughlin Building main parking lot at approx. 2:40 p.m.. Chairman Finch called for a motion to recess the meeting to continue the parks tour. Mike Norton moved to recess. Larry Lautenschlager seconded. Meeting recessed 1:13 p.m..
16. Reconvene meeting outside of the Coughlin Building in the main parking lot – Chairman Finch called for a motion to reconvene. Tom Konetzke moved to reconvene. Steve Binder seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting reconvened 2:38 p.m..
17. Future Agenda Items – Life Promotions land lease for stage and rental agreement.
18. Next Meeting Date - October 16, 2017
19. Recess meeting with intent to reconvene at 7:00 p.m. inside of Neenah City Hall. Chairman Finch called for a motion to recess. Tom Konetzke moved to recess. Steve Binder seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting recessed 2:40 p.m..
20. Reconvene Committee Meeting at appointed room within Neenah City Hall to Discussion Material Relating to a North County Dog Park Facility – Chairman Finch called for a motion to reconvene. Steve Binder moved to reconvene. Larry Lautenschlager seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting reconvened at 7:00 p.m..
21. Discussion relating to North County Dog Park Facility – Chairman Finch welcomed persons attending the meeting. He then went on to explain the reason for holding the meeting which included gaining public input on the need and desire to establish a dog park in the northern end of the county. Steve Binder spoke of the need to create a dog friendly community. Larry Lautenschlager asked Chairman Finch if this conversation would include mention of the current site that has garnered the most interest from the County. Chairman Finch indicated that yes, discussion would evolve around the potential for developing the Larsen Road Glatfelter Landfill site as a dog park facility. He went on to indicate that funding has been placed in the Parks Department's 2018 Budget submittal for starting the initial phase of developing the Glatfelter property as a dog park site.
22. Public Input – Following the discussion among committee members, Chairman Finch proceeded to invite members of the audience to express their opinion on the subject of a dog park being installed in the north section of the county and also what their thoughts

might be on the location being the Glatfelter site. Note - Excluding 6 County officials, 34 citizens were in attendance.

Input from the public and some of the ensuing responses from County officials included:

- Concern was expressed by a property owner with land along the south border of the site that the effects of a dog park would disrupt wildlife in the area and that it would be obtrusive to have a fence erected in close proximity to his property.
- Approval of a dog park was voiced by a citizen who commented on how such a facility would help ease the tension between persons walking their animals and surrounding landowners who frequently take exception to dogs and their presence on/near their property.
- A citizens in favor of a dog park being placed on the north end of the county made note of the absence of such a facility in her area while the south end of the county had long benefited from such a venue.
- An individual who had been involved with the dog park search from years earlier voiced an opinion that the case for building a dog park on the north end of the county has only gotten stronger with the passing years (i.e. dog population in households has gone up).
- Several individuals provided dialogue regarding the increased marketability of a community and the ensuing economic benefits that result from having a dog park nearby.
- Mention was made of the desirability of installing a paved path for disabled individuals however a response was made by an official at the meeting who indicated that a paved surface at this particular landfill site may not be allowed.
- Several citizens put forth that they would like to have the county pursue grants to help fund the project.
- A resident with a house bordering the Glatfelter property expressed concern over the disruption that barking dogs would have at his location and that his property value would likely fall if the dog park were built. The individual also noted that his e-mails sent to various officials had not garnered a response.
- A county official noted that it would be appropriate to post updates on the Parks website to keep people informed of developments.
- A dog owner explained the urgent need to establish a dog park in the area as a mechanism that would help in the handling of her active dog.
- A county supervisor, separate from the Parks Committee, asked for specific funding related information concerning the potential dog park, to which the following responses were made:
  - \$67,000 has been submitted for consideration in the Parks 2018 Budget for fencing costs (corrected amount \$63,000).
  - \$22,000 has been submitted for consideration in the Parks 2018 Budget to cover a portion of the parking lot costs (corrected amount \$19,500).
  - \$2,000 has been submitted for consideration in the Parks 2018 Budget for signage, and dog park bag dispensers.
  - \$6,000 has been submitted for consideration in the Parks 2018 Budget for yearly maintenance including dumpster costs (does not include plow expenses).
  - \$10,000 has been submitted for consideration in the Parks 2018 Budget to cover lease related costs.

- Remarks were made criticizing the way in which word of the meeting had been disseminated to the public and recommending that social media be included in the future.
- Concerns were voiced over the traffic on Larsen Road and whether the facility would create a hazard. A traffic study was suggested.
- Another individual expressed the likelihood that there are all kinds of other potential sites available for a north county dog park site if further research were done.
- The next person countered the previous speaker by running through list of 23 sites on the north end of the county that had already been researched.
- Another dog park advocate suggested bringing the matter before the County Board in the form of special orders meeting.
- The land owner to the west indicated opposition to the dog park fence that would be installed and how it would adversely affect the site line/aesthetics of his property.
- It was suggested that the county should talk to the Town of Neenah to gain insight into how town representatives would feel about a dog park going in at the landfill.
- A citizen asked for a show of hands from the audience from persons in favor of a north county dog park to which 25 people responded favorable. The question was then asked who in the audience stood opposed to a north county dog park to which 2 persons responded.
- A suggestion was made that the Parks Committee should research Neenah's Arrowhead Park to see if a dog park could be established there.
- A concern was brought-up over what the possible dog park hours would be.
- The matter of an inability for people to be able to safely walk to the site was noted. Further comments involved the narrowness of Larsen Road.
- A County official indicated that it would be possible for citizens to voice their opinions about the proposed Glatfelter dog park shortly after the 6 p.m. start of the County Board's 2018 Budget Deliberations Meeting to be held on Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Chairman Finch finished-up the meeting by asking if the committee members would like to put forth their final thoughts to which of the members thanked the audience for attending and remarked on how helpful their input would be.

23. Adjournment – The chairman asked for a motion to adjourn. Tom Konetzke motioned to adjourn and Mike Norton seconded. Motion Carried 5 – 0. The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m..

Submitted by Parks staff,  
Vicky Redlin &  
Rob Way