

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

DATE & TIME: November 21, 2016 @ 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: JP Coughlin Center
Volunteer Rm.
625 E. Cty. Rd. Y
Oshkosh WI 54901

PRESENT: Parks Committee – Tom Konetzke, Mike Norton, Larry Lautenschlager, Steve Binder.
Excused – Jerry Finch

ALSO PRESENT: Rob Way, Vicky Redlin, and Tom McInnis – Winnebago County Parks Dept...

1. Call to order – Vice Chairman Konetzke called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.
2. Approval of Minutes from October 17, 2016 – Vice Chairman Konetzke called for a motion to approve the October meeting minutes. Mike Norton moved to approve the minutes. Steve Binder seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
3. Approval of Agenda – Rob indicated that he took the liberty of adding Approval of Agenda to the meeting format because it would henceforth allow the agenda to be changed by simple action of the Committee at the time of the meeting instead of having to go through the more involved process of both posting and sending-out a revised agenda. Larry Lautenschlager moved to approve the agenda. Mike Norton seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
4. Public Comment Relevant to Items on the Agenda - none
5. Parks 5-Year Capital Improvements Plan – Submittal – Rob went over the items listed in Committee members' packets. This submittal does not need formal Committee approval and is provided in an advisory capacity. The official 5 year capital plan will be submitted to the County Board by the County Executive. There are no items being submitted for 2017. Any future projects will be discussed as they come up in the plan.
6. Report on 2016 Boat Landing Parking Permit Program. - Rob went over the 2016 boat launch revenue funds and provided a comparison from previous years'. The totals for 2016 are down and after some research the 3 County Boat Launch Permit does not seem to be the reason for the decline. Rob will consult with the DNR regarding possible reasons for the apparent lower numbers of fishermen on the waterway, ie. less boat licenses purchased, problems with the fishery, etc.. Both stickers and daily permits are down another 10 – 15% following last year's 5 – 10% loss. Tom Konetzke asked if the age of fishermen could have something to do with the lower numbers, ie. the older generation is not going out on the waterway and the younger generation is not fishing. Another item that could be effecting the numbers is the way tournaments are being handled by the cities that are hosting them along Lake Winnebago and Poygan. City of Oshkosh rents out an entire landing to a tournament and that could affect pre-fishing if the launch fees are covered in advance for that specific launch. These would mean that less boaters are travel out to the distant Winnebago County boat landings. At this time Rob recommends leaving the 3 County Launch Permit in place while considering the possibility of an increase in permit fees in 2018. Currently the \$110,000.00 in revenue is close to the total operational costs but not if reserves (\$180,000.00) must be used for an emergency or major repairs to a landing that are no longer covered by the DNR.
7. Parks Director's Updates: North Park Estates' Request to allow Leashed Dogs on Shared Use Path – Rob shared the letter he sent to this association stating that by resolution, the shared use path was constructed under the premise that it be built in order to the requirements for ADA accessibility to key program areas of the Community Park. He added that he was not at all comfortable with allowing dogs on a 10 ft. wide trail mainly dedicated towards servicing the disabled; Oshkosh School District - Rec. Department's development of Youth

Run Program in Com. Park – coming in 2017 a Sunday family fun run program running 4 Sundays evenings during the summer and based out of the Soccer Shelter; Status of Race Track `17 Rental Agreement – still waiting for signed contract from promoter; Report on Meeting Re. Coordination of Nav. Aid on Lower Fox – Area north of the Fox Locks is considering what to do for a buoy program and what they do could effect what we do. Rob will continue to attend their meetings and advise.

8. Committee Vice Chairman's Updates: Tom Konetzke commented that he appreciates having staff answer all his questions regarding the race track contract.
9. Committee Member's Updates: Steve Binder asked if providing fish cleaning stations could be looked into to possibly increase revenue. Rob will check on grant funding for a person who could be used for invasive species control and clean up at the landings as currently there is not staff to provide such. Larry Lautenschlager reported that he attended the WPRA conference and it was very educational. Mike Norton stated that he also attended WPRA and got lots of good ideas; the ZipKrooz, movies in the Park, means to attract more park users, and how seniors could use the park, as well as others.
10. Staff Updates: Highlights of WPRA Conference; Parks Labor Update; Tom McInnis reported that he attended a seminar on drones at WPRA and learned a great deal that can be applied to the area in the park dedicated to such. He also stated that due to the good weather things in the park are up to date even though one Parks caretaker is on medical leave. The storm over the weekend caused 25 downed trees along the trail, most were dead. Vicky Redlin reported that she attended WPRA and after participating in a seminar on intergenerational teams is working with Human Resources to revamp the seasonal laborer job description and application process. She also learned that Winnebago County Parks is very innovative with the work we are doing with reThink, The Natural Way, ADA access and social media use.
11. Next Meeting Date and Future Agenda Items: December 19, 2016 @v 1:30 p.m. Presentation of Bike/Ped Plan, year-end expo/parks report.
12. Adjournment – Vice Chairman Konetzke called for a motion to adjourn. Mike Norton moved to adjourn. Larry Lautenschlager seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned 3:10 p.m..

Respectfully Submitted,
Vicky Redlin
Program Manager