

PARKS & RECREATION MEETING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

DATE: August 31, 2009
PLACE: JP Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room
625 E Cty Rd Y, Oshkosh WI
2:00 p.m..
PRESENT: Parks Committee - Jerry Finch, Mike Norton, Nancy Barker, Tom Konetzke, Arlene Schmuhl.

ALSO PRESENT: Rob Way, Vicky Redlin, Loren Dieck, Bob Lohry – Winnebago County Parks, Chuck Steinert, John Dougherty, Anna VanHandel – Life Promotions.

1. Call to order – Meeting called to order at 2:02 p.m. by Chairman Finch.
2. Approval of August 3, 2009 Minutes – Chairman Finch called for a motion to approve the August 3, 2009 meeting minutes. Mike Norton moved to approve the August 3, 2009 meeting minutes. Tom Konetzke seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
3. Review of '09 Lifest Event and Future Planning – Introductions were made by those present from Life Promotions. Rob Way explained that for the larger events such as Lifest a follow up meeting with the Committee usually takes place. Chuck Steinert gave an overview of this year's event. Attendance was up. The construction on Cty Y and a ticket scanner problem caused some back ups on the surrounding roads on Wednesday afternoon. The OPD stated to Lifest staff that they had no problems throughout the event. Rob Way read a statement from Janet Duellman regarding the noise issue she perceived during the Wednesday evening of this year's event. John Dougherty stated that the overall decibel level was reduced this year for all stages due to a new sound system. On Wednesday there was a brief shower that brought high north winds which continued throughout the evening and hampered efforts to erect the backstage sound screen on the main stage. The following days of the event were calm and the backstage sound screen was in use. Jerry Finch stated that he attended the event and had only one complaint from those he talked with. The complaint was that the YMCA showers were not available for use to Lifest patrons. Anna VanHandel stated that next year Life Promotions is considering renting all of the shelters within the Community Park to alleviate traffic and parking issues during the event. She will discuss this further with Rob at a later date. The issue of the Kids Kart Club event on the Monday following Lifest was discussed. It may be necessary, due to liability concerns, to require Kids Kart Club to cancel any events during set up, event days, and take down days of Lifest. The only other group using the grounds during set up for Lifest, Frostlands, will also be required to cancel any events scheduled during this time. Chuck Steinert complimented Loren, Vicky and the Expo staff for all of their time and effort in helping the event to be a success. Life Promotions excused.
4. Discussion of 2010 Community Park Beach Programming Options – Rob Way updated the Committee on the Service Center / Swimming Beach operations for 2010 and beyond. The Service Center will not be staffed next year due to budget constraints. The building will be turned into a shelter for rental. Rob went on to explain that the key reason for bringing this matter to the Committee's attention

was to solicit their input on this matter because this change in operations would later require that they approve several modifications to the Parks Ordinances. No Committee member indicated his/her disapproval with attempting to pursue this type of programming. Rob proceeded to state that staff intended to use the OCI corrections crew in order to perform the necessary demolition and re-construction of the outside changing areas attached to the building. These areas would be turned into open air shelter areas just outside the outdoor restroom access points. The goal is to have the building operational for a rental shelter for the 2011 season. A management staff meeting was held last week to discuss these changes in operation. Nancy Barker stated that she sees a need for an indoor rental shelter of this type within the Community Park. Rob Way also reported that to eliminate liability issues the beach can be opened as a swim at your own risk facility but no staff can be assigned to officially monitor the area. Thus it was necessary to entirely remove Parks staff presence from the site. This is coming from statements given by a WPR representative who handles court cases involving public access swimming areas. There will be additional signage needed to address the swim at your own risk area and it will continue to be maintained as a beach. Rob Way will report at the November meeting the projected costs associated with the changes to the building and the beach as requested by Mike Norton.

5. Consideration of Offer to Accept Donation of Property – Rob Way and Bob Lohry visited the site of the proposed property donation. It is a 2 to 3 acre plot, with good drainage, and an apparent domed cap area over the landfill. Mike Norton stated that he does not want to accept any former dump property due to liability issues over what is contained within the fill site. Rob Way also stated that there is little that can be done to the property since it is against WDNR regulations to dig into a landfill in order to erect infrastructure. Nancy Barker requested that Rob find out who the property was offered to before the County. The Committee also requested information on what is buried at the site and any formal information from the Town of Vinland, along with a photo of the site. The information will be presented at the October meeting.
6. Parks Director's updates: snowmobile supplemental funding & commemorative trail bench update - Rob Way reported that he may need to ask the Committee for a budget transfer to cover the snowmobile program funding from 2008-2009 season. He is still waiting for reimbursement numbers from the supplemental funding program. Rob also reported that he has unofficial word from the Town of Clayton that they would be willing to co-ordinate efforts to install a commemorative bench along the WIOASH Trail at or near the 'Public Enemies' film site. The project must be approved by the Town of Clayton Board before the go ahead will be given. Mike Norton requested that after the project is completed a short presentation or flyer of some type be given to the County Board.
7. Committee Chairman's updates: - Chairman Finch noted the articles in area newspapers relating to the aforementioned bench project.
8. Committee Member's updates: - Tom Konetzke reported that he attended the last day of Lifest and the County Fair. He asked about the PA system the fair was using inside the Expo Bldg. Vicky Redlin stated that the 4H insists on using their own speaker system rather than the PA system that is installed inside the building which is much louder. Arlene Schmuhl reported that she will look into advertising in Waterspots magazine for next year. She also noted that she needs an updated Expo calendar for the OCVB website. Vicky Redlin will update the calendar after Autumn Fest. Nancy Barker reported that at the fair board meeting there were complaints about electricity during the fair. Mike Norton asked if

there had been any new noise complaints regarding the race track. Rob stated there were none except the early complaints from the resident who lives to the north of the race track. Supervisor Norton also indicated that he would like more information on prospective bike paths along County roads. Rob indicated that he had recently been in contact with the Hwy. Commissioner on this issue and had reconfirmed with John Haese how he is very involved in fully analyzing potential bike path routes along Cnty. roads to make sure that opportunities are not missed.

9. Staff Updates: Autumn Fest Update & Installation of Asylum Point Bollards – Vicky Redlin reported on the upcoming Autumn Fest 2009 on Sept. 12 from 9am to 3pm at the Expo Building. Volunteers are needed to staff the Parks booth, the silent auction, the admission booth, and the kitchen. There are a very limited number of booth spaces still available. Advertising has been done on OCM, WAUH, WISS and the Neenah Community Access channel, as well as in the Buyer's Guide. Vicky appeared on the Oshkosh Today show and Rob and Vicky were on WISS with Wayne Mausser in the morning. Posters and banners are in place for the event and the Committee is asked to stop by if not to volunteer then to browse. Bob Lohry reported that there are bollards going in on the east side of the Asylum Point roadway to deter vandalism related to turf damage. Currently the project is on hold due to a new order from the manufacturer of the auger being used to install a new safety device. Bob also stated that the lighthouse paint job has been touched up.
10. Future Agenda Items – lighthouse info re: naming and riprap, land donation, commemorative bench, costs for swimming beach and shelter building.
11. Next Meeting Date – Oct. 5, 2009 at 2:00 p.m..
12. Adjournment – Chairman Finch called for a motion to adjourn. Tom Konetzke moved to adjourn. Nancy Barker seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned 4:01 p.m..

Respectfully Submitted,

Vicky Redlin
Asst. Expo Mgr.