

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

DATE & TIME: May 8, 2014 @ 3:30 p.m.

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

PRESENT: Parks Committee - Jerry Finch, Mike Norton, Tom Konetzke, Brady Kiel. Absent – Guy Hegg.

ALSO PRESENT: Rob Way, Vicky Redlin – Winnebago County Parks Dept., Harrison Sturgis – Town of Menasha resident, Larry Lautenschlager – Winnebago County Board.

1. Call to order – Chairman Finch called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.
2. Approval of Minutes from April 10, 2014 - Chairman Finch called for a motion to approve the April 10 meeting minutes. Tom Konetzke moved to approve. Jerry Finch seconded. Motion carried 3-0.
3. Public Comments – Harrison Sturgis commented that the meeting time change wasn't noted on the signage in the lobby. He also would like more info dispensed to the public regarding the north county dog park and the availability of his property.
4. Approval of Amendment to General Code Chapter 19.27 (4) (a) Regarding Recreation Trail Opening Date for Horse Traffic – Rob Way described the problem that is occurring on the trail involving the April 1<sup>st</sup> opening date for permitting horses to be out on the WIOUWASH and Mascoutin Trails. Over the past two years Parks has had issues with persons who are using poor judgment in choosing the appropriate time(s) to utilize the trail for horseback riding. Specifically, they are electing to ride their animals on the trail at times when the surface is very vulnerable to hoof imprint damage due to wet conditions. Rob asked the committee to consider moving the approximate trail opening date from April 1<sup>st</sup> to April 15<sup>th</sup>. After discussing the matter committee members indicated that it would be more favorable to have the opening date left up to the department head's discretion. Mike Norton and Barry Kiel suggested leaving the status of the agenda item as 'no action taken'.
5. Discussion of Developments Arising Out of April 30, 2014 North County Dog Park Meeting - Chairman Finch received permission from committee members to move item #5 ahead of item #4. Chairman Finch stated that there were many notices put out for the north county dog park meetings. Now that a group has been formed they will be pursuing leads on potential north county property sites. The new committee is a sub-committee of the FWCDP. Rob commented that the new committee had concerns regarding funding and the possibility of creating a permitting/daily pass program. The Parks Committee will have to determine where it stands on permitting. The Sturgis property is still being considered though the original offer for annual rental was turned down. Rob will be talking to the County Exec on another offer. It was also noted that the other municipalities in the area have indicated that it would be problematic to commit any funding for the project unless the funding request were to track through, and be formally approved by, their respective elected officials during their yearly

budgeting process. Mr. Sturgis indicated that he was interested if the DNR feedback regarding ownership liability if the property were to be sold.

6. Confirmation of Date and Time for Community Park Project Ground Breaking – Vicky Redlin reminded the committee that May 16, at 10:00 a.m. a groundbreaking will take place at the park for the new road/path project. Committee members are encouraged to attend.
7. Parks Director's Updates: Breezewood Property Update; Memorial Day Weekend Hmong Festival; Community Park Road/Shared Use Path Project Update
8. Committee Chairman's Updates: Chairman Finch noted that he saw discarded beer cans tossed around by the ball diamonds and would like ORD to address this. A Parks Tour date and time of June 11 beginning at 9:00 a.m. was selected.
9. Committee Member's Updates: Tom Konetzke asked for clarification about the liability issue with owning a dog park on a landfill. Rob proceeded to reply that separate DNR officials have verbally replied that there is no way to entirely release the property owner from liability associated with a former landfill. Even though the DNR officials felt the County's liability exposure would be very moderate given the material stored inside this particular landfill, they would not commit to providing a written statement indicating that Winnebago County would be absolved of all liability associated with the existence of the former landfill. Mike Norton asked if the committee has 4 or 5 members at the present time. Brady Kiel thanked the committee for the time allowance granted for today's meeting.
10. Staff Updates:
11. Next Meeting Date: June 5 @ 9:00 a.m. at CAB 4<sup>th</sup> floor with P&F and F&P M committees regarding hockey facility.
12. Next Meeting Agenda Items:
13. Adjournment – Chairman Finch called for a motion to adjourn. Brady Kiel moved to adjourn. Tom Konetzke seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned 4:35 p.m..