

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES  
May 4, 2010

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Rob Way, Bob Besaw, John Romberg, Dennis Herter, Lori Dean, and Bob Marcks

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Tiffany Schulz

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Mayor Gary Henke, Tom O'Connell, and Ron Steinhorst

OTHERS PRESENT: Parks & Rec Director Chad Hoerth, Administrator Kent Hager, Janet Searl, Lee Rousseau, Julie Blohm, Diane Montgomery, Clint Micke, Mark Baetke

Chairman Way called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Herter moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Romberg, motion carried 6-0.

Dog Park Survey/Results. Hoerth reported that there was a very good response (46%) to a survey sent out to registered dog owners in the City asking if they would use a dog park. The majority of the responses were in favor of a dog park. The committee discussed costs that would be involved once a site was established. Costs are fairly minimal and could include a dumpster or extra garbage receptacles, mowing, animal waste bags, some trail maintenance, tables and benches, lighting, etc. Sites were discussed; the two that generated the most interest are the nature area behind Wal-Mart and the property south of Floral Hill Cemetery. The committee members listened to comments from the public and would like Hoerth to assemble a list of costs to present at a future meeting.

Military Discounts. The Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association has asked their members to promote and provide services and/or programs at a discount to returning service members and their families. This will be revisited when more information becomes available.

ADA Accessible Parking Stalls. Hoerth presented a Power Point presentation of handicapped parking stalls currently in City parks and pointed out what is needed for compliance. The Parks crew will be working on setting up stalls in Riverside, Pfeifer North, Taft, Memorial, St. John's & Anchor, and Bernegger River Walk.

Skate Park. Complaints continue to come from residents near the skate park so the committee discussed ideas for supervision of that area. This was not an item that was put into the budget for this year so Hoerth would like to try some random supervision that can be coordinated with a police officer doing bike patrol to try and curtail the problems.

Dean moved to have the Parks & Recreation Department work on a supervision schedule for the skate park on a trial basis, seconded by Romberg. Motion carried 6-0.

Director's Report: Greg Becher completed 9 years of service for the City on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

Hoerth put up a poster at Memorial Park regarding a Mural Contest but so far has gotten no response.

In August 2009, variable speed drives were installed on motors at the pool to ramp them down when not in use and allow for a milder startup. The projected yearly savings is \$5,062, which results in a 1.2-year payback.

The VGB upgrade mandated by the State is on hold due to problems with the consultant. Hoerth is waiting for word of a deadline extension and to see if plans sent to the State are approved before deciding how to proceed.

An Arbor Day celebration was held with over 80 5<sup>th</sup> graders on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Winners of the poster contest each got a tree and students brought dirt from home to use to fill up the hole for tree planting.

There will be a fundraiser concert at the Stadium at Hatten Park on June 5<sup>th</sup>.

The Department Usage & Financial Statistics were circulated.

Chairman's Report – Rob Way brought up an issue that the tent caterpillar population was going to be bad this year and wondered if the Parks crew had a plan in place to get rid of them. Hoerth said they are removing them by hand and using soapy water.

Committee Member's Report – None.

Herter moved to adjourn, seconded by Dean, at 7:08 p.m.

Chad R. Hoerth  
Director of Park & Recreation