

City of Whitewater
Parks and Recreation Board Meeting
Monday, July 6, 2009 – 4:30pm
Cravath Lakefront Room- 2nd Floor, City Municipal Building
312 W. Whitewater St. Whitewater, WI 53190

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 4:31 pm by Sheila Kindwall. Present, Prudence Negley (4:35), Max Taylor, Steve Ridenour, David Stone, and Nicole Grosinske (4:32). Excused: Jen Kaina. Others present: Matt Amundson, Michelle Dujardin, Chuck Nass, and Deb Weberpal.

Stone motioned to approve the June 8 minutes. Ridenour seconded the motion. Ayes: Taylor, Stone, Ridenour, Kindwall. Absent: Negley, Grosinske and Kaina.

Citizen Comments: No formal action will be taken during this meeting, although issues raised may become part of a future agenda. Participants are allotted a 3 minute speaking period. Specific items listed on the agenda may not be discussed at this time; however, citizens are invited to speak to those issues as designated in the agenda. There were no citizen comments

Staff Reports

Director Report: Amundson referred to the monthly report and showed photos of Trippe Lake Bath House demolition and beginning construction of the new pavilion. Informed the Board of a recent meeting with the Landmarks Commission and State Archeologist at Indian Mounds Park. Plan for park is to survey mounds and return to oak savannah. Currently there is no funding. Nass commented on applying for an Urban Forestry Grant for funding and looking for a new consultant to work with on the project.

Negley inquired:

- 1) Can the park name be changed to add Archeological?
Amundson indicated that this was done in the last update of the Park & Open Space Plan and has since been labeled as such.
- 2) Can something be done with the open space in front of the park?
Discussion on possible planting of more trees in the area to provide better transition
- 3) Who had jurisdiction over the park?
Amundson answered Parks & Recreation Board makes recommendations to the Council
- 4) Who is responsible for property line discussions and questions?
Amundson indicated that property line issues should be referred to Neighborhood Services

Amundson reported that two ordinances presented at the previous council meeting would receive second readings at council tomorrow. The council at the previous meeting changed the snowmobile ordinance to allow snowmobiles on the lakes. Taylor explained the council discussion.

Recreation & Community Events Programmer: Reported that the concessions have been open for 11 days and the paddleboat rentals are going very well. They were not able to be rented over the July 4th weekend but we are hoping to change that for the future. Concerts in the Park and Family Fun nights have gone well so far. Sassy Shirts designed and donated 12 t-shirts for each event.

Senior Coordinator: The Accreditation peer Review was June 4. All went very well and we should receive a letter soon indicating that we passed accreditation. The formal presentation will take place in September at the Annual Fall Training. The new senior van was approved for purchase through Nelson Bus. We are currently training drivers and preparing them to obtain a CDL. Negley commented on the awesome and varied programs offered at Senior in the Park.

Parks/Streets Superintendent (Nass): Lost four trees at Starin Park during a storm. Trees have already been replanted. 250 trees have been planted in the city this year including 21 at the Lakefront. Fourth of July - The grass at the lakefront will be back in three weeks with maintenance (after the 4th celebration). Concern that a banner was hung from the arch in the Lakefront and the arch could possibly be damaged. This is a public piece of art and not a place to hang a banner. Amundson & Nass will address this issue for future uses. Discussion to be held at August Parks & Recreation Board meeting about guidelines for Special Events. Amundson indicated that two planters and signage have been ordered for Cravath Lakefront as part of Whitewater Street project. Reported on tree commission issues, five year trimming cycles, Nass and staff certifications.

Board and Commission Reports

Plan and Architectural Review Commission: David Stone indicated that the Plan Board is working on the Comprehensive Plan. Talked about Moraine View Park and the Tech Park. Administration of Moraine View Park should stay with the Park Board. Next meeting is July 20 and they will continue reviewing the Comprehensive Plan.

Whitewater Aquatics Center: Nicole Grosinske reported that there is a meeting on Thursday July 16

City Council: Max Taylor reported that most items have already been discussed.

WPRA Legislative Advocacy: David Stone indicated that July is Parks and Recreation Month

Discussion and possible action to approve Mural Park Site Plan

Per the memo, Amundson presented the Mural Park Site Plan. The Arts Alliance will fundraise for ½ the funding the other half to come from streetscape TIF. Question: What if the Arts Alliance cannot raise the funding? Amundson: They know we don't have the funding. A deadline date will be established so we do not lose the TIF dollars. Hoping to trim trees blocking the view of the mural. Looking forward to cleaning up an unsightly, prominent area. Negley moved to approve the Mural park Site Plan as submitted. Grosinske seconded the motion. Ayes: Taylor, Stone, Ridenour, Negley, Grosinski, and Kindwall. Absent: Kaina.

Approval of Representative(s) to Starin Park Playground Committee

Max Taylor volunteered to be the Park and Recreation Board representative on the Playground committee. Negley received a question from the public as to why small gravel is used under the equipment in the Starin park playground. Amundson discussed merits of all surfacing options, the small gravel meets safety standards, has rubber added, and it provides good drainage. The overall benefit is the cost factor when compared to other materials.

2010 Budget Update & Planning

Amundson encouraged the Board to think about goals and initiatives and park improvements as they apply to the budget. East Gate park will be dedicated soon with playground equipment budgeted for 2010. Minneiska Park playground is tentatively budgeted for 2011. He will have a preliminary budget at the September meeting. Negley requested we look at finishing park signage and Taylor indicated to keep working toward a large, "cool" playground.

Presented newest marketing effort as Amundson presented the Park and Recreation Facebook site.

Request for future agenda items (Next meeting is August 3 at 4:30 pm)

Review tree based ordinances and policies (Negley)

Education on Mounds Park (Negley)

Bike Route from East Gate to Washington School (Ridenour)

Discussion on Park Board meeting time (Grosinske)

Taylor moved to adjourn at 6:45 pm. Negley seconded. Unanimous voice vote.

Minutes submitted respectfully by: Deb Weberpal