

City of Whitewater
Parks and Recreation Board Meeting
Monday, March 1, 2010 - 5:00pm
Cravath Lakefront Room - 2nd Floor, City Municipal Building
312 W. Whitewater St. Whitewater, WI 53190

Draft Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 by Sheila Kindwall. Present: Dave Stone, Max Taylor, Steve Ridenour, Sheila Kindwall, Jen Kaina (5:15) Excused: Pru Negley and Nicole Grosinske Guest: Richard Helmick

Approval of February 1, 2010 Parks and Recreation Board Minutes

Taylor moved to moved to approve the February 1, 2010 minutes with additions. Second by Stone. Ayes: Dave Stone, Max Taylor, Steve Ridenour, Sheila Kindwall Noes: None Abstain: None Absent: Jen Kaina, Pru Negley and Nicole Grosinske

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)

A grant has been submitted for special event recycle bins. Working on a stewardship grant to create accessible fishing pier at Minneiska Park. Application is due May 1. Sponsorships information is now on website. The intern this summer is Kale Olson. Interviewing for a fall intern this week. The department sends out RFP's for most items including: clothing, photos, sports equip, chemical treatment of lake, and the electrical improvements at Cravath. The University Foundation took ownership of the remaining lots hoping to promote housing for new faculty to encourage them to stay in the community. City staff is working on resolution to improvements and the development agreement.

(Kaina arrived 5:15)

Recreation & Community Events Programmer (Dujardin)

It was a fantastic event with great weather. Special Olympics was great to work with. There were 258 plungers and \$37,000 has been raised to date. The Chili Cook Off was successful. Thanks to Max and Jen for judging. There were 225 riders for horse drawn carriage, family entertainment was well liked and the Klement sausages were back.

Senior Coordinator (Weberpal)

We will be airing a cable TV show "The Park Bench" beginning in April. A committee has been formed and has many ideas for the show. They are learning how to video tape, helping create a studio setting and will be interviewing people to host the show. The Easter Bunny Lunch will take place Saturday March 27 from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. Volunteers and donations are needed. Event is in conjunction with the Optimist Easter Egg Hunt. Rose Ellestad has left the federally funded Senior Aide position. Articles have gone out advertising the opening. Volunteers will be covering some of the time.

Parks/Streets Superintendent, City Forester (Nass)

The Urban Forestry Commission will hold its first meeting on March 2nd. This will be an introductory/informational meeting. The committee will be advisory to the park board.

Board and Commission Reports: No action other than possible referral to another meeting, but there may be minimal response to Board member questions:

Plan and Architectural Review Commission (Stone):

Building on Caine, Clark, and Gault was approved, easement acquired for trail. Discussed landscaping guidelines for developers.

Whitewater Aquatics Center (Grosinske)

Amundson reported there has been public concern of water temperature and the board discussed ways to remedy the situation. Reviewed financials. Board looking at raising endowment funds.

City Council (Taylor)

Two students running for a Taylor's seat. Board and commissions appointments will now be interviewed.

WPRA Legislative Advocacy (Stone)

No report.

Indian Mounds Park Committee (Kaina)

Amundson reported there will be public information and tours in May.

Urban Forestry Commission (Stone):

First meeting will be held on 3/2

Discussion and approval of Halloween Trick or Treating Hours for 2010

Halloween will be on a Sunday this year. Looking for input on potentially changing Trick or Treat to the closest weekend or should it be kept on Halloween and should the Parks and Recreation Halloween party remain on the same night as Trick or treat? The board suggested completing a survey at the party this year. Taylor moved to have Trick or Treat on Sunday, October 31 and the Park and Recreation Halloween Party also on the 31st. Second by Ridenour. There was discussion. Kaina moved to amend the motion to have the Park and Recreation party on Saturday night and Trick or Treat on Sunday, October 31, Halloween, from 4:00-7:00 pm. Second by Taylor. Ayes: Dave Stone, Max Taylor, Steve Ridenour, Jen Kaina, and Sheila Kindwall Noes: None Abstain: None Absent: Pru Negley and Nicole Grosinske . Motion to amend passed. Vote on amended motion: Ayes: Dave Stone, Max Taylor, Steve Ridenour, Jen Kaina, and Sheila Kindwall Noes: None Abstain: None Absent: Pru Negley and Nicole Grosinske.

Discussion of "SLAKSTRONG SHUFFLE" as a potential 5k community event

Kaina reported that Tyler Slak was a college athlete who passed away from gastric cancer in early February. The event will be an effort to raise money to help pay medical bills. Kaina hopes to involve the community and the university. Amundson recommended using the trail system in the community. Taylor: time of year? When are trails ready/dry? Amundson :Early April. May 15 is graduation. Could be tied into fall kick off at UWW but is that too long after, will people be as committed? Hawk's Nest interested in helping. PD encourages group to have their own crossing guards instead of closing streets. Kaina will talk to family to see if they are even interested. Kaina will keep group informed with email.

Discussion and possible action on current and future youth sports policies

As a department, we need to be cognizant of what is happening on our fields and in our buildings. An issue when club sports use our facilities in relation to liability, trained coaches with background checks, focusing on skill development and fun, and playing time for all kids. No action tonight is needed. Looking for input from board. Amundson will get feedback and invite club sports to the next meeting to discuss. Amundson referred to draft policy. Reviewed requirements and accountability. Policy creates a field/facility request form. Discussed potential background checks of referees/coaches for other groups. Taylor commented the policy is for safety and well being of the children. #5 on the policy is new and addresses being a positive sports parent. Communication between leagues and Parks and recreation is important, especially with concerns about coaches. Kindwall would like to see background checks required as part of the policy. Can we provide options for background checks and insurance? Board members were encouraged to send other thoughts or comments to Amundson.

Update on Trail Advocacy Efforts, Future Planning, and Grant Applications

Amundson referred to the memo, group is working on a grass roots effort to create a Safe Routes Plan. How does the university figure into Safe Routes to Schools program/grant not just WWUSD? This program /grant will benefit

schools and the community. Transportation Enhancement fund improves pedestrian and bike movement. Possible to write a grant. Looking for money for these improvements.

Discussion on Department Vision, Brand, and Strategic Planning

Amundson referred to the memo, staff is looking for ideas from the board for goals. The new board, which will be seated in May, should also look at this. Keep doing the bus tour as it is informational to the new board. What is our vision? What is our brand? Kaina liked #11 (fitness event). Could add a run to Taste and use it as a fundraiser for an entity in the community and Parks and Recreation. Parks and Recreation needs a consistent message that is not too general. Anything from the Mainstreet program we can use? Can we bring someone in from the university to assist in facilitating branding?

Request for future agenda items

None

Adjourn

Stone motioned and Kaina adjourned. 7:02 pm