

City of Whitewater
Parks and Recreation Board Agenda
Thursday, June 14, 2012 - 5:30pm
Cravath Lakefront Room - 2nd Floor, City Municipal Building
312 W. Whitewater St. Whitewater, WI 53190

Minutes

Call to Order and Roll Call

Brandon Knedler, Nathan Jaeger, Jen Kaina , Kim Gosh, and Ken Kidd Absent: Bruce Parker,
Staff: Matt Amundson, Deb Weberpal
Guests: Richard Helmick, Carol Christ

Consent Agenda

Approval of Parks and Recreation Board minutes of May 21, 2012
Expedited approval of the following items, per staff recommendation:
Request for facility rental (Starin Park Community Building) refund by Patty Snyder
Request for facility rental (Starin Park Shelter) refund by Jennifer Connors
Request for recreation program refund by Melissa Boyd

Kidd moved to accept the consent agenda with amendment to May 21st minutes. Second by Jaeger. Ayes:
Knedler, Jaeger, Kidd, Gosh and Kaina. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Parker Motion passed.

Hearing of 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.

Richard Helmick expressed a concern related to Big Brick Park and inappropriate behavior past 10:00 pm on weeknights in the park.

Staff Reports:

Parks & Recreation Director

Travis Wessels and Nicole Golden are both UWW undergrads with emphasis in recreation completing internships with the department this summer. Both are involved in youth baseball and softball while also assisting with delivery of summer programs. The youth baseball & softball program has 15 traveling teams participating in the Quad County league. Participation numbers up in all leagues except 12 & under baseball due to small class size.

Senior Coordinator

Request for several people to start pickle ball. Have funds for equipment need space somewhere.

Approval of amendments to restoration plan for Whitewater Effigy Mounds Preserve

Amundson referred to the memo and gave an update. Current plan calls for mowing at 6-8" and is not happening. Map from Renae Mitchell , yellow no mow area, green is mow area.

Richard Helmick addressed concern with removing turf from mounds without degrading the mounds. Hand mowing the mounds worked well last year. Possibly mow line around mounds so people can see shapes. Site has been improved over the past 3 years. Main concern is to protect the mounds. Amundson shared that whatever is done on the site the new trail needs to be distinguished from the rest of the site as it has greatly improved orientation of visitors to the site.

Kidd stated that any plan must be easy to maintain. Neighbors are concerned as efforts have come and gone. Also need to look at park resources (staff). Kidd is in favor of short stature prairie grass on the mounds. Labor intensive in the beginning but in the long run would work. Possibly start with two mounds to experiment, possibly as early as this fall.

The Board directed staff to greater research the concept of introducing short stature prairie grass on the mounds and if that has been successfully done at other mound sites.

Approval of agreement with GRB Academy for rental of Starin Park ball diamonds

Amundson referred to the memo. This is a discounted rate to bring it in line with the school district agreement with GRB. Kidd moved to accept the agreement. Second by Kaina. Ayes: Knedler, Jaeger, Kidd, Gosh and Kaina. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Parker. Motion passed.

Discussion and direction related to Ray Trost Nature Preserve signage

Amundson referred to the memo. The board took no action at this time and recommends including in the comprehensive trail signage program that will result as part of the bicycle and pedestrian master plan.

Discussion and direction related to Minneiska Park drainage issues

Amundson referred to the memo. Staff has asked Strand to develop strategies to address these issues. Possible info at next meeting.

Discussion and direction related to non-resident adult dance concern

Amundson referred to the memo. Amundson met with two of the concerned participants. This is the only program that has a majority of participants that are nonresidents. They seemed to understand when explained the new policy. The Board remains committed to the current policy and no action was taken.

Discussion regarding Parks & Recreation Department staffing

Amundson referred to the memo and at the numbers for programs and participation. Staff concern is that there is a greater need for programming staff than a clerical position. The Board can make recommendations and advocate for a change with the Council. The board discussed the option of a part-time position or graduate assistant from UW-Whitewater. Ideally would be a 20 hour position that could have seasonal flexibility but Amundson needs to look at benefits and how they would apply to these hours. This will have to be part of the budget process.

Discussion and direction related to recent CVMIC playground inspections

Amundson referred to the memo and the site visit they performed. Surfacing material on playgrounds is inadequate and is unacceptable. Their recommendation is engineered wood fiber. ADA law has been updated to now include all recreational facilities. Identify where we are deficient, develop a standard (what percentage accessible), by 2015 must meet minimum standards. Don't know when 100% compliance will happen. CVMIC will help us get to where we need to be. This will have to be looked at in future budgets and new playgrounds being installed.

Update and direction related to Treyton’s Field of Dreams and specifically Pepsi Refresh funds

Amundson referred to the memo. Amundson has requested a change in what the funds are to go for, a grading plan for the site and remainder be paid as down payment toward the turf. Pepsi has approved the change in the grant. We may possible break ground late summer, early fall. Staff is looking at design options that will minimize tree loss and will replant more than we remove. Kidd moved the change to the Pepsi refresh grant. Second by Gosh. Ayes: Knedler, Jaeger, Kidd, Gosh and Kaina. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Parker. Motion passed.

Request for free facility use (Armory Gym) by AWANA

Amundson referred to the memo. The facility use policy requires that religious groups should be paying 50%. They will use armory entire school year on Thursday nights. Have used facility for free in the past. What definition do they fall under in the rental policy? All under doing a charitable good to the community, which is free. Question the time frame. Knedler moved to accept them as a charitable to the community group. Jaeger seconded. Board has more questions. Amundson will ask the group if they could use other sites due to demand for the Armory in the winter and why the time frame requested? Motion was tabled until July.

Request for future agenda items


Mounds maintenance plan
Minneiska Park drainage issues
free facility use (Armory Gym) by AWANA
hours for parks

Adjourn

Next meeting will be July 2 at 4:00

7:15 pm Motion Knedler by Second by Kidd. Affirmed by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Debra Weberpal