

City of Whitewater
Parks and Recreation Board
Minutes
Monday October 1, 2012 - 5:30pm
Cravath Lakefront Room - 2nd Floor, City Municipal Building
312 W. Whitewater St. Whitewater, WI 53190

Call to Order and Roll Call

Nathan Jaeger, Kim Gosh, Bruce Parker, Rachel Deporter, Teri Smith, Brandon Knedler, and Ken Kidd Absent: Jen Kaina.

Staff: Matt Amundson, Michelle Dujardin, Deb Weberpal, Chuck Nass

Guests: Cameron Clapper, City Manager, Richard Ehrenberg, Tiu Gray-Fow, James Hartwick, and Roy Nosek

Consent Agenda: Approval of Parks and Recreation Board minutes of September 10, 2012 and receipt and acknowledgement of Urban Forestry Commission minutes of July 24, 2012

No items to be removed from consent agenda. Smith moved to accept the consent agenda with the correction of "baskets west of Franklin". Second by Deporter. Ayes: Jaeger, Parker, Kidd, Smith, Deporter, Knedler and Gosh. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Kaina. 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.

There were no comments.

Staff Reports:

Parks & Recreation Director

- Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan: Walking Workshops will be hosted on October 16th with the focus on school dismissal time for LINC'S, the Middle School and Washington. They will experience the walk with kids leaving school and talk afterward giving suggestions and recommendations. This process will assist by proving data for grants.

(5:07 Kaina arrived)

- Janitorial RFP: Companies submitting RFPs will be given a tour of the facilities tomorrow.

Recreation and Community Events programmer

- Pig in the Park was a successful event. The Barbequers arrived Friday night. Saturday morning the W3 race went well. The results are online with a Shutterfly site setup for photos. The BBQ Cook-off participants complimented the City. They were given cash prizes in hopes of them spending some of their winnings in town.

Senior Coordinator

- Pickleball Update-Attendance is high. We could use a third court. They are very grateful to be in the Armory.
- WASC Fall Conference-The conference was held in conjunction with the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR). There were several national speakers with topics for senior centers and much more.

Review and approval of 2013 Parks & Recreation (P/R) Budget

Amundson referred to the memo and reviewed the budget with the board.

- The budget is close to a zero increase budget but is over slightly.
- Questions on internet usage for credit card transaction fee. Adjusted the line item in Recreation Administration.
- The roof top units have been moved to the Capital Improvement budget.
- Goal adjustments: Adding Trippe Lake to 2013 Goal #2 and moving due date of goal #7 to December 1st. Dr Kidd recommended Amundson contact Evan Winn regarding goal #8.
- Maintenance salaries are increased to hire seasonal help in the summer.
- The report back from Envirosience says that the weevils were effective against EWM but the City should explore more aggressive management of native species plants that are creating significant problems on Trippe Lake.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) discussion

Amundson: Must weigh cost of treating against the budget. All trees are bought and maintained within the Parks & Recreation budget. \$5000 has been budgeted to “shadow” plant additional trees. It would be ideal to move forward with a unified front in respect to the budget and EAB.

Nass: Cost of treatment the first year will be approximately \$25,000. There are about 350 ash trees within the size parameters of treating/saving. The insecticide control equipment is \$4000 to purchase. The insecticide will save about 80% of the trees planted and is good for 2 years possibly more. A minimum of \$7000 per year for the life of the trees will be needed in the budget for upkeep. There is no staff cost in the estimate. It would take 3 staff, 2 days to inoculate 100 trees. City Staff would also take down all trees they could.

James Hartwick: Trees add to quality of life of the community. Would like to see trees to save chosen wisely, to save the best and also partner plant. There is potential for public/private (homeowner) partnerships to pay for the inoculations.

Kidd: Would like to see a compromise and a rational plan to save critical trees, would like to see parameters established.

Knedler: A plan needs to be made but there is not time this year. We have money in budget to begin shadow planting. Would like to see three plans from an ad hoc committee, to consider and budget for.

Gray-Fow: this is a time sensitive issue and the cost to remove dead trees will be an issue.

Nosek: does not feel all trees have been counted. Suggested planting “whip” trees as they will be less expensive and to test this in the NW quadrant of the city which is scheduled for trees in 2013.

Ehrenberg: ID trees now before the leaves drop.

Clapper: Already have a bare bones budget and the next step is to cut people. More information is needed on this subject and doesn't feel it can be budgeted for at this time.

Amundson (in response to suggestion to cut back on recreation programs) Recreation programs bring in money to offset expenses or in some instances see profit. The public needs to show support for this monetarily.

Smith: Gave example of citrus trees being wiped out in Florida and recommended partner planting only.

Nass: Will have staff check on trees to make sure they are marked in the next couple of days. It is important to continue planting as \$10,000 will not treat very many trees.

Kidd: Keep the \$10,000 in the budget for trees and form an ad hoc committee to decide how to spend.

Hartwick: Requested to protect some trees for canopy while partner trees are growing.

Gray-Fow: Asked for \$15,000 for trees.

Amundson: Departments will be asked to bring back options throughout the budget process. October 23 is the Parks & Recreation budget presentation.

Kidd moved to accept the budget as presented with \$10,000 for trees and EAB with a plan forthcoming on how to spend the money. Second by Smith.

Discussion: Nass commented the decision will ultimately be made by the City Council to continue treatment. Future councils and change their minds and not fund and the trees will ultimately die. The \$10,000 budgeted would plant 340 trees which would replace almost all the ash trees. The EAB may already be here and not all trees will die. Once the beetle is here must always treat the tree or it will die. Nass stated that if this item came to him as a School Board member he could not support funding treatment of the trees.

Ayes: Jaeger, Parker, Kidd, Smith, Deporter, Knedler and Kaina. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None . Motion passed.

Approval of the creation of an ad hoc committee for the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

Knedler moved to see three plans to choose from by October 31. Second by Smith. Ayes: Jaeger, Parker, Kidd, Smith, Deporter, Knedler and Kaina. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion passed. Committee members will be Chuck Nass (Staff), Ken Kidd (Council Rep), 2 members of the Park Board – Parker and Smith, and 2 members of the UFC.

Discussion and direction related to Cravath Lakefront Park stage improvements

Amundson referred to the memo. What is Park Board interested in pursuing? Looking to make the area more useable and the Rotary is interested in assisting.

Request for future agenda items

Kidd asked that we address Transient Merchants and sale of goods in parks.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Parker to adjourn at 7:45 pm. Second by Smith. Affirmed by voice vote.

Next meeting: Monday November 5, at 5:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,



Debra Weberpal