

**City of Whitewater  
Parks and Recreation Board  
Minutes**

**Tuesday, December 9, 2014 - 5:30 pm**

Community Room – 1st Floor, Whitewater Municipal Building  
312 W. Whitewater St. Whitewater, WI 53190

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

Rachel Deporter, Nate Jaeger, Ken Kidd, Sarah Hansberry, and Bruce Parker. Absent: Jen Kaina and Brandon Knedler

Staff: Matt Amundson, Michelle Dujardin, Deb Weberpal, Brooke Friess, and Cameron Clapper

Guests: Richard Helmick, Dave Saalsaa, Blake Scharine, Karen Coburn, Bill Bowen, and Choton Basu

**Consent Agenda:**

Approval of Parks and Recreation Board minutes of November 25, 2014

No items to be removed from consent agenda. Kidd moved to accept the consent agenda. Second by Hansberry. Ayes: Rachel Deporter, Sarah Hansberry, Nate Jaeger, Ken Kidd, and Bruce Parker. Noes: None. Absent: Jen Kaina and Brandon Knedler.

**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 public comments.

**Staff Reports:**

Recreation & Community Events Programmer

Winter/Spring Brochure: The Winter/Spring Brochure printed copies have arrived and will be distributed through the schools this week. All programs are listed online and are currently taking registration.

After School Program: The After School Program is going great with numbers growing monthly at LINCS. Kids and Staff are enjoying daily programming; Soldier letters were shared with the board members along with a journal started at each school to capture candidate sayings from the kids.

Pig In The Park: The Annual Pig In the Park event presented by Downtown Whitewater Inc. will not take place in 2015. Due to decline in sponsorship, volunteers, and fundraising dollars the event will not happen in 2015. Downtown Whitewater Inc. will still continue to provide events and focus on items that fit the organization's mission statement.

Parks & Recreation Director

Jr Whippet Baseball & Softball: A good connection has been made with the new UWW Baseball Coach for involvement with our programs this year. A meeting will be held on Thursday to gauge participation interest in hosting 12 & Under as well as 14 & Under Tournaments in Whitewater.

Trail Naming: A current map is being awaited before moving forward. After the map is received, information will then be released to the public asking for feedback.

Ice Rink: Current warm weather conditions have made it tough to maintain usable ice and with projected warm weather, the rink will become water until consistent freezing temperatures occur. We are hopeful for good ice soon.

## **Considerations:**

### **Presentation by Slipstream, LLC (Go Strive) related to a pilot project in Whitewater utilizing Bluetooth low energy beacons.**

Choton Basu and Bill Bowen presented to the board the idea of placing pilot beacons in specific areas that gather data and communicates with smart phone users by Bluetooth connection and text messages. Basu explained that the beacons will reach approximately 100 meters and will pick up any smart phones in the area that currently have the Bluetooth option running, users will be messaged by the beacon to download a specific app, the app will supply the user with information the department selects. Basu explained information passed along to users could be advertisements to local businesses, location specifics, upcoming programs, or pictures messages.

Kidd: What is the cost?

Basu: The current cost of each beacon is \$50, but in a few years the cost will be significantly less. Other costs include the programming and design of the information passed along to users, that can range from \$100- \$250 per month depending on information selected.

Helmick: How are the beacons mounted and are you worried about vandalism?

Basu: The beacons can be set anywhere and will work or have the ability to be mounted at any height. Beacons are currently being tested to be weather resistance and ability to withstand cold. Vandalism concerns will have to be explored.

Amundson asked the board to select a location for a beacon to help with the pilot project. Weberpal suggested the Armory due to the heavy winter usage with multiple groups. The board agreed with Weberpal and will move forward with using the Armory as a beacon location. Information and details of the project will be decided as the project moves forward.

### **Discussion and possible action related to Cravath Lakefront Park and specifically tree planting and its impact on Special Events**

Amundson shared an updated map illustrating the estimate scale of mature trees.

Coburn: Presented the proposal of three new trees to include an Ironwood and two Honeylocust to be planted in specific locations. Coburn commented on the need for additional shade for people to read books and enjoy the park.

Amundson commented that two of the proposed trees could pose a viewing concern to the stage from the bump outs along with concerns of placement of event tents where the trees are proposed to be planted.

Knedler arrives at 6:15pm

Scharine: Representing the 4<sup>th</sup> of July committee and also on behalf of other events he had a helping hand with expressed concerns about adding trees and the limitation it could create for current events and also future events. Keeping the perimeter beautified with trees helps keep the open space available and flexible for things to happen in the park.

Kidd: Asked about North East Corner located by Me and My Pets and the projected canopy and the effect on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event.

Scharine: Commented to Kidd that the area has been challenge but everyone is being flexible and making things work.

Saalsaa: Representing Downtown Whitewater Inc. commented the park has a huge value to the downtown and depending on the time of day, there are plenty of places to find shade and enjoy the park. If you plant more trees, you are land locking the park to only certain type of events that can be held in the location.

Coburn: Commented that we should not limit the plantings and tree trunks can be very flexible to program around.

Kidd: Suggested depending on the condition of the Ash Trees by the Arch, that would be a great potential place for the proposed Honeylocust trees. Kidd also suggested making sure that current shade locations have ample benches and locations to sit and enjoy the park.

Knedler: Commented that it is easy to put in additional trees, but hard to take out. He suggested taking the two Oak Trees located in the lower open space of the park and transplanting them in the location of the poor Crabapple trees located next to the parking lot.

Parker: Asked the board if the goal is to have the park be an open space park.

Parker moved to have Cravath Lakefront Park labeled as an Open Space Park with the exemption West of the boat ramp to retain numerous trees. Deporter seconded the motion. Ayes: Rachel Deporter, Sarah Hansberry, Nate Jeager, Ken Kidd, Brandon Knedler and Bruce Parker. Noes: None. Absent: Jen Kaina.

Knedler moved to divide the Cravath Lakefront Park designated Open Space into four quadrants and directed staff to make recommendations based on expertise on how to maintain open space, relocation on concerned trees, and the replacement plan of trees in poor condition. These recommendations are to be brought back at the January meeting. Kidd seconded the motion. Ayes: Rachel Deporter, Sarah Hansberry, Nate Jeager, Ken Kidd, Brandon Knedler and Bruce Parker. Noes: None. Absent: Jen Kaina.

**Discussion and possible action related to maintenance of the Whitewater Effigy Mounds Preserve**  
Agenda item was tabled to January meeting.

### **Presentation of Summer 2014 Recreation Programs Financial Reports**

Amundson presented the 2014 Recreation Program Financial Reports. The board had no follow up questions.

### **Work session to establish 5 year goals for Strategic Plan process**

- Community center/ field house
- Cravath stage improvement and temporary shade structures
- Splash Pad
- Community health and wellness programming
- More shelters
- After school programming and partnerships
- Soccer field concessions
- Bike/pedestrian plan implementation
- Second pet exercise area
- WW creek needs a master plan
- Customer Service Plan for Office/Improved Office Space
- Integration with Rec Desk for Seniors in The Park
- Adult Enrichment vs. Seniors in the Park
- Access to Whitewater Aquatic Center for programming & Employee Wellness
- Documented procedures and processes for park and facility maintenance
- Implementation of ADA transition plan
- Increased teen and young adult programs
- Continued implementation of technology in programs and facilities
- Outdoor fitness equipment at Starin Park

Park Board members worked with City Staff on six goals to create action plans for specific items. Work sessions on goals will continue in future meetings.

### **Request for future agenda items**

Parker would like discussion and review on volunteer policies

Knedler would like to discuss recognition options for volunteers/ coaches

**Adjourn at 8:32 pm. Affirmed by voice vote.**

**Next scheduled meeting: Tuesday, January 13, 5:30 pm**

Respectfully submitted,

*Michelle Dujardin*