

City of Whitewater
Parks and Recreation Board
Minutes
Tuesday, March 10, 2015 – 5:30pm
Community Room – 1st Floor, Whitewater Municipal Building
312 W. Whitewater St. Whitewater, WI 53190

Call to Order and Roll Call:

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Knedler at 5:30. Rachel Deporter, Jen Kaina, Ken Kidd, Brandon Knedler, Bruce Parker, and Kori Oberle.

Absent: Nate Jeager, Sarah Hansberry

Guests: Karen Coburn, Ken Kienbaum, Denay Trykowski, Sherry Stanek, Jim Nies

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Parks and Recreation Board minutes of February 10, 2015.

No items to be removed from consent agenda. Deporter moved to accept the consent agenda. Second by Oberle. Ayes: Rachel Deporter, Bruce Parker, Kori Oberle, Brandon Knedler. Noes: None. Absent: Sarah Hansberry and Nate Jeager.

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.

Sherry Stanich discussed her concern for the Monarch Butterfly population in the city and the possibility of constructing a butterfly garden in one of the city's parks.

Staff Reports:

Park and Recreation Director

Amundson mentioned the planned indoor sports facility in Jefferson and that a need for such a facility will still exist within Whitewater. Amundson discussed bicycle and pedestrian system way-finding signage. This signage is being worked on by an outside consultant, SAA. These two parties are working on what will go on the signs and where they will be placed throughout the bicycle and pedestrian system. The student group will bring mock-ups of the signs to the board for approval prior to purchase. Lastly, he discussed potential changes to the city's open gym programs. Amundson suggested implementing a revenue generating program – funds raised through open gyms will be used for equipment and facility upgrades.

Considerations:

Discussion on action related to Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan:

Amundson presented the plan to the board and guests. Stated a change in the type of equipment that would be put in place at Big Brick Park. Equipment would be geared more towards college aged people due to the change in the neighborhood demographics.

Jim Nies – Past President of Starin neighborhood association. Concerned about the changes that are happening in Starin park. Concerned about the loss of trees. Would like considering a small scale arboretum (a teaching arboretum) – and would like to see more tree species diversity. Consideration of kids getting out into nature more. Association is behind it and has money to go towards it. Bridge to

nowhere would like to see it as a linear park. Starin lends itself better to a controlled learning area as opposed to other spaces.

Amundson also shared the Whitewater Youth Soccer Clubs' concerns in regards to the soccer fields at Moraine View Park. They are having problems with the playing surface. A motion was made by Kidd to approve the Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan and second by Oberle. Ayes: Rachel Deporter, Jen Kaina, Ken Kidd, Bruce Parker, Kori Oberle, Brandon Knedler. Noes: None. Absent: Nate Jeager, Sarah Hansberry.

Discussion and possible action related to proposed tree removal, relocation, and replacement plan for trees at Cravath Lakefront Park:

Karen Coburn presented an overview of the UFC's proposal for trees to be planted in the park. Move two oak towards Whitewater St. and move a crab apple tree. 3 trees added to east of promenade – create a shade area. A canopy tree to add shade along the sidewalk for the concerts. Replace the tree that had been damaged by the car. Tree has been removed and will be replaced. Potentially 3 trees being added near the pier and after the construction has been complete. Chuck Naas will decide on what trees will be planted, and where the trees will be planted.

Board discussion: Bruce Park mentioned his concern with adding trees to the NW quadrant of the park. He feels as though it will limit the ability of the Carnival and the City to get equipment in and out of the "open space" portion of the park. Brandon Knedler suggested that a tree be added in the NW quadrant only if it does not impede equipment getting in and out of the park, and tree position and species will be left up to the discretion of Chuck Naas.

The board discussion was agreed upon and will be denoted in the strategic plan and taken to the Council.

Discussion and action related to the maintenance of the Whitewater Effigy Mounds Preserve and direction related to proposals received:

Amundson discussed the proposals received from Midwest Prairies and Tallgrass. He would recommend Midwest Prairies and the plan would include no till grass seeding on the area outside of the mounds. Getting rid of invasive is a two part process. Herbicide would be used on a time and material basis. City staff would work with their staff so that the City can potentially take over maintenance when the process is finished. This could take 3-5 years – and looking at other options moving forward.

Sherry Stanek – Mentioned available grants for effigy mounds that could be looked into for maintenance. Mentioned looking into alternative funding through grants. Very impressed with the proposal that was given to Matt, and thinks that it is a good starting point.

Ken Keinbaum- Controlled burn needs to be done earlier- potentially.

Board Discussion: Ken Kidd is looking for more direction from Midwest Prairies on how to delineate the mounds. A motion was made by Knedler to approve the proposal and as step one to remove invasive species, and to use Midwest Prairies to help us plan how to specifically help with the mounds, second by Oberle. Ayes: Jen Kaina, Ken Kidd, Bruce Parker, Kori Oberle, Brandon Knedler. Noes: None. Absent: Nate Jeager, Rachel Deporter, Sarah Hansberry.

Discussion and possible action related to proposals received for production of Parks and Recreation Brochure:

Amundson discussed the Whitewater program brochure and showed Monona's City guide to the board as a point of reference. We discussed a plan to increase the number of guides that are distributed and the plan to reduce the number of guide to 2 per year – Summer/Fall and Winter/Spring. Thyse Printing was presented by staff as the selected vendor. They will complete the first guide, and they will turn over the template to Michelle Dujardin or the Parks and Recreation Department – which in the long run will

be the cheaper option. The additional cost of production will be spread throughout all departments of the City.

A motion to approve the Brochure was made by Jen Kaina, and second by Ken Kidd. Ayes: Kori Oberle, Bruce Parker, Jen Kaina, Ken Kidd, Brandon Knedler. Noes: None. Absent: Rachel Deporter, Nate Jeager, Sarah Hansberry.

Discussion and possible action related to proposals received for providing clothing for recreation programs and staff:

Amundson discussed the department receiving two quotes from On-time tees and Aropa. Amundson proposed that the bid be given to On-time tees.

A motion to approve was made by Bruce Parker, second by Kori Oberle. Ayes: Jen Kaina, Ken Kidd, Bruce Parker, Kori Oberle. Noes: None. Absent: Rachel Deporter, Nate Jeager, Sarah Hansberry.

Request for future agenda items:

Rededication of Kachel's Kids Field.

Adjourn at 6:58pm. Affirmed by voice vote.

Next scheduled meeting : Tuesday, April 14th, 5:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nate Harraker