

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

Wednesday, September 21, 2016 - 6:30 pm

Cravath Lakefront Room – 2nd Floor, Whitewater Municipal Building
312 W. Whitewater St. Whitewater, WI 53190

Call to Order and Roll Call

Nate Jaeger, Ken Kidd, Brandon Knedler, Bruce Parker, Chris Grady, Larry Kachel, Steve Ryan

Absent: Jen Kaina, Rachel DePorter, Kori Oberle

Staff: Matt Amundson, Debbie Oas, Jenna Stine, Michelle Dujardin, Brian de la Torriente, Chuck Nass, Chris McDonell, Cameron Clapper

Guests: Nick Alt, Danielle Taber, Kristina Glascok, Avery Jenks, Elijah Krause, Candace Chenoweth, Scott Nicklas, David Vosburgh, Jane Mortensen, Mike Callen, Ruth Walton, Melissa Walton, Ross Walton, James Allen, Mark Maas, Karen Coburn, E. Anne Zarinnia, Sherry Stanek, Nicole Leasen, Kim Clarksen, Kate Ksobiech, Rose Mary Leaven, Wes Enterline

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Parks and Recreation Board minutes of August 17th, 2016

No items to be removed from consent agenda. Kachel moved to accept the consent agenda. Second by Ryan. Ayes: Ken Kidd, Steve Ryan, Chris Grady, Larry Kachel, Nate Jaeger, Bruce Parker and Brandon Knedler. Noes: None. Abstain: Absent: Kori Oberle, Jen Kaina, Rachel DePorter

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.

No Citizen Comments

Staff Reports:

Aquatic and Fitness Programmer

Debbi Oas shared that the Whitewater Aquatic and Fitness Center was recently closed for a four day period for new carpet installation and deep cleaning. Oas commented that there are new towels for the pools and fitness center. There has also been a bid put in for a chair lift in the leisure pool. Three new fitness professionals have been hired. There are currently 37 different classes offered per week. Fall programs are underway, and will be offering swim lessons, lifeguard and CPR Training. In addition to personal training.

Parks and Recreation Director

Amundson commented that there will be an open house on October 8th & 9th at the Whitewater Aquatic and Fitness Center. He also commented that he Discover Whitewater Series had a total of 771 runners,

which is a 7 ½ percent increase from last year. In the future the Aquatic and Fitness center should be open the day of the event. The community should be commended for their efforts.

Considerations:

Presentation by Kim Adams and Angie Alesci of 640 Stonefield Lane regarding Walton Oaks Park and their adjoining property

Jaeger left at 6:46pm

Kim Adams and Angie Alesci gave their presentation

Citizen Comments:

Jim Allen commented that both parties involved are good intentioned people.

Wes Enterline commented that he was contacted by Karen Coburn about this issue, and that it could be a great opportunity to restore park land and get involved with the sustainability office. Also it would be a great opportunity for students with an interest in restoration to get involved.

Mike Callen asked what harm is this doing? Callen commented that it adds to the park and is set back from the park. It would be a loss, it beautifies the area.

Kim Clarksen commented that all properties need to be considered, and not just Kim and Angies. Families enjoy that park, experience nature, use playground. So overgrown it is not safe. Neighbors should have a say in what the park looks like. Lack of path and people don't know what is park and what isn't.

Anne Zarinnia commented that people have reported they don't know what park property is and what is not park property. Anne passed out pictures of the property. Need to decide if the park is a neighborhood park or community park.

Sheri Stanek commented that the path is not that hard to find. She wasn't sure if she was trespassing onto Angie's property. The flowers that have been planted are not consistent with what the land is for.

Cameron Clapper commented that an email was sent to the Parks & Recreation Board. The pictures shown in the presentation by Kim and Angie show their dedication to the affected area. Rules of encroachment on to city property need to be addressed. Preserve what is there. Realign the border of the property. Donate flower to somewhere else.

Kim Adams asked how we can accommodate the birds. Could some of the flowers stay? Can signage be put up regarding plants and flowers?

Dr Kidd asked Chuck Nass what could be expended in resources and man hours to rehab the park

Chuck Nass commented that direction from the Park and Recreation Board was needed to remove the invasive plants.

Matt Amundson commented that Parks and Recreation would work with those affected and asked the board to give direction at the end of the meeting.

Bruce Parker commented that other parks will need to be assessed to see if other property owners are encroaching on those parks. All parks will eventually have posts and bird houses.

Discussion and possible action related to Special Events policy (Assistant City Manager)

McDonnell commented that the Special Events policy would need to be in place for any planned event on public property, and the application would need to be filed with the city at least 45 prior to the event. He also commented some fees may be waived for parking lot closure or barricades. Amundson commented the policy came out after "Summer Days". He also commented on the concern of waiving certain fees when the city has lack of resources. Amundson also commented that the policy helps an event plan, and that the policy should be reviewed on an annual basis. Kachel suggested to tighten up wording in the policy.

Citizen Comments:

Sherry Stanek commented that Whitewater is at a point of change, and that all ambiguities need to be removed.

Knedler made the motion to approve the recommendation for a Special Events Policy to go to council pending review by the city attorney.

Report from Urban Forestry commission on Minneiska Park to include comments on Skyway & Starin Park (No action will be taken on this issue at this meeting)

Coburn commented that there should be shade trees added by the benches and along the path. She also commented there should be thought on wheelchair accessibility to the future playground.

Amundson commented to place trees in the playground area where it is accessible and trees are already planted by the curbs by the parking lot at Starin Park. Coburn commented that the arboretum should be turned into an educational draw in the future. Knedler commented on opening up the arboretum for discussion next board meeting. Zarinnia expressed concern of playground in location to runway and that trees could easily be moved.

Discussion and possible action related to a college seasonal pass for Aquatic and Fitness Center

Stine and Oas commented that several University students walk through the Aquatic and Fitness Center. They would like to offer a nine month Aquatic and Fitness Center membership versus a six month membership. An EFT would be set up that would stop at the end of the school year in May.

Grady moved to approve the Aquatic & Fitness Center pass for college students. Seconded by Knedler and Ryan. Ayes: Dr. Ken Kidd, Brandon Knedler, Bruce Parker, Chris Grady, Larry Kachel, Steve Ryan. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Rachel DePorter, Jen Kaina, Nate Jaeger and Kori Oberle.

Presentation related to Aquatic & Fitness Center financials including: August 2016 Financial Report; Pass Holder Report.

Amundson commented that August should be the worst month financially, and that projections should have the facility breaking even by years end. By adding staff, efficiencies have picked up. Kachel asked what is the expected salary increase. Amundson stated he will share with the board the requested information after the meeting.

Discussion and possible action related to aquatic center capital equipment and specifically regarding purchase of fitness equipment and HVAC controls software

Amundson commented on updating the fitness equipment and HVAC at the Aquatic and Fitness Center. He suggested replacing all the fitness equipment at once and using that as a marketing tool. Ryan recommended doing the replacing of equipment all at once as well. Kidd asked what the timeline was for delivery of new equipment. Amundson noted it would take six to eight weeks.

Kidd moved to approve replacing fitness equipment at the Aquatic and Fitness Center. Seconded by Ryan. Ayes: Larry Kachel, Steve Ryan, Ken Kidd, Brandon Knedler, Bruce Parker and Chris Grady. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent:

Kidd moved to approve the closure. Seconded by Oberle. Ayes: Ken Kidd, Steve Ryan, Chris Grady, Larry Kachel, Nate Jaeger, Jen Kaina, Bruce Parker, Brandon Knedler, and Kori Oberle. Noes: None. Abstain: None Absent: Rachel DePorter

Discussion and possible action related to 2017 Parks and Recreation Budget

Request for future agenda items

Plan from Urban Forestry for exactly what they want park to look like
Special Aquatic Center meeting for planning
Discussion about park posts for all parks
Opening Arboretum for educational draw
Approve Parks and Recreation Budget

Adjourn

Kachel moved to adjourn at 9:19pm. Second by Knedler. Ayes: Ken Kidd, Steve Ryan, Chris Grady, Larry Kachel, Bruce Parker and Brandon Knedler. Noes: None. Abstain: None Absent: Rachel Deporter, Jen Kaina, Nate Jaeger and Kori Oberle.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian de la Torriente