

## **Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Committee Minutes of January 12, 2012**

Meeting called to order by Jim Wein, chairperson, at 6:00 p.m. in Room 108 of City Hall Plaza, 630 S. Central Avenue.

**Present:** Jim Wein, Tom Oettiker, Chris Viegut, Jane Yaeger, Brenda Baur, Julie Smith and Alderman Tom Buttke.

**Excused:** None

**Absent:** None

**Also Present:** Ed Englehart, Parks & Recreation Director; Kelly Cassidy, Parks & Recreation Supervisor; Ben Steinbach, Parks and Recreation Maintenance Supervisor; and Steve Burns, Zoo Keeper.

**PR12-01** Motion by Buttke, seconded by Yaeger to approve the minutes of the December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Motion Carried** 7-0

**Public Comments:** None

The committee set Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. as the date and time of their next meeting.

Steinbach and Burns presented information on the proposed temporary fox exhibit in the bear exhibit, and the proposed new fox exhibit to be constructed with the assistance of a local service club and the remaining funding from the Zoological Society. A variety of comments and questions were posed from the committee members.

**PR12-02** Motion by Buttke, seconded by Yaeger to approve the temporary exhibit and new fox exhibit as presented.

**Motion Carried** 7-0

Englehart reviewed the list of department projects on the capital improvement program schedule that was included in the agenda packet. Englehart commented that currently it appears the only the room tax funding will be allocated to Parks and Recreation projects due to other priority projects in the city. He also reviewed considerations that need to be made in regards to department projects and some of the updated information that will impact staff prioritization of various projects. One of the impacts will be funding of American Disability Act improvements as they relate to recreational facilities. More defined standards have been approved by the Department of Justice with a date of March 15, 2015 for compliance. A new assessment of department facilities needs to be completed and project priorities established. Englehart commented that he feels that it is still important to continue to fund both park forestry and asphalt surface improvements within the capital improvement program. Committee members provided input and comments on various projects.

**PR12-03** Motion by Buttke, seconded by Baur to approve the CIP project listing.

**Motion Carried** 7-0

Englehart briefly reviewed the planned project to install a communications antenna on the water tower at Grant Mini Park and the installation of a ground based support structure that will be constructed east and north of the water tower. The Marshfield Utilities is finalizing the lease agreement. The agreement will state that 10% of the lease revenues will be paid to the City of Marshfield. There has been no determination as to whether or not this revenue will be used specifically for park purposes. The City Council recently held the first reading of a new ordinance to address communication towers including those on structures such as water towers. No action was taken by the committee. This was for information only.

**Information Items:** The information items were reviewed. Cassidy updated the committee on changes that are being planned for the girl's youth softball program and the youth fall soccer program. Englehart reviewed the 2011 Weber Park forestry information that park volunteer, Dan Umhoefer, had recently presented to him. Dan has done amazing work in rehabilitating the forest stands in Weber Park and combating the invasive species such as buckthorn and honeysuckle. With funding assistance from the Friends of the Trails, Dan planted 425 tree seedlings and 225 seeded stock in 2011 at Weber Park.

**Committee Member Questions, Comments, and Suggestions:** Viegut commented that in addition to a pedestrian way along the park road near the lower pond, he would also like to see consideration of a cleared pathway through the wooded area south of the Marshfield Utilities building. He felt this could be an Eagle Scout project. He would also like to see staff install a dog waste station and additional trash cans along the Wildwood Station Trail as a trial to help encourage dog walkers using the trail to pick up after their dogs. This had been discussed earlier in the year but never completed. Viegut also questioned why the drainage area at the corner of 17<sup>th</sup> and Adams is mowed in the manner that it is. He would like the city to consider this as a no-mow area or a limited mow area to improve bird nesting habitat and save dollars in reducing the mowing.

**Future Agenda Items:** None identified

**Communications:** Englehart reviewed comments and concerns the department had received since the last committee meeting.

**PR12-04 Motion** by Yaeger, seconded by Smith to adjourn.

**Motion Carried** 7-0 Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Ed Englehart, Parks and Recreation Director