

Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Committee Minutes of June 14, 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, Chris Viegut, Brenda Baur, Corey Sullenger, and Alderman Tom Buttke.

Excused: Julie Smith and Jane Yaeger

Absent: None

Also Present: Ed Englehart, Parks & Recreation Director; Kelly Cassidy, Parks and Recreation Supervisor; Ben Steinbach, Parks and Recreation Maintenance Supervisor; John Scheuer and Dave Tiffany representing MARSH 21; Steve McCann, Marshfield Soccer Association; and Kris Berg, Marshfield Baseball Association.

PR12-24 Motion by Buttke, seconded by Baur to approve the minutes of the May 10th meeting.

Motion Carried 5-0

Public Comments: None

The committee set Thursday, July 12th at 6:00 p.m. as the date and time of their next meeting.

John Scheuer, introduced Steve McCann, representing Marshfield Soccer Association, and Kris Berg, representing Marshfield Baseball Association. John informed the committee that MARSH 21 will be disbanding after over 17 years of service as advocates and fundraising for improved outdoor recreation facilities for the City of Marshfield. John commented that their leadership is getting older and their numbers have dwindled. He indicated that MARSH 21 has raised over \$750,000 in donations and in-kind services to improve or establish the outdoor recreation facilities in Marshfield. MARSH 21 has three funds at the Marshfield Area Community Foundation and they will be turning over the use of those funds to both the Marshfield Soccer Association (Griese Park Fund) and the new Marshfield Baseball Association (Hackman Field Fund and Steve J. Miller Park Fund) within the next couple of months. The funds will continue to be held at the Marshfield Area Community Foundation and used for improvements at the identified facilities. The committee thanked John and Dave and the other MARSH 21 members for their hard work and dedication to Marshfield and the Parks and Recreation Department. This was an information item and no action was taken.

Due to the small number of committee members present, it was agreed to defer agenda item F: "Discussion of Options for Improvement of Fishery in Wildwood Park Ponds" to the July meeting.

Information Items: Staff updated the Committee on their respective areas of responsibility. Sullenger informed the committee that Zoo Fest and Camping with the Critters were held last weekend and were very successful with over 1,000 individuals attending Zoo Fest and over 70 individuals camping overnight at the zoo. Both events proved to be good family activities. The first Wild Wednesdays zoo program was held yesterday at the Wildwood Station and over 200 children and adults attended. Englehart notified the committee of a donation of new skateboard ramps from Dustin Feltz with a value of over \$1,200, a memorial bench donation of \$600 from Shawn Hendrix, a memorial tree for Mike Albee planted at the zoo, and a memorial tree for Steve Meyer to be planted in Wildwood Park.

Volunteer Recognitions: Sue Meyer and Ed Erickson were acknowledged for their volunteer efforts in removing invasive species plants at Connor Park. Lauren Price was acknowledged for her assistance in identifying and locating garlic mustard at Wildwood Park, and Chris Viegut in his efforts to assist in its removal. More volunteer assistance is needed to help address the buckthorn, garlic mustard and other invasive species problems in the parks' forest areas.

Committee Member Questions, Comments, and Suggestions: Buttke noted that he observed a hole in a culvert near the upper pond that needs repaired and a barricade posted until repaired. Viegut inquired about the health status of the female wolf at the zoo. He also provided an update on his observations and removals of garlic mustard in Wildwood Park. Baur asked when the arborvitae at the Steve J. Miller tennis courts were going to be removed. She also noted that vehicles are using the asphalt path between the playground and tennis courts, including a park truck. Something needs to be installed to prevent vehicles from coming over the curb from 4th Street onto the trail, and park staff needs to be informed to not travel on the trail in this location.

Future Agenda Items: Wildwood Park Pond Fishery Improvements.

Communications: None were noted, Englehart will provide at upcoming meeting.

PR12-25 Motion by Baur, seconded by Viegut to adjourn.

Motion Carried 5-0 Meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Ed Englehart, Parks and Recreation Director