

## Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Committee Minutes of June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Meeting called to order by John White Jr., at 5:30 p.m. in room 108 in City Hall Plaza, 630 S. Central Avenue.

**Present:** John White Jr., Chris Viegut, Jane Yaeger, Ali Luedtke, Rich Reinart and Alderman Tom Buttke

**Excused:** Kristy Palmer

**Absent:**

**Also Present:** Ed Englehart, Parks and Recreation Director; Ben Steinbach, Parks and Recreation Maintenance Supervisor; Steve Burns, Zookeeper; Kelly Cassidy, Parks & Recreation Supervisor; John Christenson; Dave Freeman; and Bryan Sauer.

**PR14-14** Motion by Buttke, seconded by Yaeger to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2014 meeting.

**Motion Carried 6-0**

**Public Comments:** None

The committee set Thursday, July 10, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. as the date and time of their next meeting.

David Freeman requested to sell Hub City Ice Cream products and drinks from a mobile vending unit in City parks. Englehart distributed information regarding previous actions taken by the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Committee for similar requests in 2000 and 2010 and included his recommendations as to where sales should not occur. Buttke stated that due to the establishment of the new zoo store he would not want sales to occur in Wildwood Park since all of the profit from the zoo store goes to support programs and improvements at the zoo. Mr. Freeman commented that he concurred with not selling his products at Wildwood Park and Hefko Swimming Pool since his business was located in close proximity to the park and pool. He was hoping to be able to sell ice cream at Griese Park and Steve J. Miller Recreation Area. Englehart expressed concerns of conflict from the facility user groups that operate concession stands or sell concessions at their events such as the Vox Concerts at Columbia Park, MYSA soccer at Griese Park, American Legion and Chaparral Baseball at Jack Hackman Field, and MSA at the Fairgrounds softball fields to help offset their facility fees or at times make improvements to the baseball, softball and soccer facilities. Discussion was held.

**PR14-15** Motion by Yaeger, seconded by Buttke to approve Hub City Ice Cream Company, operated by David and Sandy Freeman, to sell ice cream, water and soda in park areas for short stops of 15-20 minutes on a trial basis through October 2015 with the exception of Wildwood Park, Hefko Swimming Pool, and locations where organizations renting park facilities are operating concession stands or selling concessions, unless approved by the Parks and Recreation Director with agreement from the organization renting the park facilities.

**Motion Carried 6-0**

Englehart presented a request to waive the Columbia Park band shell rental fees for the Vox Concert series that are open to the public at no charge. Brian Sauer, operator of the Vox Concert series, commented that he would appreciate the waiving of the fee and it would assist him in being able to continue to offer the free concerts at Columbia Park. Englehart commented that there are 11 concerts scheduled for Columbia Park this summer and fall and the rental fee is \$33 per use.

**PR14-16** Motion by Buttke, seconded by Viegut to approve waiving the rental fee for the Columbia Park band shell for concerts open to the public at no charge.

**Motion Carried 6-0**

Steve Burns, Zookeeper, and John Christenson, volunteer, presented a proposal for the expansion and enhancement of the Cougar Exhibit at Wildwood Park Zoo. They distributed drawings and photos that identified the location of the expansion. The funding for the expansion will come from private donations, the Kiwanis Club of Marshfield, Kiwanis Foundation and the Zoological Society. Christenson also displayed a scaled model of the proposed bridge that will carry the cougars over the walkway to the expanded area. If the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Committee approve the proposal, staff will establish more detailed cost estimates and review with the Building Inspector prior to taking to the Board of Public Works for approval to proceed with construction. Burns responded to questions from the committee regarding how he will manage the cougars in the new space and in use of the bridge.

**PR14-17** Motion by Viegut, seconded by Luedtke to approve the preliminary plan for the enlargement and enhancement of the cougar exhibit as presented.

**Motion Carried 6-0**

Englehart updated the committee regarding the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan process and distributed a draft version. This is a very preliminary draft and staff has not yet reviewed. Staff will be meeting with the consultant in late June and is expecting to have a more complete draft ready for the committee to view at their July meeting. A great deal of additional work remains on the recommendations in the plan based on the input from the public and staff. This preliminary draft information will be emailed to the committee members.

**Information Items:** Staff updated the Committee on their respective areas of responsibility and answered questions regarding the monthly reports. Buttke shared information on the Zoological Society store at the zoo and the many zoo special events scheduled for the coming weekend. Cassidy read off the 17 business sponsors of the free swim at Hefko Swimming Pool. Each sponsor pays \$250 for the free swim. A banner is posted at the swimming pool recognizing each sponsor.

**Committee Member Questions, Comments, and Suggestions:** Viegut commended Steve and Ben on how great the zoo and park look with the latest mowing and trimming. Buttke echoed those comments. Viegut inquired about the status of the Wildwood Station trail maintenance surfacing. Englehart commented that he had met with representatives from Fahrner Asphalt Sealers and Seal Master Pavement Products to discuss options to address the problem of the peeling of the sealer. They determined that residue from the trees makes it difficult for the sealer to adhere to the asphalt so they are going to remove any loose sealer and apply a different product on the trail at no cost to the City.

**Future Agenda Items:** Vox Concert series fees for use of Wildwood Station Building, Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan update, and Upper Pond fishing improvements.

**Communications:** Staff shared information they had received from the public regarding facilities and programs since the last meeting.

**PR14-18 Motion** by Buttke, seconded by Yaeger to adjourn the meeting.

**Motion Carried** 6-0 Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Ed Englehart, Parks & Recreation Director