

## Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Committee Minutes of April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Meeting called to order by Jim Wein, Chairperson, at 6:55 p.m. in the Council Chambers in City Hall Plaza, 630 S. Central Avenue.

**Present:** Jim Wein, John White, Jane Yaeger, Ali Luedtke, Kristy Palmer, and Alderman Tom Buttke

**Excused:** Chris Viegut

**Absent:**

**Also Present:** Ed Englehart, Parks and Recreation Director; Ben Steinbach, Parks and Recreation Maintenance Supervisor; Kelly Cassidy Parks & Recreation Supervisor; and Jeff Bahling and Rebecca Ramirez, Rettler Corporation.

**PR14-08** Motion by Buttke, seconded by Luedtke to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2014 meeting.

**Motion Carried** 6-0

**Public Comments:** None

The committee set Thursday, May 8, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. as the date and time of their next meeting.

Englehart presented a plaque to Jim Wein for his 27 years of service as a member of the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Committee, with over 23 years as the chairman of the committee. Jim has informed the Mayor that he is not interested in serving another term. Chris Viegut has indicated to the Mayor that he would be willing to serve another term and the Mayor has indicated to Chris that he is planning to reappoint him.

Jeff Bahling from Rettler Corporation reviewed the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Open House information that took place prior to the meeting and updated the committee on the next steps in the process of updating the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Information and comments collected at this evening's Open House and the information from the on-line survey will be used to establish the draft plan that Rettler Corporation will present to the committee at their June meeting. Preliminary information will be shared with the committee members in May as it is developed.

Englehart informed the committee that the Common Council adopted the 2015-2019 Capital Improvement Program without making any changes from what was recommended by the C.I.P. Committee. Discussion followed regarding the ability to modify projects in the future. Englehart explained that each year presents an opportunity to modify the projects and funding requests that are submitted for consideration by the C.I.P. Committee.

**Information Items:** Staff updated the Committee on their respective areas of responsibility and answered questions regarding the monthly reports. Buttke and Palmer shared information on the Zoological Society store at the zoo, the upcoming Zoo Education week program, and activities scheduled at the zoo in the coming weeks.

**Committee Member Questions, Comments, and Suggestions:** Jim Wein commented that the water area under the park bench in the southeast corner of Braem Park needs to be corrected. It is ponding under the bench. Tom Buttke commented on the Wisconsin Municipal Zoo meeting that was hosted by the Parks and Recreation Department and held in the Wildwood Station building earlier today. He was impressed with the knowledge shared by the zoo representatives at the meeting. It was beneficial to both department staff and the Zoological Society officers.

**Future Agenda Items:** Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan update, Upper Pond improvements.

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

Jim Wein thanked staff and committee members for all their support and efforts over the years and said he would truly miss serving on the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Committee.

**PR14-09 Motion** by Wein, seconded by Palmer to adjourn the meeting.

**Motion Carried** 6-0 Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Ed Englehart, Parks & Recreation Director