

Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Committee Minutes of December 11, 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.; Jane Yaeger; Rich Reinart; and Alderman Tom Buttke

Excused: Chris Viegut, Kristy Palmer and Ali Luedtke

Absent: None

Also Present: Ed Englehart, Parks and Recreation Director; Kelly Cassidy, Parks & Recreation Supervisor; Ben Steinbach, Parks and Recreation Maintenance Supervisor; Steve Burns, Zookeeper; and Pat Schriener

PR14-38 Motion by Buttke, seconded by Yaeger to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2014 meeting.

Motion Carried 4-0

Public Comments: None

The committee set Thursday, January 8, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in room 108 for the date and time of their next meeting.

Englehart reviewed the proposed 2015 Parks and Recreation Department fee schedule and a proposed fee increase for the winter storage fee at the Marshfield Fairgrounds Park. The Parks and Recreation Department 2015 fee schedule was updated by removing listed fees that are no longer applicable and a new fee was added for the pickleball activity held at the Oak Avenue Community Center. No increases in the fees were proposed for 2015. The 2015 fairgrounds winter storage fee schedule includes a 5% fee increase. The fees for winter storage at the fairgrounds were last increased in 2010.

PR14-39 Motion by Buttke, seconded by Yaeger to approve the 2015 Parks and Recreation Department fee schedule and the Fairgrounds Winter Storage fee schedule as presented.

Discussion followed.

Motion Carried 4-0

Steve Burns, Zoo Keeper, presented his Power Point presentation on the Wildwood Zoo, highlighting improvements and happenings that occurred at the zoo in 2014. The presentation focused on the many activities that take place in the zoo, plus the improvements and additions to the zoo in 2014. The committee commended Steve for his presentation and expressed their thanks for presenting it at the meeting. Steve also gave the presentation at the Wildwood Zoological Society's annual meeting held in October. Included in the presentation was information on the department's efforts with the Wisconsin D.N.R. to improve fishing in the ponds at Wildwood Park by completing an initial stocking of fish this past fall. White commented on his hope that the department can continue this in the future, as he recalled how popular this activity had been when he was a child. It was also commented that some considerations may need to be made with the local Lion's Club if they again plan to hold a youth fishing contest at Wildwood Park next Dairyfest.

Information Items:

Staff updated the Committee on their respective areas of responsibility and answered questions regarding the monthly report. Cassidy reviewed information that she had compiled on the participation at the Tennis/Racquetball Center from 2009 to 2014. The information indicated that the racquetball participation has continued to drop while the tennis participation has increased over the past two years. Cassidy reviewed information on the adult volleyball and basketball program participation and fees. Participation in both of these programs has dropped in the past number of years. The committee commented that they felt this was good information and there is the need to continue discussions as to why the participation is dropping and what ideas there might be to increase participation or offer alternative programs. Englehart and Reinart updated the committee on the recent meeting they attended regarding the planned community center portion of the Library Community Center project. The committee requested in the future that it should be considered to have a presentation on the project at a Parks, Recreation and Forestry Committee meeting. It could also be considered to hold a future meeting at the Senior Center and tour the current library. Englehart commented about the donation given by Jan Altmann's organization for improvements at Veteran's Park.

Committee Member Questions, Comments, and Suggestions: Reinart commented on what would be the next step to act on the recommendation in the CORP regarding a new outdoor swimming pool. Buttke wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Future Agenda Items: 2016-2020 Parks and Recreation Department Capital Improvement Program request, Adult Basketball Program, and Community Center. White suggested that we include a standing agenda item to review and discuss aspects of the recently adopted Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP).

PR14-40 Motion by Yaeger, seconded by Reinart to adjourn.

Motion Carried 6-0 Meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Ed Englehart, Parks & Recreation Director