

Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Committee Minutes of January 8, 2015

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; Alderman Tom Buttke, Chris Viegut, and Ali Luedtke.

Excused: Kristy Palmer

Absent: None

Also Present: Ed Englehart, Parks and Recreation Director; Kelly Cassidy, Parks & Recreation Supervisor; and Ben Steinbach, Parks and Recreation Maintenance Supervisor

PR15-01 Motion by Buttke, seconded by Yaeger to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2014 meeting.

Motion Carried 6-0

Public Comments: None

The committee set Thursday, February 12, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in room 108 for the date and time of their next meeting.

Englehart presented a listing of recommended capital improvement projects to be submitted by the Parks and Recreation Department for the 2016-2020 Capital Improvement Program. Also listed were other projects that had either been submitted previously or were new projects that have been recently identified.

PR15-02 Motion by Viegut, seconded by Luedtke to approve recommended C.I.P. project listing with the addition of project PR-L-2855 Adler Road/Weber Park Trail Extension in 2017. Discussion followed. Buttke commented that it would be good to see a history of the level of funding that was requested by the Parks and Recreation Department and the amounts that were funded. Englehart will compile this information and present it at a future meeting.

Motion Carried 4-0

The final hard copies of the recently completed Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan were distributed to the committee members and White gave an introductory summary of the manual and the large amount of information that it contains. He would like to have the committee consider adding a standing item to the agenda to discuss or review a portion of the plan at each meeting in an effort to keep the committee knowledgeable of the plan and focused on its implementation as decisions are made. He requested members to email him with their ideas regarding how best to accomplish this.

Information Items:

Staff updated the Committee on their respective areas of responsibility and answered questions regarding the monthly report. Steinbach reviewed the park maintenance project listing. It is intended to provide a reference of both small and large maintenance or improvements that are needed at various parks. He requested that members look over the list and provide him with any items that they would like to see on the list. Staff reviewed some of the items that were completed in 2014 and have now been removed from the list. Viegut commented on a resident's trail access bridge over a ditch on the west end of the Wildwood Station trail. Englehart stated that he was aware of the location and the bridge, and that as long as it doesn't interfere with the trail use or maintenance, they have let adjacent property owners improve their access to the trail from their back yards.

Committee Member Questions, Comments, and Suggestions: White took this opportunity to welcome back Ali Luedtke to the committee after missing a few meetings. Reinart asked why the Parks and Recreation Department can't have its own Facebook site. Staff explained that it was decided by the City Administration a number of years ago that there would be only one City site in an effort to provide better control and security. Reinart felt it would provide some additional opportunities for the department to communicate information to citizens and participants. Englehart will check into it and report back at the February meeting. Viegut commented that he would like to see some additional planning and thought given to options to extend the UW Connector Trail to Weber Park. Currently it dead ends at the far west of the UW property where it abuts the Marshfield Country Club. The UW does not allow bicycles on the arboretum trails, so it makes it necessary for bikers to ride back on the trail or walk their bikes. He also noted the increased use of wide-tire bicycles on this trail during the winter and they provide a nice path for walkers.

Future Agenda Items: Library/Community Center Project, policy updates for Ludwig Building and Senior Center usage.

PR15-03 Motion by Buttke, seconded by Yaeger to adjourn.

Motion Carried 6-0 Meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Ed Englehart, Parks & Recreation Director