

Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Committee Minutes of September 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.; Chris Viegut; Jane Yaeger; Ali Luedtke; Rich Reinart; Kristy Palmer and Alderman Tom Buttke

Excused: None

Absent: None

Also Present: Ed Englehart, Parks and Recreation Director and Kelly Cassidy, Parks & Recreation Supervisor

PR14-26 Motion by Buttke, seconded by Luedtke to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2014 meeting.

Motion Carried 7-0

Public Comments: None

The committee set Thursday, October 16, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in room 108 for the date and time of their next meeting.

Ali Luedtke gave a presentation requesting approval for the Friends of the Marshfield Public Library to place a “Little Free Library” in Wildwood Park. They would like to install it in the spring of 2015.

PR14-27 Motion by Buttke, seconded by Palmer to approve request to place a “Little Free Library” display in Wildwood Park near the playground area, with final location and installation to be approved and coordinated with the Parks and Recreation Maintenance Supervisor. In addition, a letter of understanding clarifying ownership and responsibilities of each organization shall be drafted and placed on file. Discussion followed. Viegut commented that he was very much in support of this location.

Motion Carried 7-0

Englehart updated the committee regarding the Comprehensive Plan process and input that he has received to date. Only two comments from the general public have been received since the plan was made available to the public. The committee as a whole felt that the language in the CORP regarding Hefko Swimming Pool needed to be re-worded. It was agreed that the order of the recommendations needed to be grouped by short, medium and long-term. The plan will be presented to the Board of Public Works on September 16th and to the Plan Commission on September 17th. It will be presented to the Common Council for final adoption at a meeting in October. Englehart will share the comments from the committee to the consultant. White and Yaeger will be present at both the Board of Public Works meeting and Plan Commission meeting.

PR14-28 Motion by Yaeger, seconded by Palmer to re-word language in the CORP regarding the Hefko Swimming Pool to indicate the preference is to construct a new outdoor swimming pool located at Wildwood Park, and that a new swimming pool study needs to be conducted that compares renovation options versus a new swimming pool with updated construction and operation estimates.

Motion Carried 7-0

Englehart will work with John and Jane to draft new language regarding Hefko Swimming Pool for the CORP.

Englehart updated the committee on the status of the Grizzly Bear Exhibit Project. The Board of Public Works approved contracting with HGA for the final plans and specifications, and the fundraising is nearing its goal. It is hoped that the final amount needed to reach the \$1.1 million goal will be completed by the public fund drive that will be officially kicked off at the Maple Fall Fest on Saturday, September 13th. A special presentation introducing the project will be held at the zoo.

Information Items: Staff updated the Committee on their respective areas of responsibility and answered questions regarding the monthly reports. Cassidy commented that the Senior Health Fair will be held October 3rd at the Marshfield Fairgrounds. Fall Youth Soccer is underway and again has strong participation. Registration in the program increased by 82 participants this year. Adult volleyball league participation continues to decrease. Fifty-eight teams are registered at this time with games scheduled to start October 20th. Englehart commented that the Ludwig Building renovations will begin next Monday, following the Maple Fall Fest. Work is expected to be completed prior to October 13th. Palmer stated that the Zoo Society will be holding their annual Trick-or-Treating event at the zoo on October 11th. Volunteers were recognized for their assistance in coordinating and completing the painting of the helicopter at Veterans Park. They included Jan Altmann, Mike Feirer, Gary Cummings, Dave Marsh, Duke Jacobson and three National Guard painters from Fort McCoy.

Committee Member Questions, Comments, and Suggestions: Viegut noted some concerns regarding the large cracks in the asphalt on the trail just east of the wolf exhibit in Wildwood Park, in addition to invasive plant concerns on park land and the need, when possible, for the maintenance staff or volunteers to remove before it goes to seed.

Future Agenda Items: Volunteer of the Year and Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Communications: Englehart distributed a listing of citizen/program participant comments and communications that the department had received in the past two months and briefly commented on the items.

PR14-29 Motion by Yaeger, seconded by Luedtke to adjourn the meeting.

Motion Carried 7-0 Meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Ed Englehart, Parks & Recreation Director