Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Committee Minutes of January 12, 2006

Meeting called to order by Jim Wein, Chairperson, at 6:01 p.m. in the Executive Conference Room in the lower level of City Hall Plaza, 630 S. Central Avenue.

Present: Jim Wein, Alderman Tom Buttke, Brenda Baur, Jane Sautner-Yaeger, and Chris Viegut

Absent: Julie Smith (excused), and Zoological Society Board Representative (excused - position not filled)

Also Present: Ed Englehart, Parks and Recreation Director; Kelly Cassidy, Parks and Recreation Supervisor; Kurt Boson, Tennis NOW Committee; Jim Yaeger, and Ron Dielman, Zoological Society Board President.

There were no comments regarding the December 8, 2005 committee meeting minutes.

Kurt Boson gave a presentation and distributed materials regarding the Tennis NOW project that will construct 8 to 12 tennis courts at the Marshfield Senior High. Their goal is to raise private funds to construct a minimum of 8 courts. Kurt commented on the need for improved facilities for school meets and tournaments. The courts will be owned by the Marshfield School District and they will be responsible for the maintenance and scheduling of the courts. The Tennis NOW Committee is hoping to raise additional funds which would remain in the Marshfield Area Foundation to assist with future maintenance of the courts. Viegut inquired about whether or not discussions have taken place regarding whether or not Columbus High School teams would be allowed to use the courts, along with the Parks and Recreation Department and the general public. Boson stated that some discussions have taken place and Columbus will indeed be able to use the courts. The Marshfield School District will be responsible for scheduling. An agreement was also reached with the School District that no fees would be charged to groups to use the courts. Wein asked if there were any wetland concerns with the project. Boson commented that the DNR is fine with the project and they are working with both the City and the DNR to finalize the plans and permitting. They are also working with the City to address storm water issues. They would like to complete the project this year if possible, and if not this year, then 2007. A future connection to the high school through the wetland area west of the courts may be a future project for others. The Tennis NOW Committee is focusing on completion of the tennis courts, parking, a small shelter, and future restrooms. Englehart commented on the grant opportunity through the National Recreation and Parks Association and United States Tennis Association organizations. A pre-application has been submitted and it should be known in the coming days whether or not the project qualifies for the next level of the application process. Mary Jo Siebenaler, Marshfield Tennis Association President, prepared the pre-application with assistance from the Parks and Recreation Department staff. There is no required funding match by the City for the grant. If successful, the grant will fund up to 20% of the project. Boson reaffirmed that they are not requesting any funding assistance from the City.

PR06-01 Motion by Buttke, seconded by Baur, to approve the application for the NRPA/USTA construction grant for the Tennis NOW project..
Motion Carried All ayes

Englehart distributed an updated project listing and opened discussion regarding the 2006-2010 Capital Improvement Program. Englehart explained the process and commented that he believes the funding for major projects will again be tight, but it is an opportunity to inform the community and elected officials of various issues and needs. Englehart presented his comments regarding suggested changes relating to key projects:

- *Oak Avenue Community Center* - Advance the gym wall and ceiling painting plus add door and window replacement.
- *Steve J. Miller Recreation Area* - Complete the renovation of the shelter next to the tennis courts by using the $15,000 balance in the playground improvement fund and shifting $20,000 from the Columbia Park band shell project account.
- *Veteran's Parkway Trail* - Asphalt surfacing from 8th to 29th Street; estimated cost of $50,000. $10,000 is in the 2006 budget. Consider shifting the $15,000 budgeted for on-road bike route markings and signage, and use the

$5,000 balance in the trail fund and find donations and/or grants for the remainder of the balance or complete as much as available funding will allow.

Baur commented that she would like to see the improvements at the Oak Avenue Community Center such as the gym and ceiling painting and the Steve J. Miller shelter improvements completed prior to starting the Columbia Park band shell project. Englehart updated the committee on other projects that had either been cut from the program last year or were new ones and requested that the committee identify any projects that should be removed or added to the listing. Wein asked if there was a need to include a maintenance or emergency repair project for the Hefko Pool. Englehart stated that a small amount of funding remains to address minor emergencies and staff feels relatively sure that the pool should be able to operate as it has in the past for the next two to three years. Committee members commented that it would be beneficial if some type of amenity such as a small slide or other feature could be added to enhance the experience at the pool for the users. No other changes were suggested.

Baur left the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

PR06-02 Motion by Buttke, seconded by Yaeger, to approve the listing and direct staff to modify as necessary for presentation to City Administrator for the C.I.P. Committee review.
Motion Carried All ayes

Englehart reviewed the final draft of the 2006-2010 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and highlighted some of the changes that he and Amber Miller, Director of Planning and Economic Development, will be instructing the consultants to make. Englehart reviewed the various areas in the plan where recommendations were included and asked committee members to take time to review the proposed recommendations and let him know within the coming week whether or not any changes should be made. Lavane Hessler, Community Specialist for the Wisconsin D.N.R., has reviewed the draft and indicated that she felt it was a well put-together plan. One of the benefits of the plan is that it makes the City eligible to apply for grants through the D.N.R. The plan will be presented to the committee at their February 9th meeting for final adoption. It will also be presented in February to the Board of Public Works, Plan Commission, and the Common Council.

The Committee set the date for next meeting of the next Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Committee meeting for February 9th at 6:00 p.m.

Informational items were reviewed.

Ron Dielman presented the Zoological Society report. Their meeting is next Thursday and they will be discussing two new activities that they may be offering. In June a "Camping with the Critters" campout is being planned and they are also considering a Halloween activity for the Zoo. Ron confirmed that the Society will be constructing a new eagle exhibit and another raptor cage along the raptor walk this summer. He is also hoping to work with the City to replace the windows in the Cougar Building.

Englehart updated the committee on citizen communications and recognized the donation of a computer by Ron Safford for use in the press box at Jack Hackman Field.

PR06-03 Motion by Wein, seconded by Yaeger, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Ed Englehart, Parks and Recreation Director