

Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Committee Minutes of April 10th, 2008

Meeting called to order by Jim Wein, Chairperson, at 6:00 p.m. in Executive Conference Room B11 in City Hall Plaza, 630 S. Central Avenue.

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

Excused: Julie Smith

Absent:

Also Present: Mayor Meyers; Ed Englehart, Parks and Recreation Director; Kelly Cassidy, Parks and Recreation Supervisor; Ben Steinbach, Parks and Recreation Maintenance Supervisor; and Linda Melski

March 20th meeting minutes - Jane Yaeger noted a correction to the March 20th minutes.

PR08-10 Motion by Yaeger, seconded by Wein, to correct PR08-08 in the March 20th minutes to read "motion by Buttke, seconded by Yaeger, to hold over until the April meeting the approval of the changes to policy 6.520 Baseball and Softball Facilities to allow additional time for comments from user groups."

Motion Carried 6 – 0

Public Comments - Mayor Meyers thanked committee members for their service to the community.

The Committee agreed to move the May meeting to Thursday the May 15th at 6:00 p.m. in room B11 in the basement of City Hall to avoid committee member scheduling conflicts.

Linda Melski, representing the Universalist Fellowship of Marshfield, presented a request to hang prayer flags on the chain link fence at Wildwood Park in conjunction with their Mother's Day ceremony to be held at the park the morning of May 11th. Linda presented examples of the flags onto which participants will be able to inscribe messages. Linda provided some background behind the flags and the connection to Mother's Day. Linda requested that the flags be allowed to stay up through the summer. Discussion followed regarding the time period they should be allowed to remain up. Melski suggested that the date of August 6th, World Peace Day, be considered.

PR08-11 Motion by Buttke, seconded by Viegut, to allow the flags to remain on the fence through Memorial Day, May 26th as a trial basis and for the item to be reviewed at the June meeting.

Motion Carried 6 – 0

Englehart commented that he had emailed the proposed policy changes to the primary user groups and had either received no comments or comments stating that they did not have any problems with the proposed changes.

PR08-12 Motion by Baur, seconded by Yaeger, to approve the changes to Policy 6.520 Baseball and Softball Facilities as presented

Motion Carried 6 – 0

Information items were reviewed with the Committee. Baur noted the assistance (moving of tables, chairs, risers) provided by park staff for various community activities and questioned how it is determined which groups receive assistance. Englehart explained that it varies depending on the situation. For some events such as Fall Fest, Dairy Fest, Dance and Romance Weekend, and Hub City Days it has been a long-standing expectation that the Parks and Recreation Department will provide various levels of assistance. The Wrestling Club's annual youth tournament assistance is approved annually through a request to the City Administrator and the MACCI/United Way Snowmobile Race assistance was a short-notice situation also approved by the City Administrator. Efforts are made to make sure that no overtime is expended in provision of these services if at all possible. There are other situations where we may assist with providing equipment but the organizations must provide their own pickup and delivery. Buttke requested that Englehart prepare a listing of the various organizations and type of assistance that the department provides and present it at a future meeting. Baur asked if participant satisfaction surveys are sent to the adult volleyball league teams to get their input on the program. Cassidy said she had not yet completed this but will be sending surveys to the team representatives. Wein commented that he felt the costs for the ice-rink seemed high for just one rink. Cassidy pointed out that the ice-rink report also included the cost to assist with maintenance of the outdoor hockey rink at the fairgrounds. That amount was approximately 27% of the total expended for ice rinks in 2007-08. Englehart informed the committee that he had received the official approval from the Department of Natural Resources that the City had been awarded a Stewardship grant in the amount of \$61,000 to construct a restroom/shelter building at Weber Park. Mr. and Mrs. Weber will be donating \$61,000 to cover the remaining project costs. Construction is slated to occur in late summer. Viegut suggested that a porcupine exhibit be considered for the former eagle exhibit area at the Zoo.

PR08-13 Motion by Yaeger, seconded by Buttke, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Motion Carried 6 – 0

Ed Englehart, Parks and Recreation Director