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

Meeting called to order by Jim Wein, Chairperson, at 6:00 p.m. in 1st floor meeting room 108 of City Hall Plaza, 630 S. Central Avenue.

Present: Jim Wein, Alderman Tom Buttke, Brenda Baur, Julie Smith, and Chris Viegut
Excused: Tom Oettiker, Jane Sautner-Yaeger
Absent: None

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

There were no comments regarding the June 12th meeting minutes.

There were no public comments.

The August meeting will include a tour of park facilities. One suggestion was Weber Park. The regular date would be August 14th; however, Viegut has a conflict and would be available on August 7th if it works for the other members. Englehart will check with committee members and a decision will be made at the agenda meeting.

Englehart reviewed the draft request for proposals for playground equipment at Steve J. Miller Recreation Area. The committee discussed the proposed location.

PR08-20 Motion by Buttke, seconded by Smith, to approve the request for proposals for playground equipment at Steve J. Miller Recreation Area and direct staff to solicit proposals.
Motion Carried All ayes 5-0

Englehart presented a request from the High Ground Bicycle Ride to again use the Oak Avenue Community Center as an evening stop for their annual fund raising bike ride to the High Ground. They have been using the building for over the past 15 years. The local American Legion provides the 15 to 20 riders with a dinner and breakfast.

PR08-21 Motion by Baur, seconded by Buttke, to approve the request from the High Ground Bicycle Ride group to use the Oak Avenue Community Center at no cost for evening stop on August 9, 2008.
Motion Carried All ayes 5-0

Englehart reviewed information regarding the Parks and Recreation Department services, budget areas, expenditures and revenues, staffing levels, current fee schedule, a list of increases provided by the Finance Department for 2009, listing of recreation programs offered by the department, and a listing of ideas for consideration to reduce the costs of the department operations. Englehart reviewed the budget time table that includes a submittal of the department budget request by July 25th. This provides very little time at the department level of the process and additional review will need to occur after the submittal in preparation for the review by the City Administrator in September. Chris Viegut and Tom Buttke agreed to serve as a sounding board with department staff in the preparation and further evaluation of the 2009 department budget request.

Information items were reviewed.

Englehart reviewed a listing of communications from citizens the department had received since the June meeting.

PR08-22 Motion by Smith, seconded by Baur, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Ed Englehart, Parks and Recreation Director