

Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Committee Minutes of October 9th, 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, Julie Smith, Brenda Baur, Chris Viegut, and Jane Sautner-Yaeger

Excused: None

Absent: Tom Oettiker

Also Present: Ed Englehart, Parks and Recreation Director; Kelly Cassidy, Parks and Recreation Supervisor; Ben Steinbach, Parks and Recreation Maintenance Supervisor; and John Scheuer, Marsh 21.

There were no comments regarding the September 11th meeting minutes.

Public comments - John Scheuer, Marsh 21 representative, updated the committee on their search for a method to provide dugout roofs for the two G.P. Olson baseball diamonds and the A.J. Reeths Fields. They had pursued a wood shingle roof system similar to Hackman Field but found it to be too costly and are now looking into a vinyl or canvas type roof system.

The November meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, November 13th.

Englehart presented the recommendation from the Volunteer Award Committee, consisting of Jim Wein, Chris Viegut, and Englehart. The committee recommended that the Jim and Sarah Krueger family be recognized as the 2008 Parks and Recreation Department Volunteer of the Year award winner. Jim, Sarah and their sons have coordinated the Marsh 21 Youth Baseball Tournaments the past two years. Both tournaments were very successful and provided recreation opportunities for a large number of youth and spectators, in addition to raising money for the Marsh 21 Steve J. Miller Baseball Fund. This past summer Marsh 21 expanded the tournament to two weekends, plus added additional age groups. The committee considered one other nomination that was submitted to the committee.

PR08-29 Motion by Buttke, seconded by Bauer, to recognize the Jim and Sarah Krueger Family as the 2008 Parks and Recreation Department Volunteer of the Year.

Motion Carried All ayes 6-0

6:12 p.m. John Scheuer left the meeting.

Information items were reviewed. The committee members requested that committee agenda packet information be emailed to them to reduce mailing costs. Buttke updated the committee on the recent Deer Task Force meeting. Cassidy reviewed the 2008 Hefko Swimming Pool report. Viegut inquired about options that could be implemented to reduce the pool heating costs at Hefko Pool such as solar heating or a pool blanket. Staff will investigate.

Committee member comments and suggestions. Yaeger asked when the swings will be removed from the playgrounds for the winter. Steinbach said it is more dependent upon the weather versus a specific date. They will be removed in the next few weeks. Viegut asked if there are any more plans to create additional full-size soccer fields by the Parks and Recreation Department and whether or not fields could be developed at the open space at the Mill Creek Industrial Park. Englehart replied that the only plans for additional soccer fields are the three youth-size fields at Griese Park. Any interest in use of land in the Mill Creek Business Park would need to be addressed by the Public Works Department. Viegut expressed concern about department vehicles driving on grass when frost conditions exist. Steinbach will review with staff. Englehart updated the committee on the progress of the current projects. Wein inquired about some delays and or design issues regarding the Adler Road Connector Trail project. Englehart commented that Vierbicher & Associates, engineers for the project, had designed a critical area near the intersection of Lincoln Avenue and Adler Road using an incorrect elevation and therefore a revision needed to be created as soon as possible. The issue did delay the contractor for that portion of the trail. The city engineering staff has also had to be involved with the trail project at a much greater level than was originally expected.

Englehart reviewed communications the department had received since the September meeting.

PR08-30 Motion by Yaeger, seconded by Smith, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Ed Englehart, Parks and Recreation Director