Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Committee Minutes of December 11th, 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, Tom Oettiker, Julie Smith, and Jane Sautner-Yaeger

Excused: Brenda Baur, Chris Viegut

Absent:

Also Present: Ed Englehart, Parks and Recreation Director; Kelly Cassidy, Parks and Recreation Supervisor; Ben Steinbach, Parks and Recreation Maintenance Supervisor; Katie Miller, and Dani Krogman.

There were no comments regarding the November 13th meeting minutes. Public comments - there were no public comments.

The January meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, January 8th at 6:00 p.m. in City Hall.

Buttke introduced Katie Miller and Dani Krogman, representatives from the Mayor's Committee on Youth. They presented their request to hold a skating night at the Pickle Pond ice rink on Saturday, January 10th from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. They would plan to decorate with lights around the warming house and ice rink, plus sell hot chocolate and cookies. The rink would remain open to the general public. The lights/decorations would be set up and removed on January 10th.

PR08-35 Motion by Yaeger, seconded by Oettiker, to approve the request for the Mayor's Committee on Youth to hold an ice skating activity at the Pickle Pond Ice Rink on January 10th with the details to be approved by the Parks and Recreation Supervisor. **Motion Carried** All ayes 5-0

Buttke and Englehart reviewed the proposed donor wall project at the Wildwood Zoo. Buttke is coordinating the project with the Zoological Society. The Society has endorsed the project and approved funding to develop a brochure. The funds generated by the project will go to the Zoological Society for capital improvements at the zoo.

<u>PR08-36</u> Motion by Smith, seconded by Yaeger, to approve the donor wall concept as presented with the location and construction details to be approved by the Parks and Recreation Director.

Motion Carried All ayes 5-0

Englehart presented the 2009 Parks and Recreation fee schedule. Englehart explained that the 2009 budgeted revenue estimates for the department were established using the 2009 proposed fee schedule.

PR08-37 Motion by Buttke, seconded by Smith, to approve the 2009 Parks and Recreation fee schedule as presented including the change of the indoor tennis hourly rate from \$18.75 to \$18.50.

Motion Carried All ayes 5-0

Englehart updated the Committee regarding the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Act. It is federal law that will impact public swimming pools. It requires that all public pools bring their drains and circulation systems into compliance with the law by December 19, 2008 or prior to opening in 2009. The State of Wisconsin is requiring that all pools, where modifications are necessary, hire a licensed pool engineer to evaluate the pool and submit a plan to the State for review prior to any modifications taking place. Department staff is in the process of acquiring additional information regarding the law and reviewing information regarding the Hefko Swimming Pool, Two engineering firms, familiar with Hefko Swimming Pool, have been contacted regarding the cost of their services and their availability. A small amount of funding is currently available for repairs at the Hefko Pool.

Englehart and Steinbach reviewed this year's snow removal plans for the pedestrian/bicycle trails. In an attempt to reduce costs of snow removal from the trails, snow will not be removed from the trails within the Mill Creek Industrial Park. Snow will be removed from the connector trail between 29th Street and the northern most street in the business park. The Galvin Avenue Trail section south of Arnold Street will have snow removed until drifting becomes too deep for the department's snow removal equipment. Last year snow was not removed from the hard surface trail at Hamus Nature Preserve and Recreation Area and will not be removed again this year.

Information items were reviewed. Englehart presented photos of the sample grout surface coating for the tile floor at the Wildwood Station. The committee members agreed that it looked fine and staff should proceed with the improvement following the test period.

Wein commented that he had received a complaint regarding dogs being in the new playground at Steve J. Miller Recreation Area. Englehart confirmed that the city ordinance does not permit dogs to be in playgrounds or athletic fields. Dogs must be on a leash

when they are in the city parks. Englehart commented that he also received a similar complaint regarding the play area at Benedict Park. Signs may need to be posted at the playgrounds.

Englehart informed the Committee that the Boxing Club had donated \$100 to the Parks and Recreation Department from their recent Boxing Show held at the Oak Avenue Community Center. He also commented that he had received a phone call from a resident near the UW-Arboretum concerned about the buck thorn growth in the Arboretum and nearby areas. She is considering holding a meeting to discuss control options.

PR08-38 Motion by Oettiker, seconded by Yaeger, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Ed Englehart, Parks and Recreation Director