Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Committee Minutes of August 13, 2009

Meeting called to order by Jim Wein, Chairperson, at 5:30 p.m. in the Room 108 at City Hall Plaza, 630 S. Central Avenue.

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

Excused: None

Absent: None

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

There were no comments regarding the July 8th meeting minutes.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

The Committee considered a request from the Marshfield Area Home Educators to hold their Dream Flight USA motor coach event at Griese Park on October 6th from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. Viegut questioned whether or not any soccer games were scheduled on that date and if so has concerns for parking shortage. Englehart commented that if a soccer game is scheduled on that date teams and spectators generally don't arrive until after 3:30 p.m.

PR09-30 Motion by Viegut, seconded by Oettiker to approve the request to with the stipulation that the event is over by 3:30 p.m.
Motion Carried All ayes

Information items were reviewed. Buttke commented that he would like to see a discussion regarding adult softball in Marshfield and surrounding area on a future agenda to review if many local Marshfield teams are playing out of town and if so, why. Englehart informed the committee that a ribbon cutting and recognition of volunteers for the Weber Park project would be held on Saturday, October 10th at 10:00 a.m.

Oettiker presented the Zoological Society report. The Blues in the Zoo annual fund raiser is scheduled for Thursday, August 20th at the Wildwood Park Zoo.

The Committee on Aging minutes were included in the agenda packet to see if the Committee members were interested in seeing them since some of their actions relate to activities at the Senior Center. It was agreed that staff only need to bring forward any items that may have been discussed at the meeting that they feel is pertinent to the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Committee. The Committee on Aging minutes will not be included in future agenda packets.

Viegut asked about additional buck thorn removal along the Wildwood Station Trail and that he and Dan Umhoefer have agreed to view the areas where the buckthorn is impacting the trail and mark the desirable trees and shrubs to make sure that staff or volunteers do not cut them. Viegut also commented that he had recently been on the asphalt trail near the wolf exhibit at Wildwood Park and there is a section of the trail where the buckthorn is growing into the trail and needs to be cut back. Wein inquired about whose responsibility it was to cut the weeds in the drainage ditch and along the edge of the new Adler Road connector trail. The weeds are beginning to creep into the trail.

Communications: Englehart reviewed some of the citizen comments and issues the department received and addressed over the past month.

The committee members agreed that since no work has yet begun on the Columbia Park band shell that they would not tour that site. The meeting was moved to Weber Park to view the new restroom/shelter building.

6:20 p.m. Buttke and Viegut left the meeting.

Committee members viewed the shelter/restroom building. Members expressed comments about the need to cut the grass closer to the pond edge in front of the shelter and the possible need to take steps to improve the pond water quality. Wein also expressed a about the need to empty the trash can at the edge of the trail on a more regular basis if it contains dog waste.

PR09-31 Motion by Baur, seconded by Yaeger, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Ed Englehart, Parks and Recreation Director