

Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Committee Minutes of October 15, 2009

Meeting called to order by Jim Wein, Chairperson, at 6:02 p.m. in Room 108 at City Hall Plaza, 630 S. Central Avenue.

Present: Jim Wein, Alderman Tom Buttke, Julie Smith, and Jane Yaeger

Excused: Chris Viegut, Tom Oettiker, and Brenda Baur **Absent:** None

Also Present: Marsha Barwick and Shannon Nienast, representing Rotary Wonderland Lights; Ed Englehart, Parks and Recreation Director; Ben Steinbach, Parks and Recreation Maintenance Supervisor; Jerry Jepson, Zookeeper; and Kelly Cassidy, Parks and Recreation Supervisor.

There were no changes or comments regarding the September 10th meeting minutes.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

The Committee agreed to hold the November meeting on Thursday, November 12th at 6:00 p.m.

Shannon Nienast and Marsha Barwick, representing the Marshfield Rotary Wonderland Lights, presented a request to the committee to allow the Rotary Wonderland Lights to hold a 10 minute firework display over the lower pond at Wildwood Park on Friday, November 27th at approximately 7:00 p.m. to kick off the start of the Rotary Wonderland Lights. They presented a map indicating the proposed shooting location and the required 280' fallout zone that needs to be kept secure. Communications with various city staff have been held and follow-up communications will be held to finalize plans and address all concerns and requirements from the airport and city departments prior to the Mayor issuing a permit to shoot the fireworks. They are not requesting any financial assistance from the city and will staff the event with volunteers. Englehart commented that he discussed the request with the zookeeper in regards to zoo animal concerns and that Jepson was able to meet with the representative from the fireworks company to gain assurances as to what type of fireworks would be shot and what trajectory they would be shooting them. The proposed shooting location is on the park road near the lower pond dam. This will require closing of the park road to secure the fallout zone. Wein questioned the large number of vehicles that show up for the 4th of July fireworks at the Marshfield Fairgrounds Park and was curious as to their expectations and how the traffic will be controlled. Nienast commented that they do not plan to promote the fireworks as a destination event like the 4th of July fireworks. It will be a very short display intended to enhance the opening of the Wonderland Lights. Barwick commented that they have considered various alternatives as to how to address increased traffic and parking needs for that evening if it occurs. Yaeger asked Jepson if he was concerned about the noise and any possible negative impact to the animals in the zoo. Jepson commented that he did not feel it would be a problem due to the type of fireworks, the distance, and the relatively short time period. Englehart read comments sent to him by Viegut indicating that he did not support the request to shoot fireworks at the zoo since he felt that animal welfare should take precedence to any other activity associated with the zoo.

PR09-35 Motion by Buttke, seconded by Smith to approve request for a one year trial basis with requirement that all City and airport directives are fully complied with and direct staff to have the City Attorney draft an amendment to the use agreement for consideration by the Common Council at their October 27th meeting.

Motion Carried 3-1 Yaeger voted no

Smith requested that staff provide a follow-up report regarding the fireworks activity to the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Committee at their December meeting.

Jepson, Barwick, and Nienast left the meeting.

Englehart presented the recommendation from the Volunteer Award Committee, consisting of Jim Wein, Chris Viegut, and Englehart. The committee recommended that Howard Hoffman be recognized as the 2009 Parks and Recreation Department Volunteer of the Year award winner. Howard has been a volunteer coach for the Optimist Youth Soccer Program since 1999 plus assists the Parks and Recreation Department with training of coaches and referees and serving as liaison with the Marshfield Youth Soccer Association. Kelly Cassidy recommended Howard to the committee. The committee considered four other individuals for the award.

PR09-36 Motion by Smith, seconded by Buttke to approve Howard Hoffman as the 2009 Parks and Recreation Department Volunteer of the Year.

Motion Carried All ayes

Information items were reviewed. Cassidy reviewed the 2009 Hefko Swimming Pool report. Wien asked about the natural gas and electric costs and if there are any options being considered to attempt to reduce them.

Buttke presented the Zoological Society report. The Zoological Society approved funding for the Zoo Education Coordinator position in 2010. The Zoological Society's annual meeting is being held this evening and they will be electing new officers and appointing new board members.

Committee member questions, comments, ideas and suggestions - none

Communications - Englehart reviewed some of the citizen communications the department received over the past month. A letter from Roger Schamberger, Burbach Aquatics, was distributed to the members. Mr. Schamberger had recently spoken with an alderman at the recent League of Municipalities meeting regarding Marshfield's outdoor swimming pool and he would like to make a presentation to the committee at their November meeting to review some considerations as to how best to address the situation. The Board of Public Works has taken action to eliminate parking on Cedar Avenue, across the street from the skate park, to help address some of the problems that have been occurring the past few months. Englehart and Steinbach reviewed an injury that occurred at Braem Park during a recent middle school cross country practice.

PR09-37 Motion by Yaeger, seconded by Smith, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.
Ed Englehart, Parks and Recreation Director