

Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Committee Minutes of September 9, 2010

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

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

Excused: Julie Smith **Absent:** None

Also Present: Ed Englehart, Parks and Recreation Director; Ben Steinbach, Parks and Recreation Maintenance Supervisor; Kelly Cassidy, Parks and Recreation Supervisor; John Nystrom, C.E.O. Marshfield Area YMCA; and Alderman Gordon Earll (arrived at 6:00 p.m.)

PR10-31 Motion by Yaeger, seconded by Oettiker to approve the minutes of the August 12th meeting.

Motion Carried 6-0

Public Comments: None

The Committee agreed to hold the October meeting on Thursday, October 14th with the starting time to be 6:00 p.m.

Englehart and Nystrom reviewed the additional information the committee requested at their August meeting. Englehart indicated that staff is recommending that the agreement with the YMCA be approved as presented, with the recognition on both the part of the Parks and Recreation Department and the Marshfield Area YMCA that efforts need to be made to identify options to offer swim lessons to children at a lower cost to the participant. He also commented that they feel the YMCA swim lesson program is a much better program than what the Parks and Recreation Department could offer. Should two programs be attempted, it is likely we would encounter some of the same problems from the past. Discussion followed. Baur still questions why the resident-YMCA member's fee is not lower than the non-resident YMCA member's fee since the city subsidizes the YMCA \$4.74 for each resident swim lesson. Nystrom commented that he understood her thought and would need to investigate further the reasoning and need for the member's fees to be the same. Viegut and Buttke commented on the need to increase promotion of the lesson program and to make sure that residents understand some of the many benefits they can receive from participating in the YMCA Swim Lesson program even if they are not YMCA members. Buttke again indicated that he felt strongly that teaching children to swim is very important and all efforts should be made to offer a quality lesson program at an affordable cost.

PR10-32 Motion by Baur, seconded by Yaeger to table this item until the October meeting to give Nystrom an opportunity to address the concern over the fees charged to the YMCA member who is also a city resident.

Motion Carried 6-0

Englehart briefly presented the letter and information provided by Barb May regarding the St. John's Youth Group's concession sales at the Parks and Recreation Department summer youth baseball games and in Columbia Park at the Civic Band Concerts. Viegut and Englehart commented that they did a very good job addressing any litter issues and spectators seemed to appreciate the service. The Parks, Recreation and Forestry Committee had requested that a post event report be submitted to the committee.

Information Items - Staff addressed questions and comments regarding the monthly report and updated the committee members regarding projects and their various areas of responsibility. Oettiker presented the Zoo Society report.

Committee Member Questions, Comments, and Suggestions: Wein asked if the broken play equipment had been taken care of at both Wildwood Park and Griese Park. Yeager wanted to know who maintains the coin feeder at Hamus Park.

Future Agenda Items: YMCA Swim Lesson Agreement

Communications - Englehart commented that the Leadership Marshfield "Movie in the Park" Committee will be showing the movie "Fields of Dreams" on Saturday, September 18th at the Upper Pond in Wildwood Park. The Wood County Health Department has recently contacted the department about using the Oak Avenue Community Center as a back-up mass dispensing site for immunizations should the need occur. They used the site last year for the H1N1 immunizations. Englehart reviewed the request from the Wildwood Zoological Society to close the core zoo from 7:00 am to 10:00 am on October 16th to allow them to set up for their annual children's Halloween activity. They are also requesting to close the Upper Pond road on October 16th to provide wagon rides. A sign will be posted on the gate indicating when the road will re-open. Marsh 21 has informed Englehart that they now have the funding to complete the dugout roofs on G.P. Olson West diamond. The work will be completed yet this fall at a cost of approximately \$7,000. This will complete the dugout roof project. Alderman Earll offered a suggestion that next year arrangements be made to have the grass mowed at Columbia Park on either Tuesday or Wednesday in order to provide an improved setting for the band concerts. The concerts attract a large number of people to the park, and at times this year the grass has been very long and unsightly.

PR10-33 Motion by Baur, seconded by Buttke, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6: 45 p.m.

Ed Englehart, Parks and Recreation Director