

Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Committee Minutes of October 14, 2010

Meeting called to order by Jim Wein, chairperson, at 6:00 p.m. in Room 108 at City Hall Plaza, 630 S. Central Avenue.

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

Excused: Jane Yaeger

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; Josh Miller, City Planner and Zoning Administrator and Jean Swenson.

PR10-34 Motion by Buttke, seconded by Baur to approve the minutes of the September 9th meeting.

Motion Carried 6-0

Public Comments: Jean Swenson commented that she would like to have the tennis courts at Wildwood Park remain. She understands there is a cost to maintain the courts, but feels that it provides another activity for all ages at the park.

The Committee agreed to hold the November meeting on Thursday, November 11th with the starting time to be 6:00 p.m. Baur indicated that she would not be able to attend.

Englehart and Nystrom reviewed the modifications they are proposing to the YMCA/Parks and Recreation Department Youth Swim Lesson and Program Brochure agreement following the committee discussion at the October meeting. The primary changes include payment being a lump sum amount equal to the average of the payments made the past three years or \$3,300. Neither the annual fee nor the participant swim lesson fee can exceed an increase of 3% per year. The \$475 dollar payment for equipment was dropped and an item was added stating that the Parks and Recreation Department would expend \$500 per year to promote the swim lesson program. The agreement would be for 2011, 2012 and 2013. The overriding goal will be to increase the number of swim lesson participants and not focus on the individual number of resident and non-resident participants. Efforts will also be made to maintain or reduce the swim lesson fees through increased participation, operational efficiencies, and possibly funding support from outside organizations.

PR10-35 Motion by Buttke, seconded by Oettiker to approve the revised Marshfield Parks and Recreation/Marshfield Area YMCA Partnership Agreement for Community Programming/Aquatics for 2011, 2012, and 2013 as presented.

Motion Carried 6-0

Josh Miller presented information regarding a proposed "Park and Recreational Land Dedication" section of a new subdivision ordinance that he is working on. This is a section that many communities have in their subdivision ordinances; however, at the current time it is not included in the Marshfield ordinance. The intent is to have developers of large subdivisions provide either land or financial assistance to the City of Marshfield to help ensure that recreational areas and open spaces are considered in the planning for large subdivisions. Josh indicated that he has reviewed this item with various developers and there may be some changes. A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, October 19th prior to the Plan Commission meeting.

PR10-36 Motion by Viegut, seconded by Buttke to encourage staff to pursue a new subdivision ordinance and to endorse that the section regarding dedication of land for parks and recreational areas be included in the new ordinance.

Motion Carried 6-0

Englehart presented an overview of the situation regarding the Wildwood Park tennis courts and the need for repairs to be made. Englehart stated that the department supervisory staff has evaluated the situation and is recommending that the existing tennis courts be removed, restore ground with black dirt and grass seed and propose future extension of parking for Wildwood Station along the entrance drive, and develop a renovation plan and c.i.p. project for Braem Park tennis courts to include lights. Englehart stated that he had informed the Marshfield Tennis Association of his proposed recommendation; however, their next meeting is scheduled on October 18th.

PR10-37 Motion by Viegut, seconded by Baur to table this item until the November meeting.

Motion Carried 6-0

Englehart presented the recommendation from the Volunteer Award Committee, consisting of Jim Wein, Chris Viegut, and Englehart. The committee recommended that Joyce Fischer, Kathy Poehnelt, and Margi Weister be recognized as the 2010 Parks and Recreation Department Volunteers of the Year award winners. All three ladies are involved in the Wood County Master Gardener program and have taken care of landscape areas for the department for a number of years. Joyce Fisher takes care of Strohman Park and the Education Garden at the Marshfield Fairgrounds, and Kathy Poehnelt and Margi Weister take care of the landscape areas at the Wildwood Zoo. They are assisted by other volunteers but have taken charge of these areas and provided beautiful landscape and saved the City a substantial amount of money due to their volunteer efforts.

PR10-37 Motion by Smith, seconded by Oettiker to approve the recommendation for the Parks and Recreation Department's Volunteer of the Year award.

Motion Carried 6-0

Information Items: Staff addressed questions and comments regarding the monthly report and updated the committee members regarding projects and their various areas of responsibility. Englehart commented on the recent work at the Griese Park soccer field addition and the park tree inventory and assessment draft information that staff has recently received and are in the process of reviewing. Oettiker presented the Zoo Society report.

Committee Member Questions, Comments, and Suggestions: Wein commented that he observed some trees along the sidewalk south of the Marshfield Utilities that need to be trimmed.

Future Agenda Items: Wildwood Tennis Courts, Hefko Pool Report, Bear Exhibit Plan/Design, Park Tree Assessment

Communications: Englehart reviewed some of the communications received by department staff since the September meeting.

PR10-38 Motion by Oettiker, seconded by Smith, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7: 32 p.m.

Ed Englehart, Parks and Recreation Director