Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Committee Minutes of December 15, 2010

Meeting called to order by Jim Wein, chairperson, at 6:05 p.m. in Room 108 at City Hall Plaza, 630 S. Central Avenue.
Present: Jim Wein, Chris Viegut, Alderman Tom Buttke, and Julie Smith.
Excused: Jane Yaeger, Tom Oettiker, and Brenda Baur.
Absent: None.
Also Present: Ed Englehart, Parks and Recreation Director; Ben Steinbach, Parks and Recreation Maintenance Supervisor; Kelly Cassidy, Parks and Recreation Supervisor; Josh Miller, Planning and Zoning Administrator; Dan Umhoefer and Alderman Gordy Earll.

PR10-44 Motion by Buttke, seconded by Smith to approve the minutes of the November 11th meeting.
Motion Carried 4-0

Public Comments: None

The Committee agreed to hold the January meeting on Thursday, January 13th at 6:00 p.m. in room 108 in City Hall.

Josh Miller reviewed article V - Park and Recreational Land Dedications of the City's recently adopted amendment to Chapter 19 Subdivision and Platting Ordinance. The amendment will require consideration for park and recreational needs when new subdivisions are proposed within the City. Miller will be developing a policy to support the new changes and will look to the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Committee for their input. The committee expressed their appreciation for Miller's efforts in getting this accomplished. The Parks, Recreation and Forestry Committee has supported this concept for a number of years. No formal action was requested and none was taken.

Englehart presented the 2011 Parks and Recreation Department fee schedule. There are no changes from the 2010 fee schedule. A question was raised regarding the $0.83 Senior Fitness fee. Cassidy stated that this is no longer used since ADRC now provides the fitness classes and could be removed from the fee schedule.

PR10-45 Motion by Buttke, seconded by Smith to approve the 2011 fee schedule with the deletion of the Senior Fitness class fee.
Motion Carried 4-0

Englehart presented information regarding a proposed landscape plan for the East face of the Oak Avenue Community Center. Comments expressed included concerns over fruit and petals from the crab apples on each side of the entrance creating maintenance issues, maintenance needs for the shrubs included in the plan, security concerns should the plantings create heavy screening, and comments regarding landscaping on the other sides of the building and whether or not the landscaping on the side of the building facing Oak Avenue should be considered prior to the East face of the building. Englehart will share the comments with Randy Lueth, Landscape Architect, who create the plan and report back at a later meeting. No formal action was taken.

Englehart presented information from the four organizations that currently participate in the Outfield Advertising Sign Program. Englehart is recommending that the program be extended through 2012.

PR10-46 Motion by Smith, seconded by Viegut to extend the Outfield Advertising Sign Program through 2012.
Motion Carried 4-0

Englehart passed around information regarding the recent Request for Proposals/Qualifications for consultant services for the development of a preliminary design for a new grizzly bear exhibit. The proposals are due January 12, 2011. Englehart is also recommending that a Design Committee consisting of the Parks and Recreation Maintenance Supervisor; Zookeeper; Parks and Recreation Director; Parks, Recreation and Forestry Committee member Tom Buttke; Zoological Society President and Vice-President; and two citizens be created to work with the consultant in developing a preliminary design.

PR10-47 Motion by Viegut, seconded by Buttke to approve the Bear Exhibit Design Committee as presented.

Motion Carried 4-0

Englehart reviewed the Capital Improvement Program information with the committee. He requested that members review the information and contact him regarding either projects that are listed or any that are not included on the list. The C.I.P. information from the city departments is required to be submitted to the City Administrator by February 4th. No formal action was taken.

Information Items: Staff reviewed various items regarding the department operations over the past month. Englehart shared with the committee information regarding the possible use of the Jer Lang Show Palace at the Marshfield Fairgrounds as a skating rink location. Staff is currently working with Marshfield Youth Hockey Association representatives on the concept and experimenting with development of an ice rink within the facility. Should this be successful, the outdoor hockey rink would not be established. Englehart also commented on a proposed decision to not remove snow from a section of the Veteran's Parkway Trail between 8th and 29th Streets. Due to the large quantity of snow that was received last weekend it is going to be very time consuming and costly to keep this section of trail open until the snow levels are reduced. The proposal has been shared via email with other city staff, the Mayor and Common Council members requesting any comments or concerns. Committee members present at the meeting indicated they were in agreement with the proposal. Comments and concerns expressed from the public will be shared with the committee.

Committee Member Questions, Comments, and Suggestions: Viegut inquired about what animals at the zoo receive venison scraps provided by area hunters. Steinbach will check with the zookeeper and report back. Viegut also inquired about snow removal around the Steve J. Miller Recreation Area and how we coordinate snow removal with the Street Division. He also expressed concern that the leaves in Columbia Park were not mulched prior to the snowfall and will present a problem in the spring.

Future Agenda Items:

Communications: Englehart shared a letter he received from Loretta Annese, along with a donation of $1,500 to assist with construction of a new bear exhibit.

PR10-48 Motion by Smith, seconded by Viegut, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7: 58 p.m.

Ed Englehart, Parks and Recreation Director