

Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Committee Minutes of January 13, 2011

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, Alderman Tom Buttke, Jane Yaeger and Julie Smith.

Excused: Tom Oettiker and Brenda Baur.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Ed Englehart, Parks and Recreation Director; Ben Steinbach, Parks and Recreation Maintenance Supervisor; and Randy Lueth.

PR11-01 Motion by Buttke, seconded by Smith to approve the minutes of the December 15th meeting.

Motion Carried 5-0

Public Comments: None

Englehart presented information provided by Cheri Barnett requesting to hold a fundraising Fun Run/Walk event in Wildwood Park on April 2, 2011 and to close the Upper Pond road to vehicular traffic during their event. Funds raised from the event will benefit the Child Life Program of St. Joseph Hospital.

PR11-02 Motion by Buttke, seconded by Viegut to approve the closing of the park road from 10:00 a.m. to noon on April 2, 2011 for the event, with understanding the event coordinators will place a sign on the gate informing the public why the road is closed and when it will re-open. The fee for use of the Labor Council Shelter will be waived but not for any other park facilities.

Motion Carried 5-0

Englehart presented the 2011 Fairgrounds Building and Grounds Fee Schedule and requested approval of the fees. The fees are the same as they were in 2010. He reminded the committee that in the past this was a function of the Fair Commission; however, with the changes in their by-laws in 2010, the Fair Commission extended this responsibility to Parks, Recreation and Forestry Committee.

PR11-03 Motion by Yaeger, seconded by Smith to approve the 2011 Fairgrounds Building and Grounds Fee Schedule as presented.

Motion Carried 5-0

Englehart informed the committee that the department received notice that the 2011 DNR Urban Forestry Grant was approved and fully funded in the amount of \$12,000. The Common Council approved acceptance of the award at their January 11th meeting. The grant funds will focus on EAB awareness activities, staff training, and tree removals and replacements. The Parks and Recreation Department, Street Division and Cemetery will all participate in the activities. This was information only, no action taken.

Englehart informed the committee that three proposals for design services for a new bear exhibit were received. Staff is currently evaluating the proposals and will be making a recommendation to the Board of Public Works at their January 31st meeting. This was information only, no action taken.

Englehart reviewed the proposed 2011-2015 Parks and Recreation Department Capital Improvement Program project list with the committee. It was commented that the title of the Zoo Restroom and Ludwig Building Renovation project be changed to the Zoo Restroom/Zoo Store Building project. It was desired to move the Wildwood Park Pond Improvement planning project from 2014 to 2013 or 2012. Englehart noted that he also needed to add additional funding in 2012 for the Wildwood Park - McMillan Connector Trail project.

PR11-04 Motion by Viegut, seconded by Yaeger to approve the 2011-2015 CIP Project List as revised.

Motion Carried 5-0

Information Items: Staff reviewed various items regarding the department operations over the past month. Updates on the various projects were provided. Randy Lueth was present to review the various questions and comments both staff and committee members had regarding the Oak Community Center landscape plan developed by Mr. Lueth. Mr. Lueth addressed the concerns regarding the possibility of creating hiding places, the suitability

of the skyrocket junipers in our climate region and maintenance needs, and concern regarding fruit from the crab apple trees creating problems near the entrance door. Following Randy's comments, the committee agreed that the plan was acceptable and staff should pursue completion of the project when funding was identified.

Buttke updated the committee on the Zoological Society's scrap metal fundraising project with the area schools that will begin soon. Englehart shared with the committee that program registration via the internet has increased from 8% of the registrations in 2007 to 20% of the registrations in 2010.

Committee Member Questions, Comments, and Suggestions: None

Future Agenda Items: None

Communications: Englehart informed the committee that following phone calls from individuals that used the Veteran's Parkway Trail to get to work, staff has removed snow from the trail section between 8th Street and Hume Avenue and plan to keep it opened the remainder of the year. The section between Hume and 29th Street is still closed. Englehart passed around a draft Integrated Pest Management Policy that he presented to the Sustainable Marshfield Committee at their recent meeting. They are interested in learning more about chemical applications that take place on city turf areas. They are gaining additional information and may be requesting the Board of Public Works to approve a similar type of policy for city turf areas in the future. Englehart informed the committee that he recently had a telephone conversation with an individual who owns buildings within the City of Marshfield and pays city property taxes on those buildings, but does not reside in Marshfield and he does not feel it is right that he should have to pay a non-resident fee to use the Tennis/Racquetball Facility. Englehart distributed information that showed the number of non-resident fees paid at the Tennis/Racquetball Center since they were instituted in 2003. The committee unanimously agreed that he should pay the non-resident fee if he resides outside of the city, whether or not he pays city property taxes on buildings within the city.

PR11-05 Motion by Smith, seconded by Yaeger, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Ed Englehart, Parks and Recreation Director