

Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Committee Minutes of March 17, 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, Brenda Baur and Tom Oettiker.

Excused: Julie Smith

Absent: None.

Also Present: Ed Englehart, Parks and Recreation Director; Kelly Cassidy, Parks and Recreation Supervisor; Steve Barg, City Administrator; and Renee Wesolowski, President MTA.

PR11-06 Motion by Yaeger, seconded by Buttke to approve the minutes of the January 13th meeting.

Motion Carried 6-0

Public Comments: None

Steve Barg, City Administrator, was introduced to the committee. Mr. Barg provided the committee with his background and excitement about his new position and working with the various committees.

The committee set April 14th at 6:00 p.m. as the date and time of their next meeting.

Englehart presented information regarding the cost to renovate or remove the tennis courts at Wildwood Park.

PR11-07 Motion by Buttke, seconded by Baur to approve removal of the Wildwood Park tennis courts and restore ground with black dirt and grass seed, and extend parking for Wildwood Station building along entrance drive as available funding permits, plus include tree plantings as space allows in the area where the tennis courts were located.

Motion Carried 6-0

Englehart reviewed some of the current and past methods utilized by the Parks and Recreation Department in recognizing volunteers. The committee discussed various ideas regarding volunteer recognition and agreed on their importance to the current and future operations of the Parks and Recreation Department and delivery of services. Some ideas discussed included an annual listing in the Fall/Winter brochure, a monthly recognition at Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Committee meetings, and a personal thank you card from the committee. Englehart will review further with staff and bring a listing of proposed procedures back to the committee at a later meeting for their consideration.

Renee Weslowski, President of MTA, arrived at the meeting at 6:20 p.m. Weslowski was attending the meeting for the Wildwood Park tennis court item. Since the committee had already acted on this item, Chairperson Wein briefly reviewed the discussion and action taken by the committee. Weslowski commented that although they did not like to see the loss of any public tennis courts, they understood the need and costs related to properly maintain tennis courts and agreed with the importance and need of improving the Braem Park tennis courts. Weslowski stated that MTA is willing to donate \$2,500 to the renovation of the Braem Park tennis courts. Englehart commented that a C.I.P. project for a major renovation of the Braem Park tennis courts had been submitted for consideration in the 2011-2015 Capital Improvement Program; however, had recently been shifted to a non-year due to the many higher priority projects. The project will continue to be evaluated and there may be the possibility of again receiving funding from the USA to help offset the cost of a major renovation of the Braem Park tennis courts.

Information Items: Staff reviewed various items regarding the department operations since the last committee meeting and provided updates on the current projects the department is involved with. Viegut asked if staff had any information regarding the trees being removed at Wildwood Park per the findings of the 2010 tree inventory, and whether or not following the cutting of the tree(s) there were indications that the tree was not in a condition that warranted removal. Englehart commented that based on his observations and comments he had received from staff, the trees that had been removed were in poor condition and warranted removal. Oettiker provided a Zoological Society Report and Buttke updated the committee regarding the can recycling fundraiser he is coordinating for the Zoological Society.

Buttke left the meeting at 7:00 and Oettiker left the meeting at 7:05 to attend the Zoological Society meeting.

Committee Member Questions, Comments, and Suggestions: None

Future Agenda Items: Volunteer Recognition Procedures

Communications: Englehart reviewed various comments and inquiries that the department had received since the last committee meeting.

PR11-08 Motion by Baur, seconded by Viegut, to adjourn.

Motion Carried 4-0 Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Ed Englehart, Parks and Recreation Director