

Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Committee Minutes of October 11, 2012

Meeting called to order by Jim Wein, chairperson, at 6:03 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall Plaza, 630 S. Central Ave.

Present: Jim Wein, Jane Yaeger, Chris Viegut, Corey Sullenger, Brenda Baur, and Alderman Tom Buttke.

Excused: Julie Smith

Absent: None

Also Present: Ed Englehart, Parks & Recreation Director; Ben Steinbach, Parks and Recreation Maintenance Supervisor; and Kelly Cassidy, Parks and Recreation Supervisor.

PR12-37 Motion by Buttke, seconded by Yaeger to approve the minutes of the September 13th meeting.

Motion Carried 6-0

Public Comments: None

The committee set Thursday, November 15th at 6:00 p.m. as the date and time of their next meeting if a meeting is needed.

Englehart updated the Committee on the finalization of the land use area designations at Wildwood Park and the Marshfield Airport. This process has been underway for approximately three years and final approvals have now been received. The airport connector trail and the south pasture are now designated for park use. The south pasture and a piece of park land west of the upper pond now have aviation easements on them that restrict some uses that may impact the operations at the airport. No action is required by the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Committee.

Jim Wein and Chris Viegut presented the recommendation from the review committee to recognize Pam Nikolai as the 2012 Parks and Recreation Department's Volunteer of the Year. The recommendation is being made to the committee in recognition of Pam's dedication and volunteer service to the Zoological Society, Wildwood Zoo, and the Parks and Recreation Department for the past six years. Pam has served as President of the Zoological Society for the past four years. Pam's name was submitted by staff members Darlene Schubert, Amy Beauchamp and Ben Steinbach.

PR12-38 Motion by Buttke, seconded by Yaeger to approve the recommendation and to recognize Pam Nikolai as the 2012 Parks and Recreation Department Volunteer of the Year.

Motion Carried 6-0

Information Items: Staff updated the Committee on their respective areas of responsibility. Cassidy presented the 2012 Hefko Swimming Pool report and shared some of her observations from the past season. Participation was 23,949 for 2012. This is the highest amount since 2002, when 24,879 participations occurred. Steinbach updated the committee with information on the zoo operations, plus informed the Committee that the Board of Public Works approved the one-year extension of the Wildwood Park mowing contract to allow for the two mowing contracts to be bid out together in 2013. Sullenger updated the committee on the Zoo Society activities and provide information about their upcoming Halloween Trick-or-Treat event scheduled for October 13th at the zoo. He also noted that the Zoo Society is re-evaluating their programs and activities. Their annual meeting will be held October 18th at the American Legion.

Volunteer Recognitions: It was commented that the Marshfield Area Soccer Association is making improvements to the Griese Park concession stand.

Committee Member Questions, Comments, and Suggestions: Viegut expressed concern over the brush and trees that have been placed on city property along the Wildwood Station Trail by an adjacent neighbor who removed a large tree and also cleared brush and other trees from their property. Englehart indicated that he is aware of the situation and has had the engineers locate the property line and will be scheduling a meeting with the property owner to review the situation. A similar issue also recently was identified at Weber Park. Buttke commented that he would like the staff to pursue acquisition of a new elk, and if they continue to have problems contacting the individual where they normally receive their elk, they should look into other options.

Future Agenda Items: Upper Pond low water levels.

Communications: Englehart distributed a listing of some of the communications the department had received over the past two months regarding questions, concerns, and appreciation from the public regarding the Parks and Recreation Department operations.

PR12-39 Motion by Baur, seconded by Yaeger to adjourn the meeting.

Motion Carried 6-0 Meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Ed Englehart, Parks and Recreation Director