

## Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Committee Minutes of May 9, 2013

Meeting called to order by Ed Englehart, Parks and Recreation Director, at 6:00 p.m. in the Room 108 of City Hall Plaza, 630 S. Central Ave.

**Present:** Jim Wein, Chris Viegut, Corey Sullenger, Ali Luedtke, John White and Alderman Tom Buttke.

**Excused:** Jane Yaeger **Absent:** None.

**Also Present:** Ed Englehart, Parks & Recreation Director; Kelly Cassidy, Parks and Recreation Supervisor; Ben Steinbach, Parks and Recreation Maintenance Supervisor, Chief Jim Schmidt; and Alderman Gordy Earll

Ed Englehart introduced Ali Luedtke and John White as the two new members of the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Committee and they both provided their background and interest in serving on the committee.

Englehart asked for nominations for the position of chairperson of the committee. Tom Buttke nominated Jim Wein for chairperson. No other nominations were made.

**PR13-16** Motion by Buttke, seconded by Viegut to close nominations and cast a unanimous vote for Jim Wein to serve as chairperson of the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Committee.

**Motion Carried 6-0**

Wein asked for nominations for the position of vice-chairperson of the committee. Tom Buttke nominated Chris Viegut for vice-chairperson. No other nominations were made.

**PR13-17** Motion by Buttke, seconded by Wein to close nominations and cast a unanimous vote for Chris Viegut to serve as vice-chairperson of the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Committee.

**Motion Carried 6-0**

**PR13-18** Motion by Sullenger, seconded by White to approve the minutes of the April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Motion Carried 6-0**

**Public Comments:** Alderman Earll stated that he would like to comment on the Upper Pond boating agenda item, however, if comments can be made at the time when the item is discussed he would wait until that time. Wein stated that he would allow comments at that time. No other comments were made.

The committee set Thursday, June 13, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. as the date and time of their next meeting. It was noted that Yaeger and Luedtke will not be able to attend that meeting.

Jim Schmidt presented the request from his Leadership Marshfield group to change the current city ordinance to allow for non-motorized boating to occur on the upper pond at Wildwood Park. The proposal also included the restrictions on when the boating could occur, guidelines for the boating, signage, and the establishment of an improved access area on the west bank of the upper pond. Jim Wein read comments that staff received from committee member Jane Yaeger since she could not attend the meeting. Yaeger is not in favor of the proposal based on the information she read in the newspaper article. Alderman Earll expressed his concerns about the concept and listed a number of questions that he felt staff needed to be prepared to answer if the idea moved forward to the Board of Public Works and the Common Council. He also stated that he had received a call from a resident in his ward asking him to not support the proposal due to additional traffic concerns and interference with current usage. Wein inquired about the possibility of a trial period versus an ordinance change. Viegut commented that we would need to clarify what an approved watercraft would be. Committee members expressed a number of questions and comments regarding the proposal. Englehart explained that if the Committee approved the request, the next step would be to acquire answers to the questions expressed at this evening's meeting, and take it to the Board of Public Works for their consideration before requesting a change in the ordinance by the Common Council.

**PR13-19** Motion by Viegut, seconded by Sullenger to approve the request and direct staff to pursue a change in the ordinance to allow non-motorized boating on the upper pond, per the Leadership Marshfield proposal, and that any boat-landing improvements or other developments at the upper pond be completed under the supervision/approval of Ben Steinbach, Parks and Recreation Maintenance Supervisor.

**Motion Carried 5-1** Wein voted no.

**Information Items:** Staff updated the Committee on their respective areas of responsibility and answered questions regarding the monthly reports. Sullenger provided an update of the Zoo Society activities. Buttke noted that the Zoo Society has raised over \$8,000 from the metal recycling program since it was started in 2011.

Buttke and Earll left the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

**Volunteer Recognitions:** Staff noted the following groups and individuals for their volunteer efforts over the past month. Theresa O'Neel and the Community Service Day activities, Rotary Club for Braem Park clean-up, Marshfield

Area Friends of the Trails for the trail clean-up event, Dave Wurl for volunteer efforts at the zoo, and Pam Nikolai and Kat Petke for their painting of the scenery in the new Ms. Grizz display area.

**Other** – Englehart reminded everyone about the ribbon-cutting scheduled for May 16<sup>th</sup> at noon at the zoo for the new Ms. Grizz educational display.

**Committee Member Questions, Comments, and Suggestions:** Veigut commented that he saw Wausau was making a push to improve their biking opportunities with new signs and maps. He was curious where this funding came from and if it might be available to Marshfield. Luedtke asked if there were plans to make improvements to the surfaces of the granite trails at Braem Park and Wildwood Park. She felt that there may be student groups that would be willing to help with this. Steinbach agreed that improvements are needed and he needs to create a plan of action.

**Future Agenda Items:** None were noted.

**Communications:** Englehart reviewed some of the communications the department has received since the last meeting. Topics included snow removal on the hill portion of the Galvin Trail, water drainage concerns by neighbors living next to the former ice rink area at 8<sup>th</sup> and Hemlock, opening of the skate park, and parking issues near the dog park at the fairgrounds.

**PR13-20 Motion** by Luedtke, seconded by White to adjourn the meeting.

**Motion Carried** 7-0 Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Ed Englehart, Parks and Recreation Director