

City of Whitewater
Parks and Recreation Board Meeting
Wednesday, September 9, 2009 - 4:30pm
Cravath Lakefront Room - 2nd Floor, City Municipal Building
312 W. Whitewater St. Whitewater, WI 53190

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm by Sheila Kindwall. Present, Prudence Negley, Jen Kaina, Steve Ridenour, David Stone, and Nicole Grosinske (4:32). Excused: Max Taylor. Others present: Guests: Kim Krebs, Linda Loomer, Kathleen Lashley, Carol Christ, Marianne Scott, Megan Matthews (UWW), Audra Lange (UWW student), Kira Kaufman (UW- Milwaukee), Jay Toth (Ho-Chunk nation). Staff: Matt Amundson, Michelle Dujardin, Chuck Nass, and Deb Weberpal.

Approval of August 3, 2009 Parks and Recreation Board Minutes

Negley motioned to approve the August 3 minutes. Grosinske seconded the motion. Ayes: Negley, Grosinske, Kaina, and Stone. Noes: None. Abstain: Ridenour, Kindwall. Absent: Taylor

Citizen Comments: No formal action will be taken during this meeting, although issues raised may become part of a future agenda. Participants are allotted a 3 minute speaking period. Specific items listed on the agenda may not be discussed at this time; however, citizens are invited to speak to those issues as designated in the agenda. There were no citizen comments

Discussion on preservation and restoration of burial mounds at Indian Mounds Park Guest Speakers: Jay Toth (Ho-Chunk) & Kira Kaufmann (UW-Milwaukee)

Jay Toth shared information about the mounds including:

- If the mounds are restored, make it an intergenerational activity and involve school children.
- Maintain any creeks or springs in the area.
- Mounds are intended to have prairie grass on them. It is the key to keep them from dissipating.
- The original Wisconsin landscape was oak savannah with 1-6 trees per acre.
- No trees are to be planted on the mounds.
- Burial were off the mounds, so be careful when planting trees.
- Tamarack and basswood are also good trees to plant in the area.
- Takes 3-5 years to re-establish a site and it looks ugly until then.
- DNR can provide seed.
- Grants available through: USDA, NCRS, wildlife grants, Habitat Forever, and Ducks Unlimited.
- Ho Chunk will provide expertise but not funding.
- The mounds are a religious site, not a park.
- Ho Chunk can provide signage.
- Private land owners are responsible to care for mounds on their land.
- Whitewater owns land where mounds were lost. School children can be par of the rebuilding as schools get funding for these types of projects.

Negley suggested education of the neighbors, especially concerning removal of trees. Amundson thanked Toth and Kaufmann for attending.

Discussion and possible action on proposal of the creation of a Sculpture Walk

Audra Lange, a UW-Whitewater student presented information on a Sculpture Walkway she would like to do as a senior project. It would be a 6-9 month temporary exhibition. The best area would be near Cravath Lake. There would be discussion with staff and Dawn Hunter, Whitewater Arts Alliance, as to the site. Sculptures would be placed on cement pads. There would be a system for people visiting the site to vote on their favorite sculpture and the possibility of fundraising to have the sculpture placed permanently. The Board reviewed the goals and action

steps in the Board packet. Board concerns were: Insurance, maintenance, sculptures would be appropriate for public viewing (not offensive), and anchoring the piece.

Negley moved to approve the concept of the creation of the sculpture walk presented by Audra Lange to be completed spring of 2010. The report and map will be presented to the park board for final approval prior to any sculpture walk being built. Grosinske second. Ayes: Negley, Grosinske, Stone, Kaina, Ridenour, and Kindwall. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Taylor

Approval of overnight camping request at Starin Park by UW-Whitewater Ultimate Frisbee Team

Discussion on accountability of the group and setting a precedence allowing overnight camping. Stone moved to deny the use of the park to the Ultimate Frisbee team. Second by Negley. Ayes: Negley, Grosinske, Stone, Ridenour, and Kindwall. Noes: None. Abstain: Kaina. Absent: Taylor

Discussion and possible action on changes to Banner Request Form and 2010 Banner Prices

Amundson explained the need for the increase in fees and the change of the rope requirement making it less expensive for groups when purchasing a banner. Grosinske moved to approve the new banner request form with the increase in fees to go into effect January 1, 2010. Seconded by Kaina. Ayes: Negley, Kaina, Grosinske, Stone, Ridenour, and Kindwall. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Taylor

Discussion and possible action regarding creation of on-street bicycle route from East Gate Park to Washington Elementary School

GIS student mapped the current and proposed trails. Amundson explained that the streets in this corridor are not wide enough to support bike lanes. Another concern would be the removal of on-street parking on these streets, something that city staff is not comfortable removing.

Amundson also discussed current trail planning in the downtown. The Common Council decided not to purchase the property at 113 W North Street (across from the Armory), but prefers to work with adjacent business owner on the connection of the trail in the downtown. Have also discussed applying for Safe Routes to School funding to building a bicycle friendly bridge at Ridge Street that would eventually replace the Dan Street bridge.

Staff Reports:

Director Report (Amundson)

Amundson announced that the Clay Street Nature Park Acquisition Grant was awarded. He noted the \$5,000 donation by the Lions Club for the Trippe Lake Shelter and that the painting of the shelter would be finished tomorrow and the final touches done next week. Per Plan Commission action, Teronomy is to have the eastern portion of Minneiska Park seeded and graded by October 15 and the park completed by June 1, 2010.

Recreation & Community Events Programmer (Dujardin)

Dujardin reported on the upcoming Taste of Whitewater event. Friday is a pizza night with a pep rally and Karaoke. There will be child and family events on Saturday. Band Saturday night is Safety Suit.

Senior Coordinator (Weberpal)

Seniors in the Park will be receiving state accreditation at the WASC Conference on Sept 17. 7 members of the committee will be attending. Negley comments on the great job. Sept is Senior Center month and many new activities have started. Sock Hop is Saturday September 19 at 6:00 at the Armory. Weberpal explained procedures for other departments using the senior van that have been implemented.

Parks/Streets Superintendent (Nass)

October 15 the fountains will be shut down.

Main Street Shoppes Courtyard - Trees were taken out with monies from the construction of the lot. The landscape plan for the area was worked on and reviewed by Kristine Zaballos, master gardener. There will be seating and an area available for a sign.

Grosinske moved to approve the plan. Seconded by Negley. Ayes: Negley, Kaina, Grosinske, Stone, Ridenour, and Kindwall. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Taylor

Approval of signage for Starin Park Playground

Amundson related donations to-date of \$10,000 Kiwanis, \$3,000 Wal-Mart, and 2,250 Community Foundation. The Historic Starin Park Neighborhood Association and the University students still may make a donation.

Negley moved to approve the signage for the Starin Park Playground as presented providing the UWW students and the Neighborhood Association give an amount deemed reasonable by Amundson to be listed on the sign. Ayes: Negley, Kaina, Grosinske, Stone, and Kindwall. Noes: Ridenour. Abstain: None. Absent: Taylor

Discussion and possible action on 2010 Capital Park Projects

Item moved to next meeting. Board is asked to think about items to include in a multiple year plan.

Schedule public dedication for Trippe Lake Shelter and set future meeting times and dates

Future meeting times decided on were October 5, November 2, and December 7 at 4:30 pm.

(Negley leaves 6:50 pm)

Dedication of Trippe Lake Shelter will be Monday October 5 at 4:00 pm

(Grosinske leaves 7:00 pm)

Board and Commission Reports: No action other than possible referral to another meeting, but there may be minimal response to Board member questions:

Plan and Architectural Review Commission (Stone) - UWW Technology zoning district was approved.

Whitewater Aquatics Center (Grosinske) - New lights, cleaned, painted the equipment, and are interviewing for the aquatic coordinator position.

City Council (Taylor) – No Report

WPRA Legislative Advocacy (Stone) – No report

Request for future agenda items

Motion by Ridenour and seconded by Kaina at 7:11 pm. Unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Debra Weberpal