

City of Whitewater  
Parks and Recreation Board Meeting  
Tuesday, October 13, 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 4:32 pm by Sheila Kindwall. Present, Prudence Negley, Jen Kaina, Steve Ridenour, and David Stone. Excused: Max Taylor and Nicole Grosinske. Others present: Guests: Dawn Hunter, Mariann Scott, Karen Coburn, Ginny Coburn, Donna Henry, Bonnie Miller, Kim Scharine, Marilyn Kienbaum, Tamara Brodnicki, Tom Miller, and Beverly Stone. Staff: Matt Amundson, Michelle Dujardin, and Deb Weberpal.

**Approval of September 9, 2009 Parks and Recreation Board Minutes**

Stone motioned to approve the September 9 minutes with noted changes to creation of a Sculpture Walk. Kaina seconded the motion. Ayes: Negley, Ridenour, Kaina, Kindwall and Stone. Noes: None. Absent: Taylor, Grosinske

**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 and possible action on future tree planting efforts in Cravath Lakefront Park**

Agenda item delayed until November meeting.

**Discussion and possible action on Mural Park (referred back by Plan Commission)**

Amundson stated that as a result of public opinion and the Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Whitewater's recent stance against removal of parking at the Mural Site. The Mural plan has been reduced to Phase I-construction of a retaining wall and installation of lights to illuminate the mural. The installation of the lights will require the removal of the four parking stalls that will be added to offset the loss of the four stalls being illuminated in the mural lot. Amundson introduced the map indicating the additional four parking stalls within a half block of the mural site.

Citizen comments/concerns:

- Bonnie Miller ( Resident) shared concerns on behalf of herself and multiple business owners on lack of parking, style of parking, communication of plans, green space necessity, and future success for business owners effected by lack of parking.
- Steve Ridenour (Park & Recreation Board Member) shared that parking should not be our focus, parking should be the perimeter and we need to keep the center the beauty of the town.
- Donna Henry (Business Owner) shared hardships experienced as a business owner with lack of parking and expressed that we have become "a lazy nation".
- Ginny Coburn (Resident) shared support towards a compromise of the four parking stall loss with the relocation of four stalls. Ginny questioned " Do we drive our cars or do our cars drive us?" followed by stating that we need to show that we value things "like not parking in front of a mural".
- Karen Coburn (Resident) commented that we need to show "a sense of place" and create things that beautify our town instead of just running in and out of a business.
- Dawn Hunter( Arts Alliance)expressed concern of being blindsided by individuals who had previously supported a compromised plan and now are not accepting the compromise discussed at the October 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of creating four new parking stalls for the four stalls being lost for the plan to move forward.
- Marilyn Keinbaum (Resident) expressed concern on added cost to the City due to the plan. Kienbaum stated the City is already dealing with a deficit and should not be incurring more expense in the current economy.

- Kim Scharine (Business Owner) shared concerns of existing parking problems and the negative impact the loss of four more stalls will create. Scharine stated her business conducted a face to face survey to downtown business and concluded 80% indicate lack of parking is a problem.
- Prudence Negley (Parks & Recreation Board Member) shared the effort and research made by City Staff to create ample parking. Negley questioned if parking needs were based on peak hours?
- Tamara Brodnicki (Downtown Whitewater Executive Director) expressed concern that the four parking stalls being lost are currently ten hours stalls which would be replaced with two hour stalls. Brodnicki questioned year round parking permits and the excess number available in the summer.

*Stone moved to approve the Mural Park Plan labeled Phase I with the removal of four parking stalls against the mural and instillation of lighting as written in plan, phase 2 will not be completed in the future (removal of 4 more parking stalls to put in a serenity circle) Mural Park Plan with parking map will be submitted to Plan Commission. Negley seconded the motion with two amendments including;*

- *Mural Park Plan be submitted to Plan Commission with stipulations to keep the grass area and plantings the same to stay current with our urban forestry commitment with additional seating be considered. Allow current dog use and to provide screening or artfully place pet disposal bags.*
- *Staff be directed to redesign present parking stall spaces to better accommodate downtown businesses.*

Stone seconded the amendments. Ayes: Negley, Stone, Kindwall, and Kaina. Noes: None Absent: Taylor, Grosinske, and Ridenour

**Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm due to loss of quorum**

Respectfully submitted,

*Michelle Dujardin*

Michelle Dujardin