

City of Whitewater
Parks and Recreation Board Meeting
Monday November 2, 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 5:00 pm by Sheila Kindwall. Present, Prudence Negley, Steve Ridenour, David Stone, Max Taylor, Nicole Grosinske, and Jen Kaina (5:25). Excused: Others present: Guests: Dean Fischer, Lego Team and Coach Shawn Hunter, Jean Mills and Blake Scharine. Staff: Matt Amundson, Michelle Dujardin, and Deb Weberpal.

Approval of October 13 and October 19, 2009 Parks and Recreation Board Minutes

Negley motioned to approve the October 13 minutes with the spelling changes. Ridenour seconded the motion. Ayes: Negley, Ridenour, Kindwall, and Stone. Noes: None. Abstain: Grosinske and Taylor. Absent: Kaina
Taylor motioned to approve the October 19 minutes with spelling changes. Ridenour seconded the motion. Ayes: Negley, Ridenour, Kindwall, Taylor, and Stone. Noes: None. Abstain: Grosinske. Absent: Kaina

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.

Trail Planning presentation by Lego League Team

The Lego team looked at the problem of hooking up the North and South Trails in the city. They presented the problems and their solution. The Board asked questions and received answers from the team after the presentation. The Board thanked the group for the presentation and their innovative solutions. Amundson gave information on safe routes to school funding.

(5:25 Kaina arrived)

Request for waived fee for use of Starin Park Community Building by UW-Whitewater Student Groups(s)

Amundson referred to the letter in the packet. The request is in a gray area of our policy. As a college entity they are entitled to a 50% reduction in the rental fee. As a fundraiser they could have the facility gratis. Discussion centered on the recipient of the fundraising as the money would be leaving the community. Taylor moved to adhere to the policy of a 50% reduction in the rental fee. Second by Kaina. After discussion Taylor withdrew the motion and Kaina withdrew the second as no motion was needed to adhere to the rental policy.

Discussion and possible action on citizen's request for a smoking ban in City Parks

Amundson commented there is not much information when he researched the subject. He contacted groups that use the park asking for their input on the subject. He got no reply from the horseshoe group and 3 positive comments from softball teams. He stated the Board basically has three options: No Ban, a limited ban within proximity to playgrounds and youth playing/practice fields or a full ban encompassing all parks. The Board was concerned with enforcement of a full ban. The concern is with youth and setting an example for them. The Board requested Matt to research other communities, draft an ordinance of a partial ban, and to bring it to the next Park Board meeting.

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

Amundson referred to the memo commenting that the original intent of the park was to be open space with perimeter planting of trees. Dr. Nosek has requested tree planting within the park, not on the perimeter. There was discussion on the amount of shade in the park and the intent of the park to remain flexible in its usage. Stone commented that two willows were removed because of disease and asked if something else was being put in. Other comments included:

- Trees are nice for beautification and shade.
- There is shade in the gazebo, pavilion, and the Lakefront Center.
- There are many trees in the park they just haven't grown/matured yet.
- The Park is very versatile now and can accommodate the needs of many different events.
- Trees would block the view of the lake
- Trees would block the view of the stage from the bump outs where handicapped and older persons sit/stand to view concerts.

Jean Mills commented that the decision/compromise was made about a year ago on where to plant trees and questioned why the topic was being revisited. Dujardin was asked if the trees would impact city events. It would impact Taste of Whitewater and the Concerts in the Park but not Freeze Fest.

Stone motioned to leave the trees and let them grow. Trees should be planted on the east side of the Lakefront Center to maintain the versatility of the Park. Seconded by Grosinske. Ayes: Negley, Ridenour, Kindwall, Taylor, Grosinske, Kaina, and Stone. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

Request to add the Red Hat Society to Group 1 within Facility Rental & Reservation Policy.

Grosinske moved to deny the request according to our current policy. They do not meet the criteria. Second by Negley. Ayes: Negley, Ridenour, Kindwall, Taylor, Grosinske, Kaina, and Stone. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

Request for waived fee for use of Starin Park Ball Diamond by UW-Whitewater American Marketing Association

Taylor moved to remain consistent with our current policy of 50% discount for University groups. Second by Negley. Ayes: Negley, Ridenour, Kindwall, Taylor, Grosinske, Kaina, and Stone. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

Review and approve changes to Facility Rental & Reservation Policy

Amundson asked the Board if they would like to make amendments to the Facility Rental & Reservation Policy to cover the above issues. The Board commented they would prefer to make the decision on deviations to the policy.

Grosinske moved to approve the change of wording and the fee changes in the Facility Rental & Reservation policy as presented. Second by Negley. Ayes: Negley, Ridenour, Kindwall, Taylor, Grosinske, Kaina, and Stone. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

Discussion and possible action on playground manufacturer grant programs in regards to 2010 playground equipment purchase

Amundson will meet with the neighborhood for input on playground equipment. Currently playground vendors are offering "grants" for playground equipment. Amundson could contact a minimum of three potential vendors to talk about and view options for the East Gate Park.

Taylor moved to direct Amundson to go for a grant with one of the three manufacturers who are offering them. Second by Negley. Ayes: Negley, Ridenour, Kindwall, Taylor, Grosinske, Kaina, and Stone. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

Staff Reports:

Director Report (Amundson)

The sidewalk in Skyway Park that is required as part of the development agreement still has to be blacktopped. A letter will be sent to inform Mr Walton that if the city has to do the work he will be billed. Whitewater is leaving the Cactus League and is working with Palmyra, Elkhorn, Eagle, East Troy, and Waterford on the creation of a recreational league for baseball and softball. The playground equipment at Starin Park has been installed. Thanks to all the volunteers. The sidewalk and surfacing still need to be completed. Amundson shared staffing and budget concerns with the Board. Department staff can now edit their section of the website. This will assist in keeping it current.

(7:00 pm Grosinske left)

Recreation & Community Events Programmer (Dujardin)

Piñatas and tricycle races, which were very well received, were added to the activities at the annual Halloween Party. Everyone had a great time. Participation was down about 50 people. Freeze Fest planning has started. It is going very well with the new contact at Special Olympics. Whitewater on Wellness (WOW) is a group in conjunction with the School district. It provides low/no cost activities for youth. The next event is rock climbing for middle school students at Wall Crawlers.

Senior Coordinator (Weberpal)

A celebration of Accreditation will take place on November 17. Local state and national officials have been invited. The annual fundraiser for Seniors in the Park will be on November 21 at the Armory. The annual Holiday dinner will be on December 9 at the Country Club.

Parks/Streets Superintendent (Nass)

No Report

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) - On November 9 they will be reviewing the Comprehensive Plan

Whitewater Aquatics Center (Grosinske) - No report

City Council (Taylor) – The council is currently working on the budget and ordinances.

WPRA Legislative Advocacy (Stone) – No report

Indian Mounds Committee – The group has been invited to the Mounds restoration in Madison. The consensus of those involved, felt the park was in good shape and not much damage has been done. However, restoration efforts will ensure the long term preservation of the site.

There were no requests for future agenda items

Motion by Ridenour and seconded by Negley to adjourn at 7:21 pm. Unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Debra Weberpal