

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES
October 7th, 2008

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Way, Herminath and Romberg

OTHERS PRESENT: Director Hoerth, City Administrator Hagar, Morack, O'Connell, Barrington

Chairman Way brought the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

Romberg moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Herminath.
Motion carried by all.

The committee discussed the condition of the boat launch facility at Riverside Park. The launch areas are creating holes at the end of the concrete ramps. The committee discussed the option of extending the concrete ramps to fix the issue. Hoerth will investigate the cost and the permits needed to complete the project.

Hoerth presented a Sponsorship Signage Policy for non-profit groups who use city facilities. The committee discussed the importance of regulating the design theme of the signs as well. Way suggested adding verbiage that "during high school activities no WIAA restricted signage will be displayed" and that no "political statements or slogans be allowed".

Romberg made a motion that council approval of the policy with the WIAA and political restrictions added, seconded by Herminath. Motion carried by all.

Hoerth presented an idea to the committee to purchase a used snowmobile to help create the cross-country ski trails at Hatten Park. Currently the Parks Crew uses a utility vehicle to pull the ski drag to create the trail but must first use a tractor to dig out enough snow from the trail so the utility vehicle does not get stuck. Using a snowmobile to pull the drag would save labor and fuel to create the trail and do a much better job. Hoerth reported on a used long track snowmobile for sale that has a hitch and reverse that would work well in this application. The snowmobile's asking price is \$1000.00. Morack expressed concern in purchasing a machine that may require high maintenance and suggested in asking the local snowmobile club if they would donate a snowmobile or even make the trails with their snowmobile groomer. Other committee members felt that the snowmobile groomer would be too big to fit in our trails in Hatten Park. Hoerth will ask the local snowmobile club if they can assist with the trails or with the donation of a snowmobile, otherwise will purchase the used one out of the park-operating budget.

The committee was presented with a copy of a previous agreement between the school and city for use of athletic facilities. The last signed agreement was from 1976. Hoerth will be creating a draft with the school's athletic director for use of the athletic facilities. Committee members expressed the need to first create a list of who uses what facilities. Hoerth will report back once a draft has been created.

Renting Kunkle Shelter for private parties was discussed. Currently the shelter is not rented and the horseshoe pits are locked up and used only for the New London Wolf River Ringers Horseshoe club.

Herminath moved to add the Kunkle shelter to the list of rentable park shelters and allow the horseshoe pits to be used by checking out a key at the Park and Rec office, seconded by Romberg. Motion carried by all.

The committee reviewed the annual boat launch fees again to see if the increase for the purchase of a second or third sticker was appropriate. For a resident the cost for a second and third sticker is \$10.00 each. Waupaca County currently charges \$5.00 for each additional sticker but may be looking at increasing that to \$10.00. Winnebago County currently is \$5.00 for each additional sticker. After discussion the committee decided to leave the fees as they are proposed for 2009.

Director's Report:

Hoerth informed the committee that Jered Flease completed 7 years of service on September 10th, 2008

At the September City Council meeting, a few members inquired about the utility costs at the Washington Center gym. Hoerth's investigation found out that WE energies estimates some of their gas bills and they appear to be overestimating the usage. One month the gym had a \$600 bill and the next month after an actual reading had a \$125 credit. Hoerth stated that it is difficult to get a good understanding of month to month usage with the estimating, however the actual readings bring the numbers back in line for calendar year planning.

Hoerth reported on a new Act the Federal Government passed requiring changes to aquatic facilities' main drains to help prevent entrapment, eventually the city may need to close down the pool and drain it to make the necessary changes.

Chairman's Report- None

Committee Member's Report- None

Monthly pool and senior center reports were distributed.

New Business – Morack inquired about the Open Space and Rec Plan that needs to be updated. Hoerth said he will begin working on it and present it at the next meeting.

Next Month Agenda Items- None

Romberg moved to adjourn, seconded by Herminath. The meeting adjourned at 7:00pm

Chad R. Hoerth
Director of Park & Recreation