

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

August 2, 2011

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Rob Way, Bob Besaw, John Romberg, Lori Dean, Dennis Herter, Bob Marcks and Tiffany Schulz

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: None

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Mayor Henke, Tom O'Connell, Ron Steinhorst, Mike Barrington

OTHERS PRESENT: Parks & Rec Director Chad Hoerth, Administrator Kent Hager, and Janet Searl

Chairman Way called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Schulz moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Dean. Motion carried 7-0.

Hiring Private Forester for City-Owned Properties. Director Hoerth, Mayor Henke, and Alderman Romberg met with Steven Heckman, a forester from SilviSystems, regarding wooded parcels in the City. In order to start the process to determine possible uses/enhancements/forest health improvements of these parcels, a comprehensive inventory should be done. Heckman charges \$10 per wooded acre for this service and would need up to one year to complete the inventory. Hoerth provided a City map showing wooded parcels totaling approximately 236 acres. The committee would like to start with the area south of Floral Hill Cemetery because of trees that are already down in that area.

Romberg moved to recommend hiring Steven Heckman of SilviSystems to begin a comprehensive inventory, narrative, and plan for wooded parcels in the City at a cost of \$10/wooded acre and \$5/non-wooded acre, with the area south of Floral Hill Cemetery surveyed first to be included in the 2011 Budget and the remaining parcels budgeted for in 2012, seconded by Dean. Motion carried 7-0.

Hatten Park Tennis Courts. Hoerth reported that he had sent a letter to the New London Athletics Booster Club to ask for assistance with the resurfacing of the tennis courts. He has not heard back from them at this time. Ginger Miller is writing a grant to see if any funding is available from the United States Tennis Association.

2012 Seasonal Staff Wage Schedule. One of the first steps in the budget process is to have the committee approve the seasonal staff wage schedule. The only change from 2011 is the addition of a Camp Hatten Leader.

Herter moved to recommend to Council to accept the 2012 Seasonal Staff Wage Schedule as presented, seconded by Besaw. Motion carried 7-0.

Director's Report. Hoerth reported that Myrl Olson completed 19 years of service with the City on July 28th.

Department usage and financial stats were handed out. Handicap parking at Memorial Park was discussed. Hoerth said New London Youth Baseball has expressed an interest in cost sharing to have the parking lot lined; he will check with New London Youth Softball to see if they have an interest in contributing to the cost.

Committee Member's Report: There was discussion of kids taking the plastic caps off the docks along the river. Hoerth reported that the state pool inspector is coming sometime in August to inspect the pool drains.

Agenda Items for Next Month: Tennis courts, budget.

Way recessed the meeting for a tour of City Parks/Properties at 5:55 p.m.

Roll Call: Way, Besaw, Herter, Dean, Romberg, Marcks, Schulz, Mayor Henke, Barrington, Steinhorst, Director Hoerth, Searl

The first stop was to see the progress at the NL Jaycees Dog Park. The wooden sign is up, the gravel drive/parking lot is in, some of the fence posts are in (the fencing will be installed by the Friends of the Dog Park group when all the posts are in), the gate will be installed by the company when it comes in, and there are benches in the park. There will be a ribbon cutting when the time comes to open the park.

The next stop on the tour was to check out potential sites for a community garden. We drove out to the Northeast Industrial Park. It would be easy to develop this area and there is access to electricity, water, and parking. This would be a great place to start and see what develops. Another potential location was Abraham Park. Upon arrival at the park it was quickly determined that the Industrial Park was a much better location.

The tour proceeded to the area south of Floral Hill Cemetery. The consensus of the group was to hike this parcel at a later date, possibly after the forester conducts his survey.

On the way back to City Hall, Hoerth drove by the docks at Riverside Boat Launch. If the river is high, the docks are underwater on the parking lot side.

Way reconvened the meeting at the Municipal Building.

Dean moved to adjourn, seconded by Schulz, at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried with all ayes.

Chad R. Hoerth
Director of Park & Recreation