PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
July 7, 2015

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Henrica Bult

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Gary Henke, Mayor; Tom O'Connell, Mike Barrington, Ron Steinhorst, and Dave Morack

OTHERS PRESENT: Chad Hoerth, Parks & Recreation Director; Kent Hager, City Administrator; Janet Searl, Administrative Assistant; John Faucher, New London Press Star, Jim Jaeger, Jim Massonet, and Bob Dessort

Way called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. (Joint meeting with Public Works at this time).

Besaw moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Dean. Motion carried 6-0.

The purpose of the joint meeting was to approve the bid recommended by Keller Structures for the earthwork portion of the City Garage project.

Motion by Dean / Herter to recommend to Council to approve the Earthwork and Site Utilities bid from MCC, Inc. for $235,007.33. Eight voting aye. Motion carried.

(At 6:05 p.m. the Public Works meeting adjourned).

Public Comment. Chad Hoerth introduced Logan Rusch, who is hired as an intern for the City this summer. He was observing the committee and board meetings.

Action/Final Request Taft Park Site for Future Veterans Memorial. Jim Jaeger reported that the Veterans Group had unanimously voted on Taft Park for the site of the Veterans Memorial. The group was seeking official committee approval for this site. Jaeger provided an update regarding anticipated costs, fundraising goals, and a general timeline.

Motion by Romberg, seconded by Herter, to recommend to Council to grant approval to the Veterans Group to proceed with the creation of a Veterans Memorial at Taft Park. Motion carried 6-0.

Members of the Committee complimented the Veterans Group on the progress they have made in such a short time to get this project underway.

Review bid option for piling replacement at Riverside Park. Hoerth has almost completed the bid specs for replacing the pilings at Riverside Park. He asked the Committee whether he should add the aspect of cluster pilings to the project; there is no guarantee that cluster pilings will help with an ice out and there is a permit application fee that would need to be paid before the project begins. After a brief discussion, the Committee directed Hoerth to proceed with the bid specs without the cluster piling aspect.

Review Capital Projects List. Hoerth presented an updated list of the department's future capital projects list that would be financed by the next city bond. The list will now be combined with the public works list and presented to the Capital Projects Committee.

Director's Report:
*Years of Service: June 5th, Lori Gorges completed 21 years of Part/Full Time Service

*Department Usage & Financial Statistics for June were handed out.

*Hoerth is working on bid specs for the field lighting project at Hatten Stadium.

*Proposals for work on replacing the tennis courts at Pfeifer and Abraham Parks are almost done. Blended lines will be painted at Abraham for pickleball.

*Work will begin soon on a fire alarm system upgrade at the library/museum.

*Carpet replacement is finished at the police department, the museum, the Council chambers and front conference room at City Hall. The City Hall offices are in progress.

*Hoerth reported there is a new sound system at Hatten Stadium (financed by the Hatten Stadium Foundation).

*The base for the new playground at Hatten Park has been a tedious job but will be well worth it when it is finished. The tentative grand opening will be on Friday afternoon.

*Ideas for the summer park tour are to view the renovations at the Hatten Park Shelters and the new playground area. There was a suggestion to hold the August meeting at the shelters.

*July is Parks & Recreation month. The annual picnic will be held on July 17th to recognize the employees.

Committee Members Report. Members reported good comments about the fireworks on the 4th of July. There were also comments that more women's bathrooms are needed at the stadium.

Next Month Agenda Items: Potential boat launch on Embarrass River, August meeting will be at Hatten Park shelters.

Dean moved to adjourn, seconded by Besaw, at 6:52 p.m. Motion carried with all ayes.

Chad R. Hoerth
Director of Park & Recreation