**PARK AND REC COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2015 @ 6:00 P.M.**

**OCONTO CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

1. At 6:05 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chairperson Hearley.
2. Roll Call:  Beth Aubut, Todd Hearley, Oralee Martin, Bruce Retzlaff

Excused:  Sheri Groll

Others Present:  Mayor V. Bostedt, John Bostedt (Director of Park, Rec., and Forestry), Bob LeBreck, Dennis Martin

1. **Approval of agenda was moved by Retzlaff with a second by Martin.                (4 Ayes)**
2. **Aubut motioned approval of Park & Rec. meeting minutes from 2/25/2015 which was seconded by Martin. (4 Ayes)**
3. Public Input:  None.
4. Correspondence:  None.
5. **Discussion/recommendation/action on the following:**
   1. Parks & Recreation
6. Bird City Summit/Bird City— Our 2 representatives, WI State models, will attend the conference:  $481.00 will cover their entry, mileage to and from, meals, and room.  A tri-fold containing the purpose behind “Bird City”, the WI communities recognized, problems and solutions, and application with recognition awards was distributed.   An article by Gene Birr, Oconto County Coordinator, about benefiting bluebirds, from spring 2015 was shared.  It praised Cordula Van Den Huevel and her daughter, Amber, Mayor Bostedt, and Director of Parks, Rec., and Forestry Director John Bostedt for their Oconto Bird City group development and continued activities throughout the Oconto park system.
7. Copper Culture Trail Boardwalk— Park and Rec. is still receiving donations and waiting for more to initiate the project and guarantee success.
8. Emergency Plan for Campers— The committee is asked for their input by April as the document will be readied by Director Bostedt.  Hearley felt that, at this point, all looks appropriate.
9. Skateboard Park—No update.
   1. Dog Park – Lauren and Mark Resch   John stated that all representatives needed to survey City Docks for the facility are present in town; he will contact the Lauren and Mark Resch to set a viewing date with map.  He stated that picnic tables, benches, and garbage facilities are expected to be a part of the property if selected.
   2. Eagle Scout Outdoor Movie Facility - Michael Schmidt   Park and Rec. is still waiting on the electricity.  Paperwork from the Scout Master is coming, says John.
   3. Aageson Pool
      1. Plans for June 7, 2015 Reopening— Chairperson Sue Anderson is meeting with a committee tonight at 7 p.m.  It is expected that the event will include Senator Dave Hanson, Representatives John Nygren and possibly representation from the offices of Ron Johnson and Reid Ribble.  The Aageson family will be present.  It was emphasized that we get the event on the “Weekend Calendar of Events” available on our TV stations.  The Mayor added that it would be good to get “Sailfest” on there too.
      2. 2015 Prices and Hours for Pool— All has been updated and printouts are ready.  Changes have been approved.  Season passes (250) will be processed, more of the family season pass.
      3. Lifeguard Update— Director Bostedt reported that students in the classes are doing well and that 2 guards have signed up for recertification May 6.  Ten guards are needed and expected.  The City department has an established booklet for dress code which John will bring to the April meeting.  Aubut had suggestions on how to get appropriate wear.
   4. Holtwood Campground Update— Public Service will be coming to attend to hazard trees in the area.  Winter Wonderland trees have been removed; Donny Exferd is to be thanked for the majority of the work.  Some lights need yet to be removed.  John announced that paperwork is here for the credit card machine.  One seasonal site has opened… with possibly a second:  filling them is in process.  The Holtwood Campground Fund Balance History was also distributed.  With improved grounds, an eventual bath, etc. /survival building, the pool in operation, and multiple activities (including a new movie facility) available at Holtwood Park, future profits should continue.  We are fortunate to have consistent leaders, crew, wood solution, and prices.  Also in future plans are “camping cabin/tents” which turn profit.
   5. City Park/City Park Campground— Both exteriors have been summer

prepared.

* + 1. Lighting for Horseshoe/Volleyball areas— The project will be completed any day now.
    2. American Legion Cannon Plaque— When the frost is out of the ground the event will occur.  Mayor Bostedt will meet with the Legion requesting their preference date and representation.

g) Holtwood Sporting Complex—All is set to roll with new and renewed picnic tables.  Our high school girls are presently practicing on diamond C.  A port-a-potty is available.

1. Parks Update
   * 1. City Docks – Beth Aubut and our City crew has seen that all is clean.  A date will be established for our handicap peer to be placed.
     2. City Park & Campground – Oralee Martin mentioned the tree stumps which the crew will process; a net has been bought for the beach; suggested the 1st building be patched and painted with volunteers-- how-to was discussed; and the antique stove blackened, as well as the exterior step and broken light, etc. be renewed.  The hump and ruts will be flattened on the beach which has been raked.
     3. Copper Culture – Todd Hearley noted the recent snow but the City crew has prepared it for the summer season with equipment and timesaving measures.
     4. Bond Park – All   Equipment is here and will be in installation process with the frost out of the ground.
     5. Freedom Park – All    A new American flag has been ordered.  The fountain cracks mended and lights on it will be repaired for viewing.
     6. Holtwood Park is being tidied up.
     7. Sharp Park – Sheri Groll/Oralee Martin   Due to vandalism, the bathroom remains locked.  Kids hang out there at night.  Unfortunately dog owners are again utilizing it and not attentive to pickup.  Otherwise, the park is summer readied.  The City crew has accomplished much seasonal preparation.  Noted was that the stop sign clearance is tacky.
2. Special Events Update
   * 1. Update on Candle Light Hike— Committee members were thanked for assistance with the activity.  Approximately 101 attended the event… including visitors.  Last year had 133 in attendance.  All depends on snow and cold.  The event has caught on and we are anticipating 2016.  Extra cookies were donated to Farnsworth Public Library.
     2. Update on Winterfest—Again, the added help of the Committee, et al, was visible and much appreciated.  More area chili makers could become involved.   2016 waits.
     3. Invasive Plants Seminar, Weds. March 25th, 2015 @ 6:00 p.m.

Oconto City Hall (Bird City – Oconto)

* + 1. Elks sponsored Easter Egg Hunt at City Park, Saturday, April 4 @ 2 p.m.

1. Park Inspection Report:  See previous entries of this document.
2. Next meeting date/time:  Wednesday, April 22 @ 6 p.m.

12. **Aubut motioned adjournment @ 7:15 p.m. and Retzlaff seconded.                   (M/C)**

Minutes submitted by

Susan K. Seidl