

Minutes of the Park and Rec Committee held on Wednesday, January 20, 2016 pursuant to notice duly given.

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Hearley @ 6:06 p.m.
2. Roll Call: Darrell Anderson, Sue Anderson, Todd Hearley, Oralee Martin
Absent: Beth Aubut
Others Present: Mayor V. Bostedt, Director of Parks and Rec. John Bostedt, Cordula and Amber Van Den Heuvel, Dylan Lukas
3. **Anderson motioned for approval of agenda with a Martin second.**
(4 Ayes)
4. **Approval of the Park & Rec. Minutes from the December 16th, 2015 meeting issued from Martin with a second from S. Anderson.** (4 Ayes)
5. Public Input: None.
6. Correspondence - The Per Diem handout was clarified by Mayor Bostedt. Per Diem has been dissolved at Council approval. The Mayor also distributed a handout on the new public Oconto nature preserve Northeast WI Land Trust meeting to be held 1/21/16.
7. **Discussion/recommendation/action on the following:**
 - a) Parks & Recreation
 - i. Skateboard Park - Update on Bond Foundation Grant Application - A lengthy discussion ensued led by Sue Anderson and Dylan Lukas. Mayor Bostedt received a letter from the Bond Foundation indicating their interest in the "beneficial" project and requesting additional information including cost expectation, feasibility study, maintenance, and liability/insurance. (Many of these issues have already been addressed.) It was suggested we contact Sturgeon Bay/Matt Dixner Young; the Mayor distributed an e-mail response with him.

Lukas clarified that BMX riders in Oconto far out-number skateboarders although said the planned park would facilitate both. At present the riders peddle to Peshtigo to enjoy their sport. With several plans... modifications have been made again, by Lukas, resembling the City of Viroqua. (He will check into the construction company although the Committee feels they should "job out" the pieces of the park "locally".) These changes will diminish park size and needs, as well as be more cost effective.

Discussion continued with P.R. potentials: Copperfest parade and booth... selling support bands and food; a car smashing event; a City employee face off on an athletic court. It was decided to call the group "Oconto BMX Riders"; they will become visible on the City Website. Lukas was commended for his work to make this a reality: at present his work is a committee of one though several BMXers are interested in its inception.

Again the facility location faced discussion... at this time aiming toward Holtwood Park.

ii. Bird City-addressed by Founder/Director Cordula Van Den Heuvel

a. Back Packs are a new Venture of Farnsworth Public Library. At present they contain books on birds, being a ranger, and recycling; ID pages and cards; magnifiers, specimen collectors; etc. Four packs are being prepared for young adults... or parents, babysitters, a leader.... The Venture Packs can be checked out at the library with the aim to investigate our Oconto parks. Area schools will be informed. Other Venture Packs are being anticipated in the future: all will enhance learning about our environment. Donors and Bird City have created what exists so far. A request is being made to the DNR to donate their "Critters" book to the pack. **S. Anderson motioned to donate \$150.00 to Farnsworth Public Library to cover the present Venture Back Packs. Martin called a second. (4 Ayes)**

b. Storybook Walk - Cordula also expressed interest in assembling one more storybook walk... for City Park. Again she requested funding of \$150.00 with Farnsworth Public Library as partner. No City monies were used for our other 3 walks in Oconto parks: Van Den Heuvel raised funds for all needs. Tabled to February.

She also announced a savings at buying our Purple Martin houses. Van Den Heuvel completed her information with an announcement of a summer 2016 City Park event planned around the banding of birds. In 2017 the Nature Fest will return at Copper Culture.

b) Dog Park - Mark and Lauren Resch - No new information.

c) Aageson Pool

i. Procedure for Free Family Pool Passes - Martin will contact Cheryl Naniot of the Cry Baby Club for selection involvement. Mayor Bostedt suggested 2 other needy situations that exist.

ii. Thank You Letters and Early Bird Offers have been mailed, reported Director Bostedt.

d) Holtwood Campground Update - Our Seasonal Price & Rules Letter has been established and mailed.

e) City Park/City Park Campground - Appropriately maintained.

f) Holtwood Sporting Complex - Appropriately maintained.

8. Parks Update

i. City Docks - Beth Aubut - Winterized.

ii. City Park & Campground - Oralee Martin - see 7.e.

iii. Copper Culture - Todd Hearley - Plowed and being prepared for the Candle Light Walk.

iv. Freedom Park - All - Almost winter celebration cleared.

- v. Holtwood Park – D. and S. Anderson – Closed.
- vi. Sharp Park – Oralee Martin – No ice rink yet: weather related.

9. Special Events Update

- i. 2016 Candle Light Walk @ Copper Culture State Park; Setup needed beginning at 3:30 p.m.; Walk Saturday, February 6th @ 6:00 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- ii. Winterfest On Porter, Oconto Legion Golf Course, Saturday, February 13th, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.; Volunteers are needed. (3:00 – 4:00 p.m. – Free Raffle)

10. Next meeting date/time: Wednesday, February 24 @ 6 p.m.

Agenda items: Storybook Walk/City Park funding

11. **D. Anderson motioned adjournment @ 8:06 p.m. and Martin summoned a second.** (M/C)

Minutes submitted by
Susan K. Seidl