

**PARK & REC. COMMITTEE**  
**WEDNESDAY, MAY 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 @ 5:00 P.M.**  
**OCONTO CITY HALL/COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

- 1.) The meeting of Park and Rec. was called to order by Chairman Todd Hearley @ 5:05 p.m.
- 2.) Roll Call: Sue Anderson, Todd Hearley, Tere Hochmuth, Wesley Markusen, Diane Motiff  
Also Present: Director of Park, Rec. and Forestry John Bostedt
- 3.) **Hearley called motion for approval of Agenda; Motiff expressed second. (5 Ayes)**
- 4.) **Election of Chairperson for the Park and Recreation Committee was submitted 3 times by City Council and Park & Rec. member Markusen; Motiff called a motion to close while Anderson issued a second. (5 Ayes)**  
**Thereafter, Motiff called for election Todd Hearley as Chairman of the Park and Recreation Committee; Anderson witnessed second to the motion. (M/C)**
- 5.) **Election of Vice Chairperson was called into motion by City Council Markusen and followed with nominations issued three times. Motiff voiced motion to close nominations with an Anderson second. (M/C)**  
**Anderson accepted the Vice Chair position with a motion of Motiff and second by Hearley. (M/C)**
- 6.) **Markusen witnessed approval of Park & Rec. meeting minutes from March 11, 2020; Motiff issued second. (5 Ayes)**
- 7.) Public Input: Markusen spoke about public questions concerning the City pool opening. The issue will be discussed when reached in the agenda.  
Director Bostedt reported that some Park and Rec. areas remain closed due to State/County/City addressing of social distance due to Covid - 19.
- 8.) Correspondence: None.
- 9.) Discussion/Recommendation/Action on the Following:
  - a.) Parks & Recreation
    - i. Bird City— Cordula VandenHeuvel has no new updates.
    - ii. Spring 2020 Flower Garden— Logan Frye and family have no new updates.
    - iii. Tennis Court/Basketball/Pickleball Court update indicates that progress is on hold. City crews are in catch-up mode due to Covid-19 and weather water tables.
    - iv. Summit Players Theatre Copper Culture State Park 2020 performance & workshop also has halted as to date (August or Sept. are possible): the event may thereafter occur in 2021.
    - v. Parks & Pavilions— Park and Rec. crew has placed signage in areas like playgrounds/equipment. Authority will approach issues with warnings: no police involvement is expected.
    - vi. Oconto schools summer class (kayaking, canoeing, and circling) This is another pandemic fallout. The public is cancelling, however looking forward to the future opportunity.
    - vii. City Docks Project— Repairs have been made. The low drop in the parking area has been blacktopped @ a cost of \$900 of Park and Rec. and the rest out of our Bond grant.
    - viii. 2020 Parks Employees have been hired; however we are one man down. Action must be taken to equal standard wages: history reflects getting help/then help getting higher paying job/leaving immediately. There are four positions for summer help: only two are returning. The wage issue is relevant. (The county often hires our past staff for more pay.)
  - b.) Aageson Pool
    - i. Swim lessons/swim instructor certification— Covid interrupted training. Since we have only 1 instructor (who is needed as a guard), the lessons will not take place this summer.
    - ii. Oconto Falls summer school swimmers— This will remain off the calendar for now.
    - iii. 2020 Lifeguards— Those guards left from 2019 remain in place as of today.
    - iv. Pool update— The pool too is a Covid-19 issue presently: it will remain closed until further notice. Capacity issues were discussed. County guidelines require the bathrooms and showers be cleaned every 2 hours however, not by lifeguards: NO \$ IS BUDGETED FOR THIS EXTRA PERSON. When given the “GO” to

have the pool opened, Director Bostedt has herein been given approval by the Committee to call the decision.

c.) Holtwood Campground

- i. 2020 Reservations are still coming in. We have 26 -7 returning. (Grounds are almost ½ under water.)
- ii. 2020 Seasonals have only 1 opening left: 3 seasonals are presently on a 1 year plan.
- iii. Opening date is TODAY: no hook-up is available until the 26<sup>th</sup>.
- iv. 2020 Seasonal rates— for 5 months: 1 mo. off the fee with a savings to the interior sites of \$256.

Other site saving will be \$275.

v. Campground Manager— @Advertizing cost \$525 for 6 months AGAIN WAGES remain the issue. Bostedt will presently hold the position; however this is not ideal for City upkeep, for that job management, or for residents. Hearley determined that we will investigate other competitive Cities and must raise wages to maintain our City. Discussion ensued on anticipating installation of washers/dryers @ the complex.

vi. Campground employees— An operating manager is NEEDED at this time.

d.) City Park/City Park Campground Open Tuesday. However, it is in rough shape; lack of beach.

e.) Holtwood Sporting Complex

- i. Little League games/practices— Facilities will be used for practice only.
- ii. Softball League games/practices— Facilities will be used for practice only.
- iii. Boys & Girls Tournaments— BOTH have been cancelled.

10.) Parks Update:

- a.) City Docks – Tere Hochmuth - It remains a challenge to get there due to river/bay flooding.
- b.) City Park & Campground – Diane Motiff - See above.
- c.) Copper Culture – Todd Hearley - The museum will open Friday. Tunnels and trails are being used.
- d.) Freedom Park – All - The clock remains in waiting. This area is treated as a Covid-19 congregating area.
- e.) Holtwood Park – Sue Anderson – Previously discussed.
- f.) Sharp Park – Wesley Markusen - A broken branch will be receiving attention.
- g.) Bond Park – Diane Motiff Quiet.

11.) Park Special Events: Update

- a) Free installed smoke detectors- Oconto Fire & Rescue Department – with any questions or to set up an appointment to install call (920) 834-7775
- b) 2020 Oconto Girls Softball Tourney June 12, 13, 14 CANCELLED.
- c) 2020 Little League Tourney June 19, 20, 21 CANCELLED.
- d) 2020 Copperfest as of yet is expected to be held.  
Waterfest 2020 has been cancelled.
- e) 2020 Fishing Tournaments (set up so far) – Nothing has changed as of the last report. The 2020 Green Bay Walleye Tournament launch has been varied along the bay and virtually covered.

12.) Next Meeting Date/Time: **Wednesday, June 17 @ 5 p.m.**

**@ City Park open pavilion weather permitting/City Hall Council Chamber backup**

13.) **Markusen summoned adjournment @ 6:39 p.m. with a Motiff second.**

**(M/C)**

Minutes submitted by

Susan K. Seidl