

**PARK & REC. COMMITTEE**  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2021 @ 5:30 P.M.**  
Oconto City Hall Council Chambers

1.) The Park and Rec. April meeting was called to order @ 5:34 p.m. by Chairman Todd Hearley.

2.) Roll Call: Sue Anderson, Todd Hearley, Tere Hochmuth, Diane Motiff

Excused: Wesley Markusen

Also Present: John Bostedt/Director of Forestry, Parks and Rec.; John Reed; Boy Scout/OHS junior Philip Mc Keefry and parents

3.) **Motiff witnessed approval of Agenda; Hochmuth followed with a second. (4 Ayes)**

4.) **Approval of Park & Rec. Meeting Minutes from March 10, 2021 was placed in motion by Anderson with a Hochmuth second. 4ayes (M/C)**

5.) Public Input:

- Philip Mc Keefry is seeking (Oconto Fall's Troup) Eagle Scout status. He has created a project which will benefit his community. The request is to re-mulch Sharp Park trails: an activity Park and Rec. has on its extended agenda. Philip not only wants to achieve this but wants to fund-raise to create a better, more family-friendly looking park by adding lighting, helping clear brush near the road, and building more benches. (The park is highly used by youth.) He would supply all manpower; fundraising ideas include sales @ Thompson's "brat" stand, and perhaps popcorn (ETC.). Both Director Bostedt and Chairman Hearley, with member Motiff suggested several time-saving tips. The Committee was impressed with the parent/student positive upraising: they approved and supported the initiative and anticipate working with Mc Keefry.
- Reed commended Director Bostedt on his generous donation of time and helpfulness to visitors to the Community.
- Campground advertizing is now on the Website. Bostedt reported that there have been as many as 2,600 some views on our WEB camera.
- Wendy Spice is interested in lending a hand at Sharp Park improvement.

6.) Correspondence:

- City Park, an original Bostedt (now Racine family) donation for \$1, has seen need of renewing its historic building signs. It was hoped we add a plaque with Bostedt park original history. Suggestions were made as to what to do with the "original" signs. The Committee is considering an open pavilion roof that would add to the relief of summer energies.
- April presented Park and Rec. with 121 calls requesting City/camping/etc. information.

7.) **Discussion/Recommendation/Action on the Following:**

a.) **Parks & Recreation**

- i. Bird City— No new updates.
- ii. Tree City— The City of Oconto has been approved; its plaque will be placed in the City Hall entrance.
- iii. Sharp Park (skate park) – Note Public Input. Bostedt is waiting on updates concerning the initiated "youth" skateboard ramp.
- iv. City Docks (ADA Fishing Dock) – Payment has been approved by the Bond Foundation: the agreement funds and donation have been placed into the appropriate City account which includes the ADA addition. Both docks should be placed in May with Director Bostedt's assistance: the same will occur when they are removed at the end of the season.

- v. Copper Culture State Park— Handout from the DNR. Director Bostedt reported that City Council overrode the Committee's resolution to end maintenance at the park because of an absent 10 year contract with the WI DNR. Council voted to maintain the property one more year. (Not covered by Council was the extra dollars it is costing Park and Rec. to maintain the property.) Al Schreiber/City Council volunteered to helm Copper Culture State Park issues and renewed relations with the State. Editor Kent Tempus of the Oconto County Reporter hopes to understand why the State is not responding to the City of Oconto/State Park needs. That said, Melissa A. Vanlanduyt/Recreation Partnerships, External Relations and Communication Section Chief – Bureau of Parks and Recreation Management of the WI Department of Natural Resources sent an e-mail stipulating COVID activity within Copper Culture State Park (Handout)/She did not respond to our endless need for a contract. Among other stipulations, it directs us to have no more than 100 individuals simultaneously per event within the property.
- vi. Maintenance on equipment/new river slow no wake buoys— Director Bostedt reports that all possible equipment maintenance (Harbor/Parks/Campground) has been part of department winter accomplishment. He also stated public calls requesting we drop the buoy river trail out from the harbor to Holtwood Campground: it has been completed.
- vii. 2021 Park Pavilion Rentals are @ 27: 8 added since March.
- viii. 2021 Park job openings— At a cost of \$1,000 in advertizing, only 1 applicant has interviewed. Two phone calls requested salary declaring an adamant "NO" for all that labor and responsibility. **Anderson recommended Bryce Bostedt to the Working Foreman position of Parks and Campground. Determination rested on experience, dedication, and intent. Hochmuth issued a solid second.** **4 ayes (M/C)**

#### b.) Aageson Pool

- i. The WPRA virtual aquatic technician workshop was attended virtually by Park and Rec. crew. It was a 1 day event.
- ii. 2021 State guidelines for pools (Covid-19) – Handout: The City of Oconto Guidelines for Operation of Pools and Water Attractions from the WI Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection stated COVID restrictions: 35 regulations. The requirements have no extra monies available in the City of Oconto backing them. Also the list requires us to determine the simultaneous number of pool individuals... keeping them distanced 6' even within the pool. **Motiff recommended the City Pool not open in the 2021 season based on even stricter State Covid mandates with the lack of funds to cover expectations to comply.** **(4 Ayes) M/C**  
Bostedt and Hearley have discussed other cooling-off activity potential in the area which Anderson, an active Committee pool supervisor, supported. Such activity might be provided by our local Fire Dept. on hot-busy- high traffic weekends, and/or possibly filtered induced safety (mandated) slip and slides.
- iii. Oconto County guidelines for pools (Covid-19) – Director Bostedt has contacted the County for their guidelines which presently recommend following those of WI State mandates.

#### c.) Holtwood Campground

- i. 2021 Reservations— 261 (154 since March) We have made shy of \$700 from our early campers thus far.
- ii. 2021 Seasonals— All sites are filled. Parks have 3 monthly renters for all summer. All sites are booked for Memorial Day weekend; 4<sup>th</sup> of July; Little League weekend; and Copperfest (2 sites left).

iii. 2021 Campground Manager's position— 4 candidates; 2 bowed out; 1 interviewed: highly probable with limitations on physical work; 1 candidate left to interview.

iv. 2021 Campground 2021 job openings (Office/laborer) – 4 have been interviewed; 1 left to interview.

Campground office furnace/ac units— The latter is inefficient: we need replacement. The Committee had suggestions. Intent is to buy local. ALSO the shower/shelter needs air flow ventilation in the ceiling/roof, and a power vent. Bostedt will see that the issue gets resolved at the support of the Committee.

d.) **City Park/City Park Campground:** Reservations = 14. Two have campers already.

e.) **Holtwood Sporting Complex—** Bases in diamond's 1 -2 -3 are readied: softball and baseball are ahead.

#### 8.) Parks Update:

a.) City Docks – Tere Hochmuth Bostedt spoke of the constant busy. Park and Rec. is also fixing the launch area. Six benches will be total out there as more makes clutter in the activity.

b.) City Park & Campground – Diane Motiff stated to note Director Bostedt's report.

c.) Copper Culture – Todd Hearley continues to wait for a State contract.

d.) Freedom Park – All + The water fountain initiation/breakdown will be monitored by Bostedt as it has been renewed.

e.) Holtwood Park – Sue Anderson noted the amazing fishermen alignment along the shore. Bostedt reported that 2 new wood duck houses have been added via Cordula Van Den Heuvel's Bird City work.

f.) Sharp Park – Wesley Markusen Hochmuth noted "little ones" setting up and enjoying T-ball within the tennis courts\*. All agree that this is a heavily used youth park. Director Bostedt said the Pickle Ball court (the present most popular US sport) has been readied.

g.) Bond Park – Diane Motiff again states that this is also a constantly used park.

#### 9.) 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 COVID has restricted installation.

ALL BELOW ARE SCHEDULED BUT BASED ON COVID RESTRICTIONS:

b) Oconto Copperfest 2021 June 10<sup>th</sup>- 13<sup>th</sup>

c) 2021 Oconto Little League Tourney June 18<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup>

d) Waterfest 2021 July 3<sup>rd</sup> @ Breakwater Park & Harbor

e) 2021 Oconto Girls Softball Tourney August 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>

10.) Next Meeting Date/Time: **Thursday, May 13 @ 5:30 p.m.**

11.) **Motiff summoned adjournment @ 9:04 p.m. Anderson called second. 4 ayes (M/C)**

Minutes submitted by  
Susan K. Seidl

