

PARK & REC. COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, MAY 13th, 2021 @ 5:30 P.M.
City Council Chambers

1.) Mayor Lloyd Heier brought the meeting to order.

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

Also Present: Mayor Lloyd Heier, Director of Forestry, Parks and Rec. John Bostedt, Kim Bronikowski, Jean Feldt, Dean Reed

3.) **Oconto Mayor Heier called for nominations of the Chairperson of the Park and Rec. Committee. Reed requested nominations close with an Anderson second. (5 Ayes)**

4.) **Mayor Heier called for the Vote in the name of Todd Hearley for Chairperson of the Park and Rec. Committee. Reed announced the motion with an Anderson follow-up. (5 Ayes)**

5.) **Nominations for Vice – Chairperson were called 3 times by Heier. Motiff issued closure of the nominations; Anderson called second. (M/C)**

6. **Motiff requested the Committee of Park and Rec. vote Anderson as Vice – Chairperson of the Park and Recreation Committee. Hochmuth concluded the motion. (M/C)**

7.) **Chairperson Todd Hearley requested approval of Agenda with agreement to start with the chief issue of the pool. It was duplicated by Motiff. Anderson followed suit. (M/C)**

8.) **Approval of Park & Rec. Meeting Minutes from April 14, 2021 were placed into motion by Reed and concluded by Motiff. (5 Ayes)**

9.) Public Input: None

10.) Correspondence: Bostedt gave 2 word processed correspondences to the Committee members.

11.) Discussion/Recommendation/Action on the Following:

a.) Parks & Recreation

i. Bird City— Cordula VandenHeuvel (her husband and daughter) was given much praise for keeping the City of Oconto High Flyer status for 2021 (highest WI State honor).

ii. Sharp Park (skate park) – There has been no new update on the skate park youth ramp potential.

iii. City Docks (ADA Fishing Dock) – By Monday these should be installed: again discussion centered on future expectations of Park and Rec. during such a hectic time yearly. Bostedt explained the 50/50 monetary deal between Harbor and Parks and Rec. What must be considered is cost for the job does not equal time, safety, and age of those doing the work. These are not toys which can be simply dropped into the water.

iv. Copper Culture State Park— Mayor Heier, City Administrator Perrizo, and Bostedt have held conference and are expecting 2 contracts and resolution to the past 10 years of infractions with the WI DNR.

v. 2021 Park Pavilion Rentals— Stands @ 40 +

vi. 2021 Park job openings— Bostedt reported the new Working Foreman is meeting Department expectations. YET, 3 summer/part-time openings remain.

vii. Purchase of Parks Department truck has become a necessity. Bostedt reported a 2007 Chevrolet Silverado K2500 HD found in O.F. for \$15,000. (It was brought back to Oconto for inspection.) Bostedt explained wherein the already budgeted monies would be found. The Committee urged him to set the down payment awaiting Council's approval as to the buy; the right cost; and seen as the perfect truck for the job. **Hochmuth called motion to purchase a used department truck spending no more than \$15,000: Reed voiced a second motion.** (M/C)

viii. Purchase of new zero turn lawnmower for its Parks Department is in quote process as buying local and equally having quick, ready and responsible service is significant.

b.) Aageson Pool:

i. Pool operation for 2021 referral back from City Council indicated that it still wants us to consider operation. Bostedt followed-up with pool background including past inspection (to which the inspector would put nothing in writing concerning Covid expectations). Pre-Bostedt, the pool had lack of monetary accountability. Discussion covered approximately one hour wherein those newly present were given the Committee operations and decisions history. Reed did his study beyond Oconto City limits to determine benefit and risk levels. He shared statistics, decisions elsewhere, and reasoning discovered. Community concern was a part of the Committee volley: Parks and Rec. is the base of Oconto families. No one present could see through the State of WI Covid expectations which might comprise the City with each infraction. Note, that being the case, the Budget does not support added Covid expectations. Also, limitation of the # allowed in the pool would be 1/4th of a past average summer day; chlorine too is presently hard to attain. Director Bostedt's requests of who will monitor Covid imposed rules resulted in no City Dept., nor County health support. Multiple issues included limited staffing and its noncompetitive pay as well as expectations of employees with lack of funds for expectations. Frustration ran on several levels as the Park and Recreation Committee has worked hard to keep the pool a continuing summer activity for Community sake. Anderson, in the end of meeting discussion shared the present Committee ideas for this Covid- summer including involvement with the Fire Department water activity potential, kids "toys" like "Slip and Slides", balloon toss, etc. on a once a week basis. Park and Rec. sees the City loss of summer 2021 so has been discussing alternative summer fun for those who use the facilities because the Committee supports our pool and its maintenance. Park and Rec. sought to use this year's budget to purchase a needed plastic liner for the bowl to eliminate a false start in the coming seasons of which the City of Oconto would benefit at least 50 more years. (Director Bostedt will look into costs of said plastic liner.)

***A motion was initiated by Hearley to place the costs of a new plastic liner on the agenda for the next Park and Rec. meeting: Anderson called the motion; Hochmuth seconded.** (M/C)

****A motion was called by Anderson not to open Aageson Pool for the 2021 season due to lack of manpower and Covid restrictions rather instead to purchase necessary repair items such as the bowl liner for the 2022 season. Hochmuth seconded the motion.** (M/C)

(Both ii. and iii. below were in discussion above.)

ii. 2021 State guidelines for pools (Covid-19) –

iii. Oconto County guidelines for pools (Covid-19) –

c.) Holtwood Campground

i. 2021 Reservations— (345) 84 more than last meeting. The Campground is sold out (with waiting lists) for major events with but 2 sites remaining for the 4th of July. Discussion centered on the need to build up roads within, and to purchase a contractor trailer. Presently, the AC/heater needs replacement. It was requested that Bostedt inform the status of Harbor slips: On the parking lot side two 40' docks are open; 6 functional docks are left on the other side; Cleats are being added to the outer wall for transients.

ii. 2021 Seasonals— All 51 are filled: one, a 4 month monthly at Campground benefit. D11 remains the only seasonal site available and will be used as a backup site.

iii. The 2021 Campground Manager's position has been filled by Bill Curran from Oconto Falls. His experience extends to 2 Door County campgrounds. He started May 3rd and is seen as an asset.

iv. 2021 Campground 2021 job openings (Office/laborer) – One new person is in training. Needed is one new office girl as of yet.

v. Campground office furnace/ac units— Again, locally we are seeking another quote. It will be ready for discussion @ the June meeting.

vi. Director John Bostedt Managers' report/campground monthly report included Committee viewing. Status: \$38,832.

vii. Update on new bath/shower/laundry building— Good news includes all is in process with the installation, sealing, power blower installation, basement insulation, and moisture meter: the only the cost will be of the fan and electrical work of Troy Schaden. Most labor has been accomplished by the Park and Rec. employees.

d.) City Park/City Park Campground Reservations— Two pre-season reservations for the pavilion went well. Already 5 campers are established: 21 total. Park and Rec. expansion of the area fell into discussion as expansion would benefit the City of Oconto. Eventually the work would call for a Manager. It was also reported that a roof would be raised over the cannon.

e.) Holtwood Sporting Complex

i. Schedules are in process.

ii. Games/practices— Games will begin Memorial weekend; practices are a daily occurrence.

12.) Parks Update:

a.) City Docks – Tere Hochmuth-

b.) City Park & Campground – Diane Motiff - The beach depends on the Bay.

c.) Copper Culture – Todd Hearley

d.) Freedom Park – All Bostedt reports that the flag is in repair. The fountain will be up and running post-Covid restrictions.

e.) Holtwood Park – Sue Anderson says that the campers have landed. Again, Bostedt reports that we have 2 more peddle boats and also paddle boards which have become most popular. Every rented floating device must have life vests aboard. Also added are 4-wheeled easy rollers for younger kids.

f.) Sharp Park – John W. Reed Again, an Eagle Scout project is in process there which the ATV Club will assist. Forestry approved the permit for wood. Bostedt still awaits Covid-delayed tennis court posts, although it is a delight to see T-ball kids taking advantage of the location. Hochmuth had public request for a board be placed at the end of the courts for ball practice use. Pickleball is set for activity.

g.) Bond Park – Diane Motiff reports that there is no want for kids, who are also using the lending library which remains @ 15 lending books. Bostedt reported that rocks have been obtained to prevent weeds on the property. (They will be also around the bath/shower house.)

* Throughout the meeting, attendees gave advice and offered help where needed.

13.) 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) Oconto Copperfest 2021 June 10th - 13th
- c) 2021 Oconto Little League Tourney June 18th - 20th
- d) Waterfest 2021 July 3rd @ Breakwater Park & Harbor
- e) 2021 Oconto Girls Softball Tourney August 6th – 8th

*Friday night of Copperfest weekend will be the WAMPA Truck Pulls. Texas Weights location will need future discussion.

14.) Next Meeting Date/Time: Wednesday, June 16 @ 5:30 p.m.

Agenda Items: Costs of a new plastic liner
Campground office furnace/ac units
Purchase of Parks Department truck
Purchase of new zero turn lawnmower
Texas Weights (location) for Truck Pulls

15.) Motiff summoned adjournment @ 8:34 p.m. A second came from Reed.

(M/C)

Minutes submitted by
Susan K. Seidl