

**PARK & REC. COMMITTEE**  
**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 @ 6:00 P.M.**  
City Hall Council Chambers

1.) The November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Park and Rec. Committee was called to order by Chairman Anderson.

2.) Roll Call: Sue Anderson, Tere Hochmuth, Diane Motiff, Lori Stenstrup

Excused: John Reed

Also Present: Director of Park, Rec. and Forestry John Bostedt

3.) **Stenstrup initiated approval of Agenda; Hochmuth called second.** (4 Ayes)

4.) **Approval of Park & Rec. meeting minutes from October 26, 2021 was moved by Stenstrup with a Hochmuth second.** (4 Ayes)

5.) Public Input:

- Chairman Anderson began with a statement regarding avoidance of criticism: we are on the same team, she said.
- Secondly questioned: the ARPA (Covid) Fund and its intention in regards to the Park and Rec. Committee. Director Bostedt shared his informational update: the fund is for infrastructural improvement: Anderson and Committee will make a list as to how it could impact Parks and Rec.
- An explanation of HIPPA regulations were introduced by Hochmuth. Those we hire for Parks and Rec. are in a volatile position: especially life guards. Participants in a public pool could also be at risk. We need to establish rules with our City Attorney: Anderson will follow through.

6.) Correspondence: Bryce Kane, seeking an Eagle Scout badge via a project to build a pavilion on the southeast side of Bond Park, has had no new update. Director Bostedt will be signing in the project before the December meeting @ which Kane will appear.

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

a.) **Parks & Recreation**

i. *Bird City*— One of our Purple Martin houses, damaged, has been repaired by the expert.

ii. *Winter Wonderland 2021*— Parks and Rec. in seeking a written contract of expectations has a verbal (15 year) agreement yet this year. Expectations have been documented for the future. In 2021 Boucher plans to have Scout community troops to reestablish the grounds after the event: cleanup date to be determined. Stenstrup asserted that writing down expectations has disadvantages but strongly encouraged it.

iii. *Copper Culture State Park Agreement* – State has not updated our negotiations which Council solidified @ \$7,000 and a 1 or 2 year review: State years without a renewal contract have merited this monetary increase in services and expectation for yearly renewal.

iv. *Payment of the new John Deere Zero Turn lawnmower* has been approved by Council.

v. Grant Writer— The City Fire Department has a grant writer, evidently this is an exclusive position. (Bostedt will look into this.) Hochmuth did the leg-work saving the Committee several monthly discussions. She discovered Boucher as a potential grant writer: \$150 is the cost of the course. We could save the City a lot of dollars by having said writer at our disposal. It was decided to keep the issue on the agenda.

vi. *Joint meeting with Tourism/Park & Rec. (Family Fun Day)* remains a potential fundraising event but it was discussed that fundraising needs to be the emphasis. Food, if brought by vendors would not benefit. New playground equipment is the goal. A bid is being sought by Director Bostedt: Lee Recreations, the same company used for Bond Park. Perhaps Council and Tourism could chip in as the park is not only used by locals but by those visiting the area. Hochmuth did a lot of groundwork going to City meetings expressing the need and help. She suggested raising pavilion rental to help. Ideas "Fun Day" expressed at the time were a car show, raffle, games, food, and competitions. The Committee should brainstorm for the December meeting.

vii. *Movies in the park*— Anderson expressed that the new screen makes a difference. We continue seeking a license/umbrella for City Property showings as is used @ the library and churches.

viii. *Parks Winterizing* is complete. Only leaf pickup and fixing broken property during the winter months remain.

b.) **Aageson Pool is CLOSED.** City Council made the decision: They stated that the City of Oconto cannot afford a City Pool. Director Bostedt informed the Park and Rec. committee at this meeting. This Committee has worked to re-open it and make it a thriving facility. What happened to the Covid monies for the closing of the pool for the past 2 years? The General Fund has absorbed all: at least ½ of the debt to cover the 2022 Budget has been recovered by Parks and Rec. funds.

There will be no 2022 Pool Season. It has been determined that a new pool would have to be built via a referendum and maintained were it desired by residents.

c.) **Holtwood Campground**

iii. *Seasonal sites for 2022*— Of the new openings, 5 have been filled and 2 are left.

iv. *Campground monthly/year-end report*— Director Bostedt distributed an end-of-the-season handout. The comparison report was highlighted verbally by Bostedt.

v. *Campground prices for 2022* have been accepted by Council: there is yet one more meeting.

vi. *Campground winterizing/shut down*— The Park computer has been transferred; all is winterized; only leaf pickup remains.

d.) **City Park/City Park Campground**

Reservations— Only a port-a-potty remains... which will be moved to the parking lot soon. At present there are duck hunters and later will bring ice fishing.

e.) **Holtwood Sporting Complex**

Field Improvements: Diamond 7 batting cages, fences, groundwork is near complete. There is some infield dirt work to be done and concrete will be done or completed in spring.

8.) Parks Update:

a.) City Docks – Tere Hochmuth Water equipment has been removed and will receive winter repair. The property is winterized.

b.) City Park & Campground – Diane Motiff + (Eventual sandblast/paint equipment yet there)

c.) Copper Culture – Lori Stenstrup +

d.) Freedom Park – All Winterized.

e.) Holtwood Park – Sue Anderson +

b.) Sharp Park – John W. Reed + reported Hochmuth

c.) Bond Park – Diane Motiff +

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

b) 2021/2022 Winter Wonderland's schedule was handed out at the last meeting.

10.) Next Meeting Date/Time: Wednesday, December 15 @ 6 p.m.

Agenda Items: ARPA (Covid) Fund: Park and Rec. Committee infrastructural improvement Committee ideas  
Grant Writer

Fundraising Committee ideas for City Park playground equipment and joint "Fun Day"

11.) Stenstrup summoned adjournment @ 8:20 p.m. Motiff motioned second.

(M/C)

Minutes submitted by Susan K. Seidl