

PARK & REC. COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15th, 2021 @ 6:00 P.M.

City Hall Council Chambers

1.) The meeting was called to order by Chair Sue Anderson @ 6:01 p.m.

2.) Roll Call: Sue Anderson, Tere Hochmuth, Diane Motiff, John W. Reed (-6:40), Lori Stenstrup

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

3.) **Motiff initiated approval of Agenda; Reed called second. (5 Ayes)**

4.) **Approval of Park & Rec. meeting minutes from November 10th, 2021 was moved by Stenstrup with a Motiff second. (5 Ayes)**

5.) Public Input: *Hochmuth has continued working to accumulate new playground equipment @ City Park: she reported that the local Groll family (a yearly renter of City Park pavilion) donated \$235 in response to the new playground equipment.

*Seidl, anticipating a continual need and being aware of the work involved, sought the Committee to look at Winter Wonderland 2022. She suggested that an organization join forces in the future. The Committee recognizes that the pending issue is not the money... but rather lack of VOLUNTEERS. Hochmuth suggested donations could lead to monies for City crew pay to setup and takedown. She said that the event is equally important as floating the DNR at Copper Culture for 10+ years. After initial suggestion with limited discussion, the issue moved to upcoming agendas for solution.

*Bryce Kane (Eagle Scout Project) spoke with us via Bostedt's speaker phone. We learned that he has completed all paperwork and is seeking donations to get things rolling for construction of a pavilion @ Bond Park. He will fill the foundation with gravel in the meantime. Nice project, says Anderson, and everybody appreciates it.

*Anderson considered shortening our Agendas as we have longer meetings; however Bostedt stated that we can't cover any actions if needed in removed items. Reed suggested just stating "No report" and moving on to the next Agenda item.

6.) Correspondence: None.

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

a.) **Parks & Recreation**

i. **Bird City**— Bostedt and Van Den Heuvel are working on our City of Oconto recertification.

ii. **Winter Wonderland 2021**— City Hall needs to become aware that Winter Wonderland is their project as a handful Community volunteers are not enough to keep the outstanding lightshow afloat. Discussion of 2022's needs to continue the event has become necessary as leadership tires: Anderson will contact Boucher, the commended outstanding leader, as to her thoughts/needs/suggestions. It was suggested by Reed that P.R. include more media: not all utilize Facebook, for instance. Meantime, Bostedt reports, free wagon rides will occur from 5 – 8 p.m. this Friday.

iii. **Copper Culture State Park Agreement**— City Council has voted to accept the DNR offer of \$6,500 to maintain the grounds, with a yearly review. Each spring or fall we need to renegotiate with State DNR. Meantime, they have set aside funds for Copper Culture Museum roofing, as well as other issues out there. Bostedt stated that the boardwalk, Pavilion and bathroom roof need replacement soon. In order to defray other cost, Parks is looking @ closing Copper Culture a couple days per summer week (Mon. and Tues).

iv. **Grant Writer**— Director Bostedt approached the Fire Dept. grant writer with the possibility of also writing grants for Parks and Rec. (Patty and Chief Bostedt were both sounded.) The Fire Dept. grant writer responded that she is interested our needs, like the City Park playground equipment, and will work with issues accordingly.

* Thereafter, a lengthy discussion followed concerning the cashed-out City Budget. (Reed stated that our yearly audit should make our City situation clear.) Anderson asked Reed to de-escalate twice as he asserted that the Committee had negativity: after restating his point yet again, he chose to exit the meeting @ 6:40 p.m. The Committee claimed no part in negative behavior and expressed amazement at Reed's response. Evidently, it was determined; a comment was made elsewhere to which Reed reacted. On request, Director Bostedt clarified the Budget past for the Committee.

v. **Joint meeting with Tourism/Park & Rec. (Family Fun Day) A**

date, established @ the end of the meeting, will be set for early January 2022. Seidl, who gave Tourism her money-making ideas, mentioned a fee for entering any activity: a trivia contest (perhaps Oconto history based), and a children's hand print fence, for instance. She gave Chair Anderson her Covid fund distribution suggestions.

vi **Parks Winterizing** has been completed.

vii. **Equipment maintenance** (parks, campground & harbor) is now in the City crew's winter phase.

viii. **2022 Candlelight Walk**— Again, Bostedt had paperwork to distribute. He stated the event is usually slated for the first or second Saturday of February. The handout of Bostedt sent to Rod Barta covers 2022 issues to be addressed when there is an activity in the park. Hot chocolate will have to be distributed by a gloved server; cookies will be individually wrapped. No food can be on a buffet basis.

ix. **Pavilion Rental revenue log**— It contained all Director Bostedt's additives. Hochmuth, most interested in getting City Park on its feet, wanted to know a rough estimate or bid of what it would cost to add electric camp sites @ City Park. (Bostedt will get in touch with Schaden. He stated that it would have to be approached in sections.) Also established was that City Park Pavilion rental is about \$55. Could City Park become its own entity so that it could repair and make improvements?

b.) **Ageson Pool** cannot be left off the Agenda as the area still exists and has been maintained. Discussion of repurposing followed. What about reuse of equipment? Bostedt will question City Administrator Brittney concerning the property.

c.) **Holtwood Campground**

i. Seasonal sites for 2022—51 sites are filled; there remain 49 on the waiting list.

ii. Campground monthly report— Once again, a Budget comparison was issued and explained by Director Bostedt. Camping and Pump station fees have been the only seasonal changes.

iii. Campground Firewood for 2022 will be under new contract with Mike's Transport of Crivitz. (Wet, too large of chunks, too green of wood have been past camper complaints.) A verbal agreement established a 1 year contract.

iv. Campground winterizing/shut down/Campground Office has been established.

d.) City Park/City Park Campground

i. Reservations so far include 3 calls for the 4th of July weekend.

ii. Campground revenue log— NOTE: Budget comparison

iii. Ice fishing access is in.

e.) **Holtwood Sporting Complex Field Improvements**— Diamond 7 looks good. Infield soil has been dug out and black dirt replaced, with grass planting. This area will be used by soft ball and little league. Fence posts have been set.

8.) Parks Update:

a.) City Docks – Tere Hochmuth **ALL in appropriate upkeep.**

b.) City Park & Campground – Diane Motiff

c.) Copper Culture – Lori Stenstrup

d.) Freedom Park – All Christmas décor is fitting and attractive. The tree is often donated: otherwise, the City needs to buy one.

e.) Holtwood Park – Sue Anderson

f.) Sharp Park – John W. Reed

g.) Bond Park – Diane Motiff

9.) Park Special Events: Update

Free installed smoke detectors- Oconto Fire & Rescue Department – with any questions or to set up an appointment to install call (920) 834-7775

10.) Next Meeting Date/Time: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 @ 6 p.m.

Agenda Item: **Joint meeting with Tourism/Park & Rec. (Family Fun Day)**

Winter Wonderland 2022

11.) Hochmuth summoned adjournment @ 7:50 p.m. Motiff motioned second.

(M/C)

Minutes submitted by Susan K. Seidl