

PARK & REC. COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, JULY 13TH, 2022 @ 6:00 P.M.
OCONTO CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

- 1.) The July 13th meeting was called to order by Chairman Sue Anderson.
- 2.) Roll Call: Sue Anderson, Todd Hearley, Diane Motiff, Lori Stenstrup
Also Present: Mayor J. Panetti, Bob LeBreck/alderman, Director of Park and Rec. John Bostedt; Superintendent of Public Works Jeremy Wusterbarth, Bird City Coordinator Cordula Vanden Heuvel, Courtney Sowle, Megan Stellmacher
- 3.) **Hearley approval of Agenda; Motiff seconded. (4 Ayes)**
- 4.) **Approval of Park & Rec. Meeting Minutes from June 8th, 2022 was placed in motion by Hearley with a second issued by Stenstrup. (4 Ayes)**
- 5.) Public Input:
 - Bird City coordinator Cordula Vanden Heuvel brought a report on Covid and weather-affected nature days. We should be hearing soon that we are a “High Flyer City” as we have been. She has monitored statistically our present bird population. Positively, Martin and Bluebird populations are up vs. bats down (White nose? Limited summer 2022 insects...). She commended our AREA bird coordinator with 80 hand built houses to Oconto credit. At this point we find it difficult to acquire needed brackets for a broken Purple Martin house: our Mayor may have the answer. Meantime, due to Covid-crowd attendance, she has coordinated backpacks with materials on wildlife and distributed 200 of them to school children, who are most interested. Finally, Vanden Heuvel requested Park and Rec. sponsor her to attend the G. B. Conference (this year concentrating on Bluebirds): it is a yearly request that Park and Rec. supports.
 - Superintendent Wusterbarth gave a computer-assisted presentation highlighting roads with projected changes off County Y. We did get a 50/50 Grant for 2023-4. While indicating areas existing and potential thoroughfares, he stated that the DNR only allows 10,000’ mitigation in our projects. This leads to Wetland points which we are trying to accumulate when amending our projects. Wusterbarth awaits DNR response to his most recent delineation and will report on that impact.
 - Courtney Sowle is seeking a line item for buying electric from the City for the rest of summer 2022 @ \$20 per day. She proposed this conditional use @ \$250 per month for 2 rentals next to Holtwood Camping ground wherein the only pole connection exists. Hearley, familiar with this finance, proposed \$200 per month, as that would easily cover such usage. See 7. c.) for action. Note handout on the Fire Code.
 - The Harbor Cam had a hit of 9,928 views this last month: yearly advertizing is available for \$375.

6.) Correspondence: Anderson stated that she has e-mailed Splash Pad information to an expanded, younger group.

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

a.) **Parks & Recreation**

i. Bird City— **Hearley motioned to send Coordinator Vanden Heuvel to the G.B. Conference @ its \$20 fee plus mileage. Stenstrup called second. (M/C)**

ii. Copper Culture State Park Museum roof— Director Bostedt has informed that we will be updated as State is seeking a contractor to take on the project.

iii. 2022 Park Pavilion Rentals— 77

iv. 2022 Park job openings— A full-time third Parks position for 2023 needs to be filled.

v. Splash Pad/pool fundraising Committee (forming of)— It is still a desire to provide summer activity for youth: Anderson sought out more help and found Megan Stellamcher who spoke with other mothers who feel they would like an end-product of a pool. However, it was determined that if we 1st establish splash pads... fundraising would be extended to pool momentum. LeBreck stated that he has a few possible supporters for the project. Also determined was a visit to Seymour's facility and meeting with those who established the perimeters so the project will move ahead.

vi. Movies in the Park 2022— Anderson stated that activity so far has been fun with good turnouts. She is planning Home Alone @ the end of July: Christmas tree, candy canes, hats, and all.

vii. Seymour Splash Pad Tour Group (planning/forming of)— See 7. v.

b.) **Aageson Pool**— Director Bostedt reported removal of the ice cream cooler and pop machine. Mayor Panetti stated that he has had contact with Aageson's son, Tom, who would like to establish 2 Oconto scholarships for the medical field. Also of concern is the rock/plaque on the property, in honor of the Aageson family, to be moved to the Historical Society grounds (artifacts of the Dr. are in the museum).

c.) **Holtwood Campground**

i. Renting of Power to The Yard (cost) — **Hearley motioned to have a conditional use of electric power service @ \$200 per month @ Holtwood through Oct. 31, 2022. This agreement can be terminated at the owner's discretion. Motiff gave a follow-up second. (M/C)**

2022 Camping Reservations— 6 open this wk., 8 next wk. open; August is sold out except for tent sites-

- ii. 2022 Monthly Campsites— Regular monthly are full; 2 monthly are rented through August, 1 until the end of July The seasonal waiting list is up to 63.
- iii. Campground main sanitary pit— waiting on 1 part to arrive....
- iv. The Manager’s monthly report will be handed out with its updates @ the August meeting.
- v. Campground prices will be on hold until the County sets prices and Budget is pending. Note that Holtwood Campground has made money these last 8 years in a row. So far this year, it is making budget.
- vi. 2023 BOGO— **Hearley called motion that we re-establish BOGO starting 10/1/23. Stenstrup voiced second. (4 Ayes)**
Prices will be revisited as c.) 5.
- vii. Drain tiling along ditch on south end of campground— DNR permission is necessary. We also need to build up the revenue. Expansion of the ditch is potential. Discussion as to how to present a waiting request with the DNR continued. Perhaps Mayor Panetti can help it reach resolution as it is evident the impact here is environmental and monetary.

d.) City Park/City Park Campground

- i. Reservations— 21 in the book-
- ii. Family Funday Fundraiser— Park and Rec. has been bringing together posters and fliers, game ideas; seeking Council to help; food (Elks) including popcorn (provided by Hearley); beverages. Perhaps Tourism and the Council could offer their time. The Band (trip) is considering ice cream sales. The Historical Society will be present. Stenstrup is seeking out gift certificates/Chamber bucks. Parking too was determined.
- iii. Painting of inside of Civic building— This is another Park and Rec. achievement. Two new stoves have been donated by Hearley. Discussion evolved around the playground equipment (The Oconto Fire Dept. pressure-washed the plastic equipment.) Completing touch-ups will be accomplished by Hearley. The WWI howitzer may be moved by the Legion tank with a plaque indicating military significance, according to the Mayor.
- iv. City Park Beach— Director Bostedt reported that is being combed every other week.

e.) Holtwood Sporting Complex

- i. Field Improvements— Crew is working on field 7: the batting cage; and dug outs now have cemented within.
- ii. Field usage has been falling into scattered days. A tournament will occur this weekend and the first weekend in August marks our final tournament.
- iii. Disc Golf Course— It too has suffered from lack of DNR response: flooding and winter remnants. So far it has been cut twice.

- Compliments of the Mayor and Park and Rec. Committee were given to Director Bostedt and his crew.

8.) Parks Update: **ALL BELOW ARE SEEN AS ON TARGET. See Sharp Park.**

- d.) City Docks – Todd Hearley
- e.) City Park & Campground – Diane Motiff
- f.) Copper Culture – Lori Stenstrup
- g.) Freedom Park – All
- h.) Holtwood Park – Sue Anderson The Mayor asked about the past launch, no longer there: it got destroyed by a storm.
- i.) Sharp Park – Bob LeBreck This has been an issue taken up by the Forestry Committee who are committed to a County recommendation including select cut, trees in jeopardy, safety evaluation and Buckthorn.
- j.) 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.) Oconto Little League Tournament June 17-19th was on target with 56 teams. (Golf cart -kid rental- remains challenging.)
- c.) Summit Players Theater Group @ Copper Culture State Park June 25th occurred.
- d.) 2022 Waterfest - July 3rd, 4 p.m. – 11 p. m. received positive review though smaller. Outstanding fireworks were seen.
- e.) Oconto Girls Softball - July 16th This will be a one day 1st year tournament: diamonds 2, 3, 4, and 5 will be occupied.
- f.) Oconto River Rebel Softball Tournament August 5th - 7th marks another major Oconto event.
 - Director Bostedt announced that this Saturday will be a large fishing tournament: @ 2:30 will be give-a-way for kids. The Sportsman’s Club, looking for volunteers, will be selling food.

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

11.) **Hearley summoned adjournment @ 8:23 p.m. Stenstrup approved with the follow-up.** (M/C)

Minutes submitted by
Susan K. Seidl