

PARK & REC. COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, November 9th, 2022 @ 6:00 P.M.

OCONTO CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM

- 1.) The Park and Rec. November meeting was called to order by Chairman Anderson
- 2.) Roll Call: Sue Anderson, Todd Hearley, Bob LeBreck (Ex. +6:10), Diane Motiff, Lori Stenstrup
Also Present: Director of Park, Rec., and Forestry John Bostedt, and Bird City Coordinator Cordula Van denHeuvel
- 3.) **Hearley issued approval of Agenda; Stenstrup witnessed second. (4 Ayes)**
- 4.) **Approval of Park & Rec. Meeting Minutes from October 26th, 2022 was called into motion by Hearley with a Motiff follow-up second. (4 Ayes)**
- 5.) Public Input: Hearley sought word from Franks (Sharp Park) to which Bostedt responded that his inquests have been in waiting: Hearley asked Bostedt to have Franks check out City Park campground as well, as it is next on the Park and Rec. improvement agenda.
- 6.) Correspondence: Oct. 10 – Nov. 8 brought 4,748 views on the Harbor Web Cam.

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

a.) **Parks & Recreation**

- i. Bird City— *Cordula expressed where OUR Bird City stands:* she has several adults making local bird counts: they enjoy the activity. She expressed, however, that Bird City rules tend to be made for larger cities so expectations are difficult to fit in.

The Snowy Owls, she reported, are now migrating out as other birds exchanging positions @ the end of November.

As Coordinator of Oconto Bird City for 10 years: she is seeking new leadership whom she will break-in: however in her search has NOT found replacement. All information will be filed with Parks Director Bostedt: each member of Park and Rec. is in quest for a knowledgeable replacement: as of this meeting no name has come forward. What does this mean? We must continue to seek out a replacement, or.... Van denHeuvel promised to support the program for a year by working with the Bluebirds: we also have volunteers for the Martin houses. (She added the Coordinator must keep them happy.)

She stated that Bird City programs are not funded and though we have attained High-Flyer status, volunteers are slim. "Oconto is KNOWN for birding." She described the necessary events and attendees. Van denHeuvel recommends we put the requested \$500 away yearly for maintenance and repairs. If there is support for the program, Bostedt will send in the paperwork needed to fulfill the WI requirements. The County Coordinator has been supporting us with programs and fixing outdoor houses. Director Bostedt has been a recognized asset to the program which must have a yearly event (Banding has been an every 2 year event

which Cordula promised to attend to in 2023.) She spoke of backpacks of education which were created during Covid; they easily involved a number residents.

New information and events should be posted at Copper Culture where she coordinated Nature Fest. She stated the visitor's books should also be included in State required numbers. It too would be advantageous to keep numbers @ Bond, Holtwood, and City Park. Local resident, biologist Cathy Carnes is doing her bit to incorporate bird observations/pictures/and native facts in the Oconto County Reporter.

Park and Rec. could not give Cordula enough praise for her commitment to Bird City work, and aims toward the impossible, to find replacement. The job has been an achievement for the City of Oconto.

- ii. *2023 Parks & Recreation Budget* will have an update as to any changes due to the Council seeking more monies.
- iii. *Winterizing of Parks* is in process: water has been blown out of pipes; vehicles readied; repair and maintenance will cover the winter months.

b.) **Aageson Pool property** remains on the agenda for more potential development ahead.

c.) **Holtwood Campground**

i. *Seasonal Sites for 2023*— All but 1 are full: new price change has been submitted to each. Hanging onto one staff the week after is significant so those types of issues can be solved with minimal complication and explanation.

ii. *2023 Monthly Campsites*— Three have been designated with two full for June and July. One full for Aug. and 1 open. Other area campsites, including County Park 2 and City Park are recommended to those yet seeking a place.

iii. *The Campground main sanitary pit* (accomplished in 1 day) has been prepared for spring 2023. The quote will follow and we were reminded that we must install a larger breaker.

iv. *The Manager's monthly report*, handed out @ the meeting, had a Budget Comparison for 2021 and 2022, as of today. Study of it was verbalized. Director Bostedt sought to know if we are a Campground or Winter Wonderland? His frustration is understood by the Committee who determined a 2 week closedown of the Campground: this will designate the Winter Wonderland transition to take place the 2nd Saturday of November. The Dec. Park and Rec. meeting, Bostedt will bring the written expectations/rules. Additionally will be the 2 week post Campground established date/2nd weekend of Nov. AND a cost for City cleanup if necessary.

v. *2023 Holtwood Campground Budget*— Although it has been accepted by the Council, they are still negotiating where to seek more monies: results will be presented in Dec.

vi. *2023 Campground Employees*— Office staff will remain as is for another season; Donny and Josh will return: we need a replacement for Ed.

vii. *Golf cart prices for tournaments*— **It has been determined that golf cart rental for tournaments and Labor Day - 4th of July - and Memorial holidays will reflect the following costs: \$25 (2 hrs.); \$35 (4 hrs.); \$60 (all day) with the motion of increase by Stenstrup and Hearley. (4 Ayes)**

d.) **City Park/City Park Campground**— Note: Public Input

e.) **2023 Reservations**— Two so far.

f.) **Holtwood Sporting Complex: Field Improvements** Bostedt reported that the slab/support/and cement footings are set until spring: he stated that this is a Little League Project.

8.) **Parks Update:**

b.) City Docks – Todd Hearley +

c.) City Park & Campground – Diane Motiff + “Well maintained.”

d.) Copper Culture – Lori Stenstrup +

e.) Freedom Park – All + The fountain is winterized. Discussion of Harvest Décor followed noting that Ed fulfilled his promise the day after Trick or Treating: pumpkins, unbeknown to staff, thereafter were promised elsewhere. There is no knowledge of what happened to the ribbons. Finally, if no Christmas tree has been designated: Hearley will correspond with Bostedt and get one.

f.) Holtwood Park – Sue Anderson +

g.) Sharp Park – Bob LeBreck Cleaned up. +

h.) Bond Park – Diane Motiff “Used!” +

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) 2023-2024 Winter Wonderland (See 7. c.) iv.

10.) **Next Meeting Date/Time:** Wednesday, December 7 @ 6 p.m.

Agenda Items: Bird City

Winter Wonderland Guidelines: set up/take down

11.) **Motiff summoned adjournment @ 7:38 p.m. Hearley witnessed second. (M/C)**

Minutes submitted by
Susan K. Seidl