

PARK & REC. COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, February 8th, 2023 @ 6:00 P.M.
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

- 1.) The meeting was called to order by Chairman Sue Anderson @ 6:06 p.m.
- 2.) Roll Call: Sue Anderson, Todd Hearley, Bob LeBreck, Diane Motiff, Lori Stenstrup
Also Present: Mayor J. Panetti; Director of Park, Rec., and Forestry John Bostedt; and 7 citizens

3.) **Hearley motioned approval of Agenda; Motiff issued second. (5 Ayes)**

4.) **Approval of Park & Rec. Meeting Minutes from January 11, 2023 was set in motion with 2 corrections: there was no check cut in 7. a.) ii, AND there were only 3 reservations to date in 7. c.) ii- by Hearley with a Motif follow-up second. (5 Ayes)**

5.) Public Input: Garrett Sowle addressed the Committee concerning the problem with Buckthorn in Sharp Park: goats are the non-chemical solution to the problem to which the Forestry Committee agreed. Sowle achieved much groundwork in this direction. Working on a grant (75% DNR / 25% City) would be a boost to the City problem. He hoped both Park and Rec. and Tourism would donate to the Forestry cause. March 14th there will be a viewing of Sharp Park @ 8:45 a.m. Mayor Panetti (with a Sportsman's Club cut of Buckthorn) thought the chemical solution after discussion with Stranz/DNR; however, it was stated that 3 goat grazings would take care of the Buckthorn for 5 years @ which time reseeding by Mother Nature would require another attack. A select cut also gives insight to the options. Which process would be most environmentally friendly and cost efficient?

6.) Correspondence:

a.) Update from citizen's committee on pool– Courtney Sowle is seeking a Permit from the DNR that will look @ City Park: rock elimination to allow a citizen-friendly beach. Zebra Mussels have become an issue as well. Chairman Anderson thought these issues had a sound approach to be considered.

Courtney distributed a handout including Pool Grant avenues, pricing and builders, an agenda and step approach, as well as other factors to pool exploration. A drawing and poll of 405 area citizens that determined their interest in a pool and accessories or not, and splash pad desire accompanied. She stated four ways to fund the upkeep for a pool. Lifeguards became a discussion issue. Courtney stated that Federal Funds exist from Covid years. If the project proposal would go to Council, it would need a Referendum. Money is a secondary issue at present. **Hearley made a recommendation from Park and Rec. for Council to look into the park/splash-pad materials, not City funded. They need to be aware and approve the project for it to progress. Chairman Anderson called second, recommending the proposal go to Council. (Anderson, Hearley, LeBreck- Aye; Motiff, Stenstrup- Nay)**

b.) City Park Improvements (Eric Lockstein) will be sought on another agenda.

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

a.) Parks & Recreation

- i. *Bird City*– No new information.
- ii. *2023 Candlelight Walk*– (Note: 9. c.) This Saturday: Volunteers needed for setup at 3 p.m. and cleanup at 8:15.
- iii. *Equipment Maintenance for parks, campground & harbor/picnic table* repairs continue throughout the winter months. Two pieces of equipment are yet to be repaired.
- iv. *Copper Culture Museum* set up an annual meeting with DNR/property fencing– No DNR representative has come to view the park as yet.
- v. *2023 Pavilion Rentals*= 29
- vi. *2023 Parks Employees*– Two are committed to return; 2 must commit by March 1; one more employee is needed.
- vii. *WUMPA Truck Pullers* (2 events in Oconto for 2023: Copperfest and Saturday, August 12th)
- viii. *2023 Fishing Tournaments* that have been established at Oconto Breakwater Park– Seven have been scheduled for summer 2023: May 14, May 23, July 15, July 21 & 22, Aug. 5, Aug. 20. Also, the NWC has scheduled a qualifier for 2024.

b.) Ageson Pool property remains on the agenda for further development.

c.) Holtwood Campground

- i. *Seasonal Sites* for 2023= 1 opening
- ii. *2023 Monthly Campsites*= 17
- iii. *Manager's monthly report* indicated that we have \$83 remaining which paid for firewood. All dead wood from Sharp Park will be moved to the transfer station and will be used @ Holtwood Park accordingly with cost consideration.
- iv. *2023 Campground Reservations*– not mentioned.
- v. *Guidelines for Winter Wonderland* were TABLED to March.
- vi. *Campground Employees 2023*– Josh and the 3 office girls will return.
- vii. *2023 Advertising at 2023 RV & Camping Show*– In the past we have had a manned table pre-entry there; then Covid; Now we will have brochures, ads, etc., available to the public @ the County table.

d.) City Park/City Park Campground

- i. *2023 Reservations*= 3
- ii. *Park Improvements*– Seasonally, none. Working on equipment...

e.) Holtwood Sporting Complex

- i. *Field Improvements*- Seasonably none.
- ii. *3 tournaments scheduled for 2023*– Little League June 15 - 18; Girls Softball July 7 - 9; Oconto Girl's July 16 - 18. Mayor Panetti asked Bostedt how to get more Leagues here. Bostedt emphasized volunteers and to contact league managers.
- iii. *Leagues have started planning game schedules.*

8.) Parks Update:

- a.) City Docks – Todd Hearley- +
- b.) City Park and Campground - Diane Motiff +
- c.) Copper Culture - Lori Stenstrup +
- d.) Freedom Park – All- +
- e.) Holtwood Park – Sue Anderson- noted as weathered-
- f.) Sharp Park – Bob LeBreck- +
- g.) 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) 2023 WGAS Ice Fishing Tournament – Saturday, February 4th at Oconto Breakwater Park & Harbor 5:30am to 10:00pm (The Mayor asked about access to City Park: Bostedt a ramp, used properly, would ease it.) Good turnout.
- c) 2023 Candlelight walk at Copper Culture State Park. Saturday, February 11th from 5:30pm to 8:00pm. Set-up 3:00pm & clean-up at 8:15pm. (Noted: it is good exercise and provides comradery: only compliments, states Director Bostedt.)

10.) **Next Meeting Date/Time: Wednesday, March 8 @ 6 p.m.**

* Hearley announced his Committee resignation ASAP: work runs time thin as is. The Committee appreciates his time and valuable input.

Agenda Items: Guidelines for Winter Wonderland

11.) **Motiff summoned adjournment @ 7:56 p.m. Stenstrup motioned second. (M/C)**

Minutes submitted by Susan K. Seidl