

## **JOINT MEETING FOR THE PARK & REC. COMMITTEE & THE FORESTRY COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY, April 12th, 2023 @ 6:00 P.M.**

OCONTO CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

- 1.) The JOINT meeting of Park and Rec. and Forestry was called to order by Vice Chairman Diane Motiff (of Park and Rec.) @ 6:06 p.m.
- 2.) Roll Call: Bob LeBreck, Theresa LeMay, Diane Motiff, and Lori Stenstrup; Excused: Sue Anderson **AND** (Tom Sasse, Nick Badendick, Susan K. Seidl, and Jeff Werner) Also Present: Mayor J. Panetti; Director of Park, Rec. and Forestry John Bostedt; and 5 citizens, including Courtney Sowle
- 3.) **Stenstrup motioned for approval of Agenda; Motiff called second. (4 Ayes)**
- 4.) **Approval of Park & Rec. Meeting Minutes from March 29th, 2023 were placed in motion by LeMay with a second of LeBreck. (4 Ayes)**

5.) **Public Input: Pool** representatives proposed the “Pulaski, WI” project and Minnesota design. It was explained that a pool less than 2,000’ does not require a lifeguard. Representatives asked if we wanted lifeguards or not: LeBreck and the Committee insisted that the Oconto public would want lifeguards if they had a pool. Representatives stated that the budget makes a difference: 2023 Budget is slim. If the issue moved forward, Oconto would need to propose a Referendum to Council and thereafter the Public. The Representatives thought building funds could be raised by donations and fundraising. The Committee asked about the upkeep costs. It was stated that a 1,500’ pool would cost a little over 10 grand for operations... and that doesn’t include gas, water, utilities.... It must have a 6’ deck (State of WI) without chairs, etc.

After presentation/ question-answer secession LeBreck vocalized appreciation of the Committee for its stamina with this issue.

The second input was **City Park rock removal**. The same Oconto representative checked this out with the DNR: we must apply for a permit to have rock removal (\$300 - \$600). Herein dredging is a possibility. The permits have a 3 year limitation and can be used again within that window.

Spice mentioned getting grants: Sasse stated those sought for Forestry are for invasive species control.

## 6.) Correspondence:

a.) Fish Oconto Website ([www.fishoconto.com](http://www.fishoconto.com)) Director Bostedt spoke most highly of this informative, newly available City website which also can be viewed on the Harbor website tab.

b.) Live Harbor Cam Views as of Feb. 21 - March 22 were 12,040. Six advertising sites are yet available @ \$75 per year.

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

### a.) Parks & Recreation

i. *Sharp Park Clean-Up & Buckthorn Problem*– Motiff mentioned awareness of the several ways Park and Rec. understand newly needed maintenance of Sharp Park. Tom Sasse, Chair of the Forestry Committee, spoke for its members. He stated that a goat feed-off is the most natural method of solving the present problem. Our expert contact who owns the herd has been here and accessed the situation. She will control the area and approach sections accordingly: 2 weeks per section. She is seeking grants as well: the DNR Grant is a 75/25 proposition. We will apply to other grants to help balance the cost. Time frame? Two rounds possibly this year. The 2nd year will be a return of the feed-off. Four or five years later will follow. The owner is experienced and fully insured. Questions and answers volleyed.

A select cut, brought up by the Mayor, was discussed and is still possible but it was agreed that professionals take what they want and leave behind excess. Our City crew, on the other hand, could take down what is necessary on the trails. The heaviest damaged areas have been cleaned up. It was stated that volunteers would be welcome: like Steve Stock/Sportsman's Club.

Stenstrup and Motiff commended the Forestry Committee for their insight, study, and undertaking of this City concern.

ii. *Bird City*– Director Bostedt reported that the Martin houses have been repaired. He drafted a letter to the area monitors who maintain sightings. We, however, **in order to maintain Bird City status, are still in need of a Coordinator to fulfill requirements.**

iii. *Tree City USA* has been approved: a new flag and plaque will arrive @ City Hall. Mayor Panetti read P.R. that arrived from the

Arbor Day Foundation recognizing the City of Oconto in 2022 - 2023 Tree City USA.

iv. *Equipment Maintenance for parks, campground & harbor/picnic table repairs* has been in process throughout winter months and will continue with picnic tables and a backorder part.

v. *Copper Culture Museum's* annual meeting with DNR/property fencing is still waiting for discussion. Meantime, opening day is Memorial Day weekend. The Museum is still in need of 1 Tour Guide and 1 sub.

vi. *2023 Pavilion Rentals*– 44

vii. *2023 Parks Employees*– 3 applicants with 3 openings: one return worked @ Unlimited stated that he learned that time working with Park and Rec. was a valuable experience to him and he chose to re-apply this summer.

viii. *2023 Movies in the Park*– TABLED.

b.) **Aageson Pool property** is presently on hold.

c.) **Holtwood Campground**

i. *Seasonal Sites for 2023*– 1 has been left open and will be rented for 2 months and 1 week

ii. *2023 Monthly Campsites*– 21 booked for 1 month or more

iii. *Manager's monthly report* handed out @ each meeting when the season starts

iv. *2023 Campground Reservations*– Memorial weekend is booked with 5 interior and 3 river sites left. There is a capacity of 15 interior and 5 river sites for Copperfest weekend. Little League weekend is sold out with a waiting list of 17. Booking for the 4th of July is still ahead.

v. *Guidelines for Winter Wonderland*– Leadership commitments are still being made: it has been determined that clean up is key to this event and must be critical to the organizers for this event to continue. We have hunters and fishermen who use the campground off-season. Administrator Bickel is looking into where electricity comes from: The Budget of Holtwood or Park and Rec.

vi. *Campground Employees 2023*– There is potential management of a husband and wife team. We do have 1 yard youth. The 3 office girls will be returning.

vii. *Early Campers*– Two are out there; 2 Thursday; an individual ahead for 1 night

d.) *City Park/City Park Campground*

i. 2023 Reservations– 5

ii. Park Improvements– City Park rock clean up ahead

e.) *Holtwood Sporting Complex*

i. *Field Improvements*– The batting cage is the major improvement.

Fields remain wet.

ii. *3 tournaments scheduled* for 2023 are slated as

Little League: 6/ 16 - 18

River Rebel Softball: 7/ 7 - 9

Oconto Girls Softball: 7/ 15 - 16

ALL 7 FIELDS are used Monday - Thursday from the end of May through July.

iii. The three leagues above have been planning game schedules to avoid conflict on the 7 fields: changes are e-mailed to Director Bostedt.

**8.) Parks Update:**

a.) City Docks– Theresa LeMay will check in. Meantime Bostedt reports that the launch dock has been placed. WAMPA (2 events) are ahead. The launch dock is in.

b.) City Park & Campground – Diane Motiff Moving of rocks off the beach has been accomplished, and cleanup.

c.) Copper Culture – Lori Stenstrup Wet but looks good. Spring cleaning is in process.

d.) Freedom Park – All +

e.) Holtwood Park – Sue Anderson +

f.) Sharp Park – Bob LeBreck We now have more information but it remains a work in progress.

g.) Bond Park – Diane Motiff Well used

**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.) Park and Rec. next meeting Date/Time:** Wednesday, May 17 @ 6 p.m.

Agenda Item: 2023 Movies in the Park

**11.) LeBreck summoned adjournment @ 7:38 p.m. Stenstrup issued the second. (M/C)**

Minutes submitted by Susan K. Seidl