

PARK & REC. COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, May 17th, 2023 @ 6:00 P.M.
OCONTO CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

- 1.) The meeting was called to order by the Chairman of the Park and Rec. Committee, Sue Anderson @ 6:02 p.m.
- 2.) Roll Call: Sue Anderson, Bob LeBreck, Theresa LeMay, and Lori Stenstrup; Excused: Diane Motiff Also Present: Mayor J. Panetti; Director of Park and Rec., and Forestry John Bostedt; Steve Heimerman
- 3.) **LeMay issued approval of Agenda; Stenstrup followed with a second. (4 Ayes)**
- 4.) **Approval of Park & Rec. Meeting Minutes from April 12th, 2023 were placed in motion, with the correction of (6. b.) Harbor Cam advertisement cost \$375, by Stenstrup with a follow up of LeMay. (4 Ayes)**
- 5.) **Public Input:** Mayor Panetti introduced guest Steve Heimerman to present a “how to achieve additional funding” for environmental projects. Steve holds many hats including local Oconto Sportsman's Club improvement fund raiser and Oconto County Lakes and Water Association President. A Native of Oconto he has learned, in grant management, not to tap local funds when there is outside \$ available through the County, Region, State, Federal, and Associations that are practically environmentally conscious with monies available.
Heimerman’s experience began with the Sportsman's Club rip rap (NOTE: call it shoreline protection), fishing dock/picnic and park area project. He discovered the County will engineer/survey/estimate for free. (NOTE: one must apply for County conservation help the 1st of the year, as that is how they address projects.) The County has an Environmental Impact Fund. **WORD CHOICE, TIMELINES, AND MULTIPLE FACETS TO THE FUND NEED SHOULD BE HIGHLY CONSIDERED.**
What do we address? Nature... habitat... education.... He suggested we list our resources (land/water/air); Parks (public safety); and recreation (potential): make an inventory to improve the quality of life. Each Committee member asked questions and called attention to problems.
Another suggestion was to make a County-wide application. The DNR needs to be addressed and a part of projects.
Among sources are the County Environmental Impact Fund; Bay Lakes Planning Commission (which works on Grants); Lumberjack Resource Development Council; Recreational Boating Facility Grant (offered quarterly); County Healthy Waters Program; State’s Surface Water
Runoff Management (County managed); State’s Surface Water Grant funding; National Resource Damage Association; National Foundations. Anderson requested a “cheat sheet” to his list and deadline dates. Heimerman offered his help.
We sought to know if we could use one of our fire dept. Grant writers that exist.
- 6.) **Correspondence:**
 - a.) Fish Oconto Website (www.fishoconto.com) This will remain on the City website and under Harbor.

- b.) Live Harbor Cam Views– April 10-May 9 = 21, 294 views
- c.) Up-to-date Campground info. can be found on the City website.

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

a.) **Parks & Recreation**

- i. *Bird City* needs leadership for it to impact Oconto. Paperwork has been distributed to our monitors via Director Bostedt.
- ii. *Equipment Maintenance* for parks, campground & harbor/picnic table repairs have been implemented with the repair of one part that just arrived after 4½ months for a lawnmower, and 4 picnic tables remaining.
- iii. *Copper Culture Museum* set up for an annual meeting with DNR/property remains in waiting. Fencing that needs repair seems insignificant to the DNR. The museum is opening the Friday before Copper Culture with the retaining of 2 guides, gaining of one sub, and one new hire.
- iv. *2023 Pavilion Rentals*– 65
- v. *2023 Parks Employees*– We have 4 (1 return from 2022): another student would be welcome.
- vi. *2023 Movies in the Park*– Anderson spoke about this issue with \$500 from the “baking grannie” paying for insurance; the bouncy house use; increased electrical need; and liability. We are movie ready. At the kick-off, our bouncy house would be nice. Other organizations have been requesting use of the bouncy house (no problem with use on City property, otherwise those borrowing will need to provide their own liability): we should charge (\$100?) and have our City employee bought a tent that we could also place on loan.
- vii. *Grass cutting* has started @ Parks & properties– City Park 2x’s already! City Fun Day 2022: Discussion was made of City provided children’s summer toy use. We have a picture booth and need to have a way to attach the toys. Structure placement was also considered.
- viii. *Field prep.* has started.

b.) **Aageson Pool** property continues to await further development.

c.) **Holtwood Campground**

- i. *Seasonal Sites for 2023*– 1 opening filled for 2 months: all other seasonal sites are filled. Deposits were kept on cancellations which could have been filled by another camper.
- ii. *2023 Monthly Campsites*– 22 rentals of 1 month or longer
- iii. *Manager’s monthly report*, handed out @ the meeting, was a Budget Comparison compiled by Director Bostedt. We have 3 interior/2 river sites left for Memorial Day; Copperfest has 12 interior left; 4 river sites; Little League is sold out: we still have a waiting list of 17. ALSO, he distributed Harbor activities for 2023.
- iv. *Guidelines for Winter Wonderland*– In order to begin the camping season, the City crew, once again, removed the standing decor... which the next day was picked up by...? and stored?
- vi. *Campground Employees 2023*– 1 of our new hires moved to the Street Department: One new applicant was hired. Our new Manager and his wife started Monday. Office girls, Barb and Paula have also returned. We are interviewing a H.S. girl.
- vii. *Early Campers*– This is an endless challenge with Winter Wonderland removal and crew in slim supply, but we had a few.

d.) City Park/City Park Campground

- i. *2023 Reservations*– 4; 2 others came in for a night or two...
- ii. *Park Improvements*– Concentration has been on summer upkeep.
- iii. *City Park beach packet*– This has been distributed for

Committee review regarding content and approval; however, how will it be funded?

e.) Holtwood Sporting Complex

- i. *Field Improvements*- Batting cage on Diamond 7 is up and complete
- ii. *3 tournaments* scheduled for 2023

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.

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

- iii. *Practices* have started.
- iv. *Game schedules for 2023 summer season* are ready with continued maintenance of the fields.

8.) Parks Update: ALL BELOW ARE SUMMER READY. THE CITY REMAINS SHORT STAFF SO CREW IS SHIFTING AREAS IN KEEP-UP MODE, ESPECIALLY TO COVER EMERGENCIES.

- a.) City Docks – Theresa LeMay
- b.) City Park & Campground – Diane Motiff
- c.) Copper Culture – Lori Stenstrup
- d.) Freedom Park – All
- e.) Holtwood Park – Sue Anderson Director Bostedt reported a water heater had to be repaired in order for the park to be open to citizens.
- f.) Sharp Park – Bob LeBreck The park is being addressed by Forestry.
- 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) Memorial Day parade Monday, May 29th 10:00 a.m. from City Hall to Evergreen Cemetery. Ceremony to follow @ Evergreen Cemetery.
- c) 2023 Bicycle Poker Run Saturday, May 20th from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Starts & ends at The Garage.
- d) Copperfest 2023 June 8th-11th
- e) Oconto Little League 2023 tournament June 16th-18th @ Holtwood Sporting Complex

9. Next meeting: Wednesday, June 14 @ 6 p.m. Bostedt stated that Agenda items should be sent to Bostedt.

10. LeBreck summoned adjournment @ 8:16 p.m. Stenstrup issued a second. (M/C)

Minutes submitted by
Susan K. Seidl