

**MINUTES OF THE PARK & REC. COMMITTEE
OCONTO CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
WEDNESDAY, July 12th, 2023 @ 6:00 P.M.**

- 1.) Chairman Sue Anderson brought the July meeting to order.
- 2.) Roll Call: Sue Anderson, Bob LeBreck, Theresa LeMay, Diane Motiff, and Lori Stenstrup
Also Present: Mayor J. Panetti, Jack Karbon and 2 youth
Excused: Director of Park, Rec. and Forestry John Bostedt who left notes for the Committee
- 3.) **Stenstrup issued approval of Agenda; Motiff seconded. (5 Ayes)**
- 4.) **Approval of Park & Rec. Meeting Minutes from June 14th, 2023 was called by Motiff and given a second motion of Stenstrup. (5 Ayes)**

5.) Public Input:

- a.) Karbon and the boys are looking into a youth/adult wiffle ball league. (Perhaps an adult league in the future) He had already spoken with Director Bostedt. It would be a non-profit to host tournaments of various athletics. (Tournaments, Anderson addressed, would need volunteers as this department is already beyond full house. Setup and cleanup would be a burden on our Park and Rec. crew.) Karbon thought Dale Steffenhangen to be on board. Purpose? Developing leaders. (It too will bring in the public who will visit our businesses.) Registration fees will be charged for ump's, etc., stated Karbon. Games would be held at Holtwood and Sharp Park (PickleBall). Concessions would be open to civic organizations.
- b.) Motiff attended the Forestry Committee meeting this morning and updated Park and Rec. on the status of Buckthorn/Goat elimination in Sharp Park: slated for 2024 with attainment of Grants. Stephanie (owner of the goat farm) will help: they need a Grant writer. Present clean-up is still not happening... since spring, by the volunteer group.

6.) Correspondence:

- a.) Live Harbor Cam Views: Presently not available-

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

a.) Parks & Recreation

- i. *Bird City* – (monitoring in process) (still need a director)
- ii. *Copper Culture Museum* still awaits a date for the annual meeting with DNR and determination of their one property fencing. Although Director Bostedt has kept open communications, Michael Duke/DNR has not responded.
- iii. *2023 Pavilion Rentals* – (75)
- iv. *2023 Parks Employees* have had no change
- v. *2023 Movies in the Park*– It was a small group on the holiday weekend but the P.R. has now been spread. (The screen and bench article was addressed.)
- vi. *Volleyball League* has started. (Improvements/protection of posts & guidewire exposure is now complete @ Holtwood Sporting Complex)
- vii. *Trees with drought conditions* have led the city crew to watering, especially that most recently planted. We have lost 1 Red Maple. Many of these trees are in people's yards.
- viii. *Prioritizing park projects* – (NOTE: list handout from last meeting) It was determined that we concentrate on City Park. A "rock crew" has been established by the public which has led to improved entry to the water. Noted, however, we have lost our slide on the property and are curious as to what happened to our Bond Foundation request for playground equipment replacement there. Anderson will ask Bostedt to reapply for it as children's play equipment (due to yearly weather

deterioration) remains basic to the property. Stenstrup and husband will power wash the newly accumulated toys stored on the property. The next Committee priority will be Sharp Park....

- b.) Aageson Pool property remains on the Agenda awaiting further discussion as the issue arises. Our bouncy house is stored there in the Holtwood Complex. We need to establish its purpose: rent or sell. LeMay suggested a \$150 rental fee including client pickup, setup, and undamaged return, with a \$50 return rebate. The baby changing station in the pool area was also addressed. Since it has no purpose there, why not place it at the Holtwood complex building, where it could be of service.
- c.) Holtwood Campground
 - i. *Seasonal Sites for 2023* – (Full, except for 3 which are used as monthly, etc.)
 - ii. *2023 Monthly Campsites* – (24: 1 month or longer)
 - iii. *2023 Campground Reservations*– August and Sept. have a few reservations: the Fly-In is looking good. A reservation cancellation and desire for refund was discussed. Illegal camper locations were also discussed.
 - iv. *Guidelines for Winter Wonderland*– Since the activity is without direction, discussion is on hold.
 - v. *Campground Employees 2023* are going well. Barb had to take leave temporarily.
- d.) City Park/City Park Campground
 - i. *2023 Reservations* – (6 on books) (17 have stayed to date)
 - ii. *City Park Beach Packet* awaits money to print.
 - iii. *City Park Beach*– We have accomplished everything we can do out there. We await the Bond Foundation for playground equipment.
- e.) *Holtwood Sporting Complex*– Games Started & Going On (2 weeks left in this season) It was stated that the 13 year-olds may have a playoff.

8.) Parks Update:

- a.) City Docks – Theresa LeMay
 - i. Both docks are now in.
- b.) City Park & Campground – Diane Motiff
 - i. Note the rock picking that has been accomplished. Anderson brought/donated snacks for them upon request. The Committee is unaware who is in charge of this project and when they are in action, though we commend them. We have requested Director Bostedt to address playground equipment with the Bond Foundation: LeMay had an application which reaps \$1,500.
- c.) Copper Culture – Lori Stenstrup
- d.) Freedom Park – All
 - i. Cleaning/filtering out the fountain was noted.
- e.) Holtwood Park – Sue Anderson
 - i. Note Public Input and 7. b.).
- f.) Sharp Park – Bob LeBreck
 - i. Note Public Input. LeBreck expressed that our parks are in enviable shape.
- g.) Bond Park – Diane Motiff
 - i. Anderson discussed the end-of-season crew appreciation.

9.) Park Special Events: Update

- a) Oconto Little League 2023 tournament June 16th-18th @ Holtwood Sporting Complex

- b) Waterfest 2023 July 3rd @ Breakwater Park 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. Successful as seen: the ELKS are outstanding.
- c) Girls Softball Tournament July 7th, 8th, & 9th It was noted that they need more volunteer staff..
- d) Escape Reality Walleye Open Saturday, July 15th @ Breakwater Park
- e) MWC Walleye Tournament July 21, 22 (Fri., & Sat.)

10.) Next Meeting Date/Time/Agenda Items:

a.) Wednesday, August 9 @ 6pm

b.) Agenda Items:

- i. Bouncy house rental fee, return, or sell
- ii. Grant application writers from Bond Foundation for City Park playground equipment

11.) **Motiff summoned adjournment @ 7:24 p.m. LeMay closed with a second. (M/C)**

Minutes submitted by Susan K. Seidl