

PARK & REC. COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2023 @ 6:00 P.M.
OCONTO CITY HALL IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

- 1.) The August Park and Rec. meeting was called to order by Chairman Sue Anderson @ 6:04 p.m.
- 2.) Roll Call: Sue Anderson, Bob LeBreck, Theresa LeMay, Diane Motiff, and Lori Stenstrup
Also Present: Director of Park and Rec. John Bostedt; Burt Hollander/Head of Local Boy Scout Chapter and Boy Scout Payton McNabb
- 3.) **Motiff motioned for approval of Agenda; Stenstrup motioned second. (5 Ayes)**
- 4.) **Approval of Park & Rec. Meeting Minutes from July 12th, 2023 was submitted by Stenstrup with a Motiff second. (5 Ayes)**
- 5.) Public Input: Scout McNabb, seeking Eagle status, spoke for permission to accomplish a lending library to be established in Holtwood Sporting Complex and City Park. Anderson addressed the pre-plans, time period, and adult assistance via the Kiwanis. The project parallel to the Bond Park structure, will I.D. the shelves by age groups. Also concern for the future maintenance of the contents within and the structure was expressed. Director Bostedt and crew will help with a 4x4 stake and gravel compacting. Anderson suggested McNabb co-op with local businesses, making a metal roof and sign identifying who funded the project: she even offered “her” business contacts here.
Park and Rec. gave a verbal agreement which will receive a vote @ the next meeting.
- 6.) Correspondence: Live Harbor Cam Views July 12th – Aug 10th (9,816 views) Anderson was sent a complimentary email from a former City Park complaint dept. as to our improvements can’t be matched. We noted that we need to review campers’ 2024 fee schedule for March and April.
Attractive 2024 Bird-Park and Rec. calendars were distributed: Motiff felt we should prepare a 2025 (?) calendar highlighting OUR parks.
- 7.) **Discussion/Recommendation/Action on the Following:**
 - a.) Parks & Recreation
 - i. *Bird City* – (monitoring in process will stop on the 30th @ which time the housing will be cleaned) **(Park and Rec. remains in need of a director if we intend to keep our Bird City/WI status.)** Tuesday after Labor Day Director Bostedt will send in our paperwork to the State.
 - ii. *Copper Culture Museum was to* set up an annual meeting with the DNR/property fencing (?) (2023 visitors)-- Director Bostedt has called the DNR 2 times per month: no response. He complimented our tour guides who continue to do a respectful job with tourists. Signed into the guest book as of 8/1/23: 323.
 - iii. *2023 Pavilion Rentals* – (78 @ present to the end of the season) Due to care and maintenance our 100+ year Park and Rec. improved pavilion has been often used and complimented throughout the season.
 - iv. *2023 Parks Employees*– All who have worked here have completed their season.
 - v. *2023 Movies in the Park* are now complete, states Anderson. May 7th =ed the best attendance. Our new adult night seemed to be to area liking and we will consider adding a couple more 2024. Anderson received multiple compliments on the pre-set seasonal schedule. She noted, unfortunately, some bullying (of a young boy) by seasonal kids who were told not to return to the event; youth misuse of golf carts existed as well.
 - vi. *Volleyball League* continues to run on its schedule. Two weeks remain; the week after all will be wrapped up.
 - vii. *Trees with drought conditions* have called for tree watering of 2 - 3 year old plantings: these

average approximately \$8,000 worth of plantings. They too require maintenance.

viii. *Prioritizing park projects* – (From list handout created) Park and Rec. has not been approached but heard that there will be one more City Park “rock picking”. Since our extended improvements @ City Park we will continue to search for Grant Writers and get the equipment power washed (Could the Fire Dept. do this again as a part of their training?); help Forestry, especially with Sharp Park; and look for a 50/50 Grant for rip rap in the Holtwood Campers area.

ix. *Bouncy house* (rental fee, return or sell) The Committee will promote children’s birthday party rental next year.

x. *Wiffle ball* It’s field will be @ the corner of 7th St. and Scherer Ave. Requesting boys scheduled Wed. each week. Parks and Rec. will keep up the grass and paint lines for them. If girls want to play they can have another open weekday. (NOTE: This presently is the U.S. 2nd most rising support behind Pickleball.) The teams will be responsible for property pick up per use of the “field”. Jack Karbon has organized this youth seasonal event with the youth themselves running their play and using him as a sounding board.

b.) Aageson Pool property remains on the Agenda anticipating future expectations. It was determined to use the stored toys on that property there, in the playground. We encouraged use of the mini refrigerator in the Concessions trailer. One baby changing station will be used there in the men’s restroom and the other out at the Harbor women's restroom. (Bostedt will check that these fit accordingly.) It was noted that the Fire Dept. has power wash equipment that could be used in the playgrounds.

c.) Holtwood Campground

i. *Seasonal Sites for 2023* – (Full except for 3 which are used as monthly, etc.)

ii. *2023 Monthly Campsites* – (26)(1 month or longer)

iii. *Manager’s Monthly Report* handed out @ the meeting indicates the ‘23 Actual Budget and “23 Comparison Budget. It only works to make a Budget conservative and on what is working presently. LeBreck gave an understanding of how our Budgets work.

Anderson noted that there remains concern about the homeless.

iv. *2023 Campground Reservations* have been discussed throughout the season. 2024 Campground reservations start June 1 until the office closes. LeBreck suggested we not raise prices this year. This will need our discussion @ meetings in March and April. BOGO’s were also in discussion. Stenstrup brought to our attention that we need to look at our Campground fees and why we are not fully booking at present although Bostedt had mentioned deaths and health issues 2023: LeMay talked about Girl’s Softball changing to a holiday. Bostedt noted that campers call around for prices @ the end of the season. Not a lot of kids come over to the movies (40% of campers have kids).

v. *Guidelines for Winter Wonderland* are on hold. There is intent to begin “road” improvement within the grounds. This may affect camper usage in May. It will not be an all-inclusive improvement but rather a beginning of “road” replacement using monies available each year. The south bathhouse had sanitary replaced: \$9,000.

vi. *Campground Employees 2023* all continue.

vii. *2 open top kayaks, 1 paddle board (new with paddles)* were bought @ the end-of-the-season closeout. (We also have 2 worn/smaller kayaks.)

d.) City Park/City Park Campground

i. *2023 Reservations* – (5 on the books are reserved)

ii. *City Park Beach Packet*– *This will be aborted until there is Budget for it.*

ii. *City Park Beach* has had no complaints throughout the season. Soon the toy box will be set. Anderson suggested an old pontoon with help from the h.s. shop. Director Bostedt will discuss the issue with Shawn

Porath.

iv. *Playground equipment*– A contact with a recreation company will be sending someone to do a two-part setup of equipment. With the help of the Bond Foundation we could set up a two year Grant system. Administrator Brittney and Director Bostedt will fill out the Grant paperwork to accomplish this.

e.) Holtwood Sporting Complex– Cross Country will be running there Sept. 26th with our concessions on hand. Two churches have rented a ball field this year.

8.) Parks Update:

a.) City Docks – Theresa LeMay +

b.) City Park & Campground – Diane Motiff observed a couple campers recently. Also it appears that some groups are gathering to do some activities on the property. It is being used.

c.) Copper Culture – Lori Stenstrup See 7. a.) ii.

d.) Freedom Park – All +

e.) Holtwood Park – Sue Anderson Note HOLTWOOD 7.c.) i. - vii. Sue added that we should follow up our idea with a teepee: fun for local rental, or a visit to Oconto and its sites.

f.) Sharp Park – Bob LeBreck Bostedt’s Forestry meeting today reported that Grants are in process via Stephanie “Goats on the Go”.

g.) Bond Park – Diane Motiff reports that it remains busy. Also the toy duck was broken from its spring but it has a warranty.

9.) Park Special Events: Update on events: NOTE HANDOUT.

10.) Next Meeting Date/Time: Wednesday, September 20 @ 6 p.m.

Agenda Items: Scout McNabb’s 2-park lending library project; 7.c.) iv. Holtwood Campground prices

11.) **Motiff summoned adjournment @ 8:03 p.m. LeMay issued second. (M/C)**

Minutes submitted by Susan K. Seidl