

MINUTES OF THE PARK & REC. COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, March 13th, 2024 @ 6:00 P.M.
OCONTO CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

- 1.) Chairman Sue Anderson brought the meeting to order.
- 2.) **Stenstrup motioned for approval of Agenda; LeMay witnessed the second. (4 Ayes)**
- 3.) Roll Call: Sue Anderson, Bob LeBreck, Theresa LeMay, Lori Stenstrup EXCUSED: Diane Motiff ALSO PRESENT: Director of Parks, Rec., and Forestry John Bostedt; Mike Feldt
- 4.) **Approval of Park & Rec. Meeting Minutes from February 21st, 2024 was called to motion by Stenstrup and issued a second approval by LeMay. (4 Ayes)**
- 5.) Public Input: *LeBreck stated that Director Bostedt has conducted another successful Candlelight event, LeBreck has seen little of Mayors, or running and installed Council members attend the Candlelight walk. Anderson donated light sticks for the kids: they were a hit: next year repeat! *Feldt recognized John Bostedt and his crew for the early Harbor dock placement as weather has been opening up early on the bay thus City revenue (5 1/2 weeks early!). Seidl noted the pressure placed on Bostedt (Harbor docks) to accomplish something not-on-time rocks the established agenda. *Anderson stated that she sent ideas to the Committee, pre-meeting, including a lantern festival (in the river near Holtwood), and planting flowers in family name: Fun and fundraising.
- 6.) Correspondence: Live Harbor Cam Views: February 7th to March 7th – 19,131 views
- 7.) **Discussion/Recommendation/Action on the Following:**
 - a.) **Parks & Recreation**
 - i. *Bird City – (Motus Wildlife Tracking System / motus.org), new coordinator, 2024 renewal application, 2024 bluebird monitors*– Director Bostedt reported that the Motus system has been switched over to WIFI: no comments yet: it will be tested when boats are in the harbor. **The Motus System** has also **awarded Oconto with trees** to be planted in the fall. Bostedt and Vanden Heuvel have chosen bird-friendly-trees, sand and soil appropriate (2 of each) to be planted @ Farnsworth Public Library, Copper Culture, and City Park (that has those aged-out and those lost due to water table changes): fall planting. **The donation included shrubs and flowers** which former Bird City Coordinator *Vanden Heuvel will personally plant @ City Park*: also bird-friendly. The new coordinator of Bird City will be Randy Smith/Harbor Master. Bostedt has acclimated him and Van den Heuvel will aid when necessary. 2024 bluebird monitors will be established soon as the birds have been sited in north-east WI. The Bird City Renewal application is in process.
 - ii. *Copper Culture Museum* – Again, Director Bostedt has met with the State who has DNR budget to update our bathroom there and replace the original 14 year shingles on the roof.
 - iii. *Prioritizing park projects* as seen on the handout list has spring City Park cleanup ahead.
 - iv. 2024 Parks Employees – There remains opportunity for student workers to return: 1 is definite: 4 more are needed. We are looking for a new Working Foreman. It is evident that salaries need a boost as competition (approx. \$6 more) wins out and the hiring pool is slim.
 - v. *Maintenance on properties & equipment for parks, campground & harbor/(snow plowing/salting as needed)* Bostedt reports 4 park benches remain, a tractor is waiting for parts, 3 trailers tires/bearings/etc. maintenance, and Copper Culture sanitary brush cleanup. Outdoor upkeep is in process.
 - vi. *Parks fundraising* – We have nothing on the books presently.
 - vii. *2024 Pavilion Rentals* – 59
 - viii. *2024 Movies in the Park* – The *Luke Ellman Memorial Ride* donated approximately \$900 from their work on this event. The schedule of movies will be added to the City website. There will also be a sign @ City Hall. Anderson hopes to include a couple adult films. Stenstrup will help Anderson set up a new web page.

ix. *2024 Safety Meeting* – Training has been held for City workers from the City insurance company; the Fire Dept. will be training in the future.

b.) **Ageson Pool property** remains on the agenda as it is used for storage and will become actively used @ another date.

c.) **Holtwood Campground**

i. *Seasonal Sites 2024* – One seasonal is again available and the small site: if not filled they can be used as backup with extra revenue.

ii. *2024 Monthly Campsites* – (10)(1 month or longer)

iii. *Manager's Monthly Report* will be distributed as the season begins, however with pre-use, firewood @ \$110 has been purchased. Here we noted the updated brochure with additions and cost raises to maintain the budget. NOTE: availability of "toys" are open to the public. Anderson offered a Lily Pad which Bostedt will ponder for future use. Director Bostedt too shared a sticker idea with an example for the Campground: do we want to embrace it?

iv. *2024 Campground Reservations* – 93

v. *Guidelines for Winter Wonderland* – The organizer decor remains as of yet: most individuals and businesses have removed their display. (Trees are vulnerable to tightly strung lights.) Stenstrup again emphasized the need to get a hard copy of expectations and deadlines established. The E section (place in guidelines) must be listed as early decor removal as it is used for the first campers, pre-season. Campground income depends on this.

vi. *2024 Campground Employees* – **Needed:** Campground Manager; assistant; part time summer worker

vii. *Updating paperwork & website for campground* – Note too the handouts: brochure, sticker, and EZ Dock pre-estimation.

viii. *2024 Early season camping @ Holtwood* – In the E section we have 2 campers so far with one ahead 3/14-18. All amenities are spelled out and available including porta potties, and water.

d.) **City Park/City Park Campground**

i. *2024 Reservations* – 10

ii. *Playground equipment* – The Park and Rec. Committee will be meeting Tuesday March 19 @ 5 p.m. in the Conference room to determine a plan from the drawings.

iii. *Rock pick-up & equipment clean-up* will be placed on the city calendar with representation for the former.

e.) **Holtwood Sporting Complex**

i. *Holtwood Fields Project* – No new information. It looks like a local company will be selected. NOTE: concern of proper gravel and soil drainage continues.

ii. *Potential New Dock for Launch Area* – EZ Dock drawing and pre-estimation handout: verification ahead. Needed is Tabby/Grant writer (DNR 70/30 Grant) and approval.

8.) **Parks Update:** *Each is seen in a positive light.*

a.) *City Docks* – Theresa LeMay ...next week or 2 the launch dock...

b.) *City Park & Campground* – Diane Motiff Director Bostedt reports the life jacket station is still a possibility, with installation evaluation.

c.) *Copper Culture* – Lori Stenstrup

d.) *Freedom Park* – All (clock burnt out)

e.) *Holtwood Park* – Sue Anderson

f.) *Sharp Park* – Bob LeBreck Waivers for wood were mentioned. We now have a Grant investigator connection.

g.) *Bond Park* – Diane Motiff

9.) **Park Special Events:** *Update of events will be distributed @ the April meeting.*

10.) **Via a motion of LeMay the Committee @ 7:40 p.m. chose to convene into Closed Session pursuant to notice duly given and as allowed by Wis. Stats. 19.85(1)(c) for the consideration of**

employment for the following item: Discussion on Parks staffing. Stenstrup called for a second motion. (M/C)

11.) Committee member LeBreck called a vote to reconvene into Open Session at approximately 8:03 p.m. pursuant to notice duly given and as allowed by Wis. Stat. 19.85(2) for discussion/recommendation from Closed Session. Stenstrup witnessed a second. (M/C)

12.) Action/Discussion on matters from Closed Session– As per discussion, we will proceed with our employment search via advertising including finding a Working Foreman. LeBreck called first; Stenstrup motioned second. (M/C)

13.) Next Meeting Date/Time: Tuesday March 19 @ 5 p.m.in the Conference Room

Agenda: *City Park Playground Equipment*

Wednesday, April 17 @ 6 p.m.

Agenda Item included: *Rock pick-up and equipment clean-up dates calendared.*

14.) Stenstrup summoned adjournment @ 8:09 p.m. Anderson called second. (4 Ayes)

Minutes submitted by
Susan K. Seidl