

MINUTES OF THE PARK & REC. COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, April 17th, 2024 @ 6:00 P.M.
OCONTO CITY HALL/MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM

- 1.) The meeting was called to order by Chairman Sue Anderson.
- 2.) Roll Call: Sue Anderson, Theresa LeMay, Diane Motiff, Lori Stenstrup; ALSO Present: Mayor Cliff Martin, and Director of Parks, Rec., and Forestry John Bostedt; AND 4 citizens.
- 3.) **Stenstrup motioned approval of Agenda; LeMay called a second. (4 Ayes)**
- 4.) **Approval of Park & Rec. Meeting Minutes from March 13th, 2024 were set in motion by Stenstrup with a LeMay second. (M/C)**
- 5.) Public Input: Casey Sowle spoke to the committee about volunteers rock picking @ City Park. There was a volley of discussion including that this is a most worthy project. Jack Karbon also spoke, noting that “our superstructure is fantastic.”
- 6.) Correspondence: Live Harbor Cam Views: March 10th to April 8th – 22,922 views
- 7.) **Discussion/Recommendation/Action on the Following:**
 - a.) Parks & Recreation
 - i. *Bird City* – New coordinator Smith is finding purpose in his training; the 2024 renewal application has been turned in, our 2024 bluebird monitors have started, and Purple Martin houses are up.
 - ii. *Copper Culture Museum* – (2024 - 2025 project will be with DNR/Michael Duke monies.) The intent is to have doors and windows renewed, as well as updating the bathroom and pavilion.
 - iii. *Prioritizing park projects* from our list on the handout continues its concentration on City Park. Power Washing and cleaning are ahead; this includes the children’s equipment.
 - iv. *2024 Parks Employees*– Interviews next week: 1 Holtwood Manager; 1 Working Foreman; 6 youth workers
 - v. *Maintenance on properties & equipment for parks, campground & harbor*/(snow plowing/salting as needed)-- All has been completed but 1 trailer and 1 lawn mower that await parts.
 - vi. *Parks fundraising*– This issue remains in process.
 - vii. *2024 Pavilion Rentals* - 65
 - viii. *2024 Movies in the Park*– Anderson helms this City activity of Park and Rec. She purchased a 2-flavor slush machine (that weighs a ton) and is seeking a way to make it mobile: The high school shop was suggested by Motiff: Anderson will make the request. She also purchased a movie listing board to be placed in front of City Hall. The movie license has been purchased; a list of movies will be made noting City conflicts with other activities; and mosquito control will be coming.
 - ix. *Opening of parks for 2024*– City Park is open with its 1st rental this month.
 - x. *A packet has been compiled & distributed to local businesses for sign advertising @ Holtwood Campground & Holtwood Sporting Complex.*
 - b.) Aageson Pool property remains on the agenda for future development. Meantime equipment storage remains there.
 - c.) Holtwood Campground
 - i. *Seasonal Sites 2024* - (49) (2 – will be used as monthly, weekly, daily & back-up) There are 51 total.
 - ii. *2024 Monthly Campsites* – (11) (1 month or longer)
 - iii. *Manager’s Monthly Report* will be given when Holtwood Campground opens.
 - iv. *2024 Campground Reservations* – (171 made since January 8th)

- v. *Guidelines for Winter Wonderland* - Boucher has been cleaning up what the organization erected. Problem? Getting a Boom truck. We will invite the Committee to our June meeting. *There needs to be a commitment with the Boom truck for set up and take down.* Stenstrup will contact the Committee. Reason for keeping on schedule: City camper income begins.
- vi. *2024 Campground Employees* - There has been 1 application for Manager. Office management will be the same. We need a student summer part-time position.
- vii. *Updating paperwork & website for campground 2024* - Done.
- viii. *2024 Early season camping @ Holtwood* - averaging 1 - 4 with power and a porta-potty.

d.) City Park/City Park Campground

- i. *2024 Reservations* – (13) (Have had 4 early season campers)
Anderson would like to see a lantern fest... and kids pipes to play in/walk through... and a fence for fundraising. A pallet cabin across the street would be an ideal addition.
- ii. *Playground equipment* - Three sets of options with costs were handed out @ the meeting. We need to weigh our options. The Bond Center Foundation will give a **\$40 - \$50** thousand max donation. Seek recreational grants. These are the most requested playground sets sold. The Mayor asked if there was a warranty: this will be further investigated. Bostedt stated that if said equipment is purchased from a *certified company*, breakdown, etc. will help with insurance coverage. Wood chips will be applied by the City for the playground floor. Motiff noted that some of the “toys” will have to be stored: will this be a problem storing? stealing?
- iii. *Rock pick-up & equipment clean-up (put date on city calendar)* - Sowle is planning a 2nd annual public rock picking @ City Park @ 9 a.m. start - May 18/19 rain date. He needed direction on where to place boulders gathered and guidelines from Park and Rec. Director Bostedt will give direction; Anderson noted that a family living north of the park would like to help clear the area near their property on that day. Facebook *should only promote* such activity: it can be destructive. The Committee stated that last year's efforts were significant and City-wide appreciated.

e.) Holtwood Sporting Complex

- i. *Holtwood Fields Project* - Ground renewal has become necessary: it should be done every 3 - 4 years: Holtwood is way past the deadline on dirt, gravel, grooming of the ground levels, etc. ... and showing it. Could this cause injury? It seems we are looking @ a local company's 1st attempt: we need to pay attention to progress as there is a right way to achieve this.
- ii. *Potential New Dock for Launch Area* – An updated drawing, handed out @ the meeting, revealed a 70/30 grant, via Tabby, is a potential.
- iii. *Baseball/softball practice starting* - Diamonds 1 - 4 have been prepared and are set with bases and 2 porta potties.

8.) Parks Update:

- a.) City Docks – Theresa LeMay – (Spies Road project) LeMay noted its grand spring appearance with 15 - 20 boats.
- b.) City Park & Campground – Diane Motiff - (A free life jacket stand will soon be placed.)
- c.) Copper Culture – Lori Stenstrup +
- d.) Freedom Park – All – (new flag has been put up) + It was noted that a local veteran in the area does repairs, if needed. Motiff expressed that Tourism is discussing Main St. benches and garbage cans as they are needed.
- e.) Holtwood Park – Sue Anderson +
- f.) Sharp Park – + Looking at grants.
- g.) Bond Park – Diane Motiff +

9.) Park Special Events: Update Director Bostedt distributed the **2024 Schedule of Events @ Oconto Breakwater Park, Harbor, and Oconto City Docks**. He also informed the Committee on the # of boats expected @ each event.

Updates on other events were given at the meeting.

10.) Next Meeting Date/Time: Wednesday, May 15 @ 6 p.m.

Agenda Items: *Guidelines for Winter Wonderland* - invite the Committee to our June meeting: note boom truck issue.

Playground equipment selection

City Park additions - lantern fest/kids pipes/fence for fundraising/pallet cabin

11.) **Anderson summoned adjournment @ 7:50 p.m. The entire Committee witnessed the second. (M/C)**

Minutes submitted by
Susan K. Seidl