

PARK & REC. COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, July 25th, 2024 @ 6:00 P.M.
OCONTO CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

1. Chairman Sue Anderson brought the meeting to order @ 6:06 p.m.
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; Bird City Mentor/Cordula VandenHuevel, Winter Wonderland coordinator/Magan Holz
3. Stenstrup called motion for approval of Agenda with the move of Winter Wonderland discussion to follow the discussion of Bird City; LeMay issued second. (4 Ayes)
4. Approval of Park & Rec. Meeting Minutes from June 19th, 2024 was called into motion by Motiff with a LeMay second. (4 Ayes)
5. Public Input: None.
6. Correspondence: Live Harbor Cam Views: June 1st to June 30th - 7,421 Views
7. Discussion/Recommendation/Action on the Following:
 - a. Parks & Recreation
 - i. Bird City – new coordinator training, (Cordula 2025 – Wisconsin Purple Martin Fest) VandenHuevel has taken the helm for the Wisconsin Purple Martin Fest/2025 to be held in Oconto. She has already begun the preparations: renting the pavilion; encouraging a silent auction; intending to band young Purple Martins in the area; requesting Oconto Farnsworth Library to have a children’s table; setting up the City storybook walk; inviting a rock vendor; requesting the ZOOMobile; requesting this Committee to offer food in the pavilion as their own fundraiser for Bird City; producing a poster; inviting and P.R.ing through the following organizations: Oconto Preserve; Master Gardeners (note newly planted pollination flowers added to City Park; DNR attendance and education; Oconto County Discovery Guide announcement; Audubon Society awareness/P.R.; StateWide Guide P.R. including the availability of Oconto campgrounds. She stated that this species, the Purple Martin, is the Lake MI Predatory native bird: houses are checked by sliding down their poles and counting their number monthly (Monitors also bring them down in bad weather.). Our new Bird City Coordinator is excited about the event. With State wide knowledge, the event outdoor Fest is expected to bring a minimum of 200 visitors. The Fest will be June 28th from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Questions of the Committee included the need for our bouncy house; costs; and the need for Purple Martin housing and parameters. VandenHuevel also informed the Committee of the availability for free Eagle platforms through WPS: our harbor Eagles would apply for this resting place as their nesting is in a dying tree. Finally, VandenHuevel requested \$500 for the 2025 event: this will be placed on actions in August. WI BIRD CITY is 2024 reestablished in the City of Oconto with paperwork provided by Director John Bostedt: it maintains habitat, threat reduction, education & engagement, and sustainability.
 - ii. Potential dog park (Sammy) The issue is Tabled for Boucher’s attendance.
 - iii. Co-ed softball adult league– The group is active though the money is not coming in.
 - iv. Copper Culture Museum – (2024 or 2025 project?) (wells around the dump abandoned/DNR) There has been no update as to when the project will take hold. Committee members reported driver vandalism to property. Director

Bostedt stated the museum has signed in 662 visitors so far. Questions included: restaurants; water activities and getting to the waterfront; other museums in the area.

- v. 2024 Adult volleyball league is on schedule and ½ completed.
 - vi. 2024 Pavilion Rentals – 80
 - vii. 2024 Movies in the Park (July 13th opening night) Anderson noted the endless rain and that the area has been treated twice now for mosquitos. Unfortunately the sign has been damaged in the area of sponsorship: invasion of property: how to handle the issue remains in discussion. Anderson also spoke of lily pad rental– \$ for Movies in the Park.
 - viii. Put together a packet & distributed to local businesses for sign advertising @ Holtwood Campground & Holtwood Sporting Complex. (campground – 5; sporting complex – 6)
- b. Ageson Pool property is temporarily on the lay-away plan, however Mayor Martin spoke here.
- c. Holtwood Campground
- i. 2024 Monthly Campsites – (14)(1 month or longer)
 - ii. Manager’s Monthly Report was handed out @ the meeting with a good budget comparison result. Also, City Park tent-ers were discussed with concern.
 - iii. 2025 Campground Reservations – (started May 24th)
 - iv. Guidelines for Winter Wonderland began with Megan Holz announcing that the event will need a new Coordinator: she offered to mentor the 1st year. She also stated that the Coordinator needs to begin ASAP: said events require volunteers and P.R. Holz noted that she has created a spreadsheet containing her present activity, ph. #s, move to move... which she will pass on to the Committee. She stated that presently Winter Wonderland does not need \$, but will, and fundraising should also begin ASAP. Boucher had procured a Grant in the past for funds. Stenstrup orchestrated knowledge with a question/answer and established a recommended time period. Holz was most knowledgeable. Among the to-do list was the semi (in poor condition) to and from the property (gift card); community help of tree setup from the basketball team (\$ donation); calling the tree farm (93 trees last year); one regular and one handicap porta potty; a July pre-meeting of volunteers. She also stated that she informed and gave alert to take down/completed decor and question/answer work via computer. It was suggested we establish a reward for not taking down lights or reward those who get them down. DATES: mid-July volunteer meeting; Aug. - Sept. ad: 36th Holtwood Winter Wonderland second Saturday in Nov. DECORATING BEGINS; Opening Fri. after Thanksgiving; March 31st completed de-decoration
 - v. 2024 Campground Employees– one student worker finished, hired one student worker
 - vi. 2024 State campground permit, 2024 food serving permit– We are up to date.
 - vii. 2024 BoGo–2024 dates established: Mid-Sept. (16th) - the end of Oct.
 - viii. July, August Sunday office hours: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. There is now a Facebook website announcing our rentals available to the public.
- d. City Park/City Park Campground
- i. 2024 Reservations – (3)
 - ii. 2024 State campground permit is up-to-date-

- iii. Beach area is on a groom every 2 weeks. The toy sign has disappeared: re-establish.
 - e. Holtwood Sporting Complex
 - i. Holtwood Fields Project continues on wait...
 - ii. Baseball/softball game schedules: Little League is finished; Softball is nearing completion; Co-ed remains on Sundays
- 8. Parks Update:
 - a. City Docks – Theresa LeMay – (Spies Road project) +
 - b. City Park & Campground – Diane Motiff announced that there are certain parks, including City, that have no handicap swings: perhaps the Bond Foundation will come to our rescue. Motiff provided examples.
 - c. Copper Culture – Lori Stenstrup +
 - d. Freedom Park – All +
 - e. Holtwood Park – Sue Anderson +
 - f. Sharp Park – Net usage was discussed as City Hall is not open on weekends. The key can be obtained during the week.
 - g. Bond Park – Diane Motiff +
- 9. Park Special Events:
 - a. Update Little Tourney June 14, 15, 16
 - b. Oconto Girls Softball Tourney June 21, 22, 23
 - c. River Rebel Tourney June 28, 29, 30
 - d. 2024 Waterfest July 3rd 4-11 p.m.
 - e. NWT Walleye Tourney June 20, 21: intent to schedule another 2026 big one
 - f. Escape Reality Walleye Tourney (50 boats) July 20th
 - g. AIM Walleye Series Tourney (92 boats) July 21
- 10. Next Meeting Date/Time: Wednesday, August 21 @ 6:00 p.m. Agenda Item: VandenHuevel's Bird City request of \$500 for the 2025 Wisconsin Purple Martin Fest
- 11. Stenstrup summoned adjournment @ 8 p.m. Motiff witnessed second. (M/C)

Minutes submitted by Susan K. Seidl