

MINUTES OF THE PARK & REC. COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, August 21ST, 2024 @ 6:00 P.M.
OCONTO CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Sue Anderson @ 6:04 p.m.
2. Roll Call: Sue Anderson, Theresa LeMay, Diane Motiff ALSO present: Mayor Cliff Martin; and Director of Parks, Rec., and Forestry John Bostedt; Bird City Mentor/Cordula VandenHeuvel; and Andy Stellmacher/Oconto Little League EXCUSED: Lori Stenstrup
3. **Motiff called motion for approval of Agenda; LeMay issued second. (3 Ayes)**
4. **Approval of Park & Rec. Meeting Minutes from July 25th, 2024 was motioned by LeMay with a Motiff second. (3 Ayes)**
5. Public Input:
 - a. Positive comments were made about the donated wall art of David Hipwell.
6. Correspondence:
 - a. Live Harbor Cam Views: July 13th – August 11th – 8,861 views
7. **Discussion/Recommendation/Action on the Following:**
 - a. **Parks & Recreation**
 - i. *Bird City* – new coordinator training, (Cordula June 28,2025 – Wisconsin Purple Martin Fest) We learned from VandenHeuvel that banners and signs for the event are good to go. Also, she has contacted “Creepy Crawlers” and an educational group to come. All has been kicked into gear. Mid-November, Director Bostedt and Randy (our new Bird City coordinator) will meet. This committee has vowed to be responsible for the event's available food. Harvest Fest will have flyers for the event. Cordula will see that the event is P.R.-ed in the 2025 Oconto County Discovery Guide, along with all P.R. mentioned @ the previous meeting.
 - ii. Director Bostedt shared the latest on our City Park Playground equipment: we have gained a small set (16x16) donated by the Middle School. Director Bostedt and Brad Potter (Schools) have worked in tandem on several issues for the community throughout the years. In order to have the playground placement covered by insurance, Bostedt is seeking a company to mount it. Motiff suggested we negotiate handicap equipment with the co. Anderson has added a piece of used equipment as well.
 - iii. **LeMay motioned a \$500.00 donation be made to the 2025 Wisconsin Purple Martin Fest @ City Park. Motiff followed with the second. (M/C)**
 - iv. *Potential dog park*– Sammy was not in attendance: project set aside.
 - v. *Co-ed softball adult league*– Bostedt announced that the regular season is finished with playoffs, including the Championship, this Sunday. The last 2 payments came in today. The money did not come in ahead, as it should.
 - vi. *Copper Culture Museum* – The 2024/2025 project became the discussion of a continued wait-and-see. We continue to **need more State money for our upkeep**. There has been no word on the wells to be abandoned. Bostedt reported our visitors who signed in the book # 1,141, including visits by 2 other countries. Our museum displays are seeking an update and incorporating display lighting: Carol, a guide, and Theresa Bake of the Oconto Historical Society are narrowing down Grants.
 - vii. Herein, Holtwood Park Sporting Complex was addressed by Andy Stellmacher/Oconto Little League coach, and Director Bostedt. Stellmacher stated that he and his group will attend to the bases and are getting the grass line set. He wants to see the renewal of the fields. Events held @ the Complex are good for the economy. He too is seeking help with a Grant. Doing the leg work, he is making sure that there is no grass damage

@ the complex. For the field renewal he sought a local establishment and low bid. **Motiff approved the quote presented by Andy Stellmacher/Oconto Little League from Duame Sand and Gravel, Inc. to be paid through Grant funding for the work of refurbishing the Holtwood Complex infield. LeMay countered with a second. (M/C)**

- viii. *2024 Adult volleyball league* is down to the playoffs tomorrow night.
- ix. *2024 Pavilion Rentals* - 80 for the year to present.
- x. *2024 Movies in the Park* still have conflicts with rain and game night. It was thought that in the future the movie list could be included in the Holtwood Camping packet. Also necessary is for those using the Complex to set up a standard schedule.
- xi. Put together a *packet & distributed to local businesses for sign advertising @ Holtwood Campground & Holtwood Sporting Complex.* (campground – 5, sporting complex – 6)
- xii. *Parks working foreman position*– Four candidates from the nine who applied are in the background check phase. Sadly, we also still need a Harbor Master.
- b. **Ageson Pool property** remains on hold anticipating a new purpose, meantime our storage is there. Motiff led a discussion of pallets and sealing them; and Anderson has tiles for a hopscotch.
- c. **Holtwood Campground**
 - i. *2024 Monthly Campsites* – (17) (1 month or longer)
 - ii. *Manager's Monthly Report* was handed out @ the meeting. Director Bostedt reported that the laundromat repairman finally came that will require payment (\$300+): but now people are using that facility. The Committee found no concerns with the Budget Comparison to date.
 - iii. *2025 Campground Reservations* started May 24th: as of Monday, we have 331 reservations for next year. Little League weekend is sold out with a waiting list of 5. Herein discussion concentrated on the **Green Bay Draft**. If we want to open sites it needs to be done by April 21st. How about our other parks? Bostedt and the parties involved discussed the issue as well and thought a pre-sign-up is necessary. Thereafter, a sign indicating “all sites are full” needs to be placed. Price was suggested: \$100, however Bostedt will contact other areas to balance with their price. In the meantime, we need the Council OK and then P.R.
 - iv. *Guidelines for Winter Wonderland*– There may be a new leader.
 - v. *2024 BOGO*– Signup is on, 11 so far....
 - vi. *July and August Sunday office hours* have been set.
 - vii. **Music at the Park (Holtwood on the 10th)** was reported by Bostedt as a gathering of the campers with no formality. It was enjoyed and possibly will happen again in August next year. Anderson added decor to the ladies' showers.
 - viii. **2024 Airport Fly-In**– A flier was distributed. Pat Trepanier remains @ the helm for 2 years. Park and Rec. provide bleachers, picnic tables, golf carts with the co. cost.
- d. **City Park/City Park Campground**
 - i. *2024 Reservations* – (5)
 - ii. *Beach area* had no further discussion.
 - iii. *Playground equipment* was discussed in 7. a.
- e. **Holtwood Sporting Complex:**
 - i. Holtwood Fields Project – (see packet)

8. Parks Update: All were seen as +

- a. **City Docks** – Theresa LeMay – (Spies Road project)
- b. **City Park & Campground** – Diane Motiff Director Bostedt reported that a split tree @ the park has been addressed.
- c. **Copper Culture** – Lori Stenstrup
- d. **Freedom Park** – All Bostedt reported the sealing of red brick, including the teepee. The deterioration and condition (slippery/add sand) of the downtown bricks was discussed. Anderson reported a 2025 and 2026 donation of Christmas Pine trees.
- e. **Holtwood Park** – Sue Anderson Lower branches were addressed.
- f. **Sharp Park** - Director Bostedt reported that 8 dangerous/dead trees have been cut down, etc., and 2 hanging branches as well. Presently he and Wusterbarth are marking dead/dying trees accordingly. Re-barking has also been compacted. Anderson suggested we ask the Fire/Police Dept. if they would handle the Pickle ball key on weekends. The Committee also suggested that it is time to change the lock. Finally, Anderson suggested we purchase a message board @ Sharp Park. Bostedt will put it on the Parks wish-list. She also suggested we pressure-wash and touch-up **all** the park's children's equipment @ the beginning of summer.
- g. **Bond Park** – Diane Motiff

9. **Park Special Events: Update**

- a. *Fallen Outdoors – Green Bay Carnage – Veteran Edition* - Saturday, August 17th
- b. *19th Annual Sheboygan Walleye “Battle on the Bay”*- Sunday, August 18th
- c. *Oconto Sportsman’s Club Youth Day* - Saturday, August 24th 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- d. *Oconto Police Department K-9 Fundraiser* 11 a.m.-? @ Copperfest Park – Saturday, August 24th
- e. *Oconto Veterans Memorial Pig Roast* – Saturday, August 24th @ The Patriot 12 p.m. – 6 p.m.
- f. *The Cemetery Walk* – September 9, 10,11 @ Oconto Catholic Cemetery 6:00 p.m.
- g. *2024 Airport Fly-In* – Saturday, September 21st 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- h. *2024 Oconto Chamber Harvest Fest* – Saturday, September 28th 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. on Main St.

10. **Next Meeting Date/Time:** Wednesday, September 18 @ 6 p.m.

11. **Motiff summoned adjournment @ 8:51 p.m. LeMay witnessed the second. (M/C)**

Minutes submitted by Susan K. Seidl