

MINUTES OF THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, November 6th, 2024 @ 6:00 P.M. in the City Hall Council Chambers

1. Chairman Sue Anderson called the November 6th Park and Rec. meeting to order.
2. Roll Call: Sue Anderson, Theresa LeMay, Diane Motiff, Kim Reifsteck, Lori Stenstrup; ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Cliff Martin, Jeremy Wusterbarth/Superintendent of Public Works, and Jack Karban/Tourism Kiosk
3. **Motiff called for approval of the Agenda; Reifsteck followed with a second. (5 Ayes)**
4. **Approval of Park & Rec Meeting Minutes from September 18, 2024 was moved by Motiff and then Stenstrup. (5 Ayes)**
5. **Public Input:** Superintendent Jeremy Wusterbarth covered most Park Issues herein. New Working Foreman, Jed Nowak, is in his 3rd week. **Breakwater Docks:** Our Harbor Masters are seasonally finished. Docks are pulled: some fishermen and duck hunters remain in the area, but the fish cleaning station has been taken down. There will be an *Ocean Survey in our Federal Waters* throughout 2024-25. John, Sr. and Gavin are shutting down and winterizing **Copper Culture**. The DNR has made their City review and approved of our status. **City Park** has been winterized. Two trees fell with one yet needed to come down. Eight trees therein have been planted by Forestry. All buoys have been removed from the water. **Sharp Park** has 16 trees marked as liability: each marked are in the process of being felled: 6 removed and cleaned up as of date. Unfortunately, vandalism has been evident in the park bathroom once again, so it has been closed. There will be a *future events sign* posted in the park: concrete will have to be poured in the spring. **Bond Park** remains in good status. **Holtwood Campground** is shut down. All past Christmas lights, which have destroyed tree canopy and branches, have been taken down on the exterior of the park to date: these taller trees that had Christmas lights that remained are now in jeopardy. The center of the campground holds 20-25 Ash that must come down: Forestry will eventually replant a variety of trees in the area. The Christmas decor trailer is on site @ the Campground. (Stenstrup will present the Guidelines that have been established to the Committee tonight.) *****The Holtwood Sporting Complex** is in the process of refurbishing and grading its 4 upper diamonds. This has been funded by a Bond Foundation Grant. Refurbishing and grading is a safety necessity and absolute for use and drainage. Completion should be within the next couple of weeks. *****Winter Wonderland** will have a redirected route (note map handout) coming in straight, looping, and turning south @ the boat launch for an exit on Holtwood way: Decor will be on the river side giving new atmosphere and saving on the damaged area which the City is felling in the center of the property. Anderson inserted some clever changes that could be incorporated: a movie playing at its site, and lighted decor playing games on the fields. *****The 2025 Packer Draft** has local opportunity for camper sub-letting: Mayor Martin is having Adm. Burruel check if our insurance would cover damage. *****Superintendent Wusterbarth** was most complimentary of the entire City of Oconto Crew who continue making our facilities the best they can be. *** **It was determined that we need Grant funding** to reconstruct the playground equipment @ City Park. The Mayor will contact Tabby. Anderson looked into Fund 80 which appears to be an option only for schools.
6. Correspondence: Live Harbor Cam Views: September 29 – October 28, 2024: 4,287 Views
7. **Discussion/Recommendation/Action on the Following:**
 - I. **Parks & Recreation**

- a. a . *Potential Informational Kiosk @ Bond Park* (item request from Tourism Committee) Karban has been working with O.H.S. Woods Building Instructor Porath to establish all phases of the construction. Recently solar-powered battery backup was determined. The project by our own community school will mean considerable savings. Upkeep perhaps should be the Tourism Commission OR more appropriately the Chamber who will have most of the materials within: yet to be determined. He stated that the Tourism Commission theoretically should have more than enough money to cover costs. Next move: Council approval, and then the City Building Permit. The Tourism Committee would like the school to get the materials and our bill ASAP. Concrete will be poured in the spring. **Anderson motioned to proceed with the kiosk and submit it to Council. Reifsteck motioned second. (M/C)**
 - *Reifsteck has reached out to youth organizations with the UW-Extension for voluntary support in sustaining the City of Oconto natural beauty... around the kiosk, and in other city areas.
- b. *Copper Culture Museum – (2024 or 2025 project?)* looks to be awaiting the latter. (*monitoring wells abandoned were DNR inspected and found to be in “best of the State” on review*) appears to be on a 2-year closure; (*museum displays*) remain in search of Grant funding.
- c. *Parks Working Foreman Position*– Novak has been determined as an ideal match to the position: he is very respectful and has lots of skills that he utilizes on the job.

II. Holtwood Campground

- a. *Guidelines for Winter Wonderland – (New Coordinator)* The determined 2024 route (map) has been included herein. All decor will be on the river side this year. Stenstrup with Adm. Burruel laid out the Winter Wonderland Guidelines (note handout). Guidelines include setup (maintaining 5’ off the roadway) and take down/cleanup deadlines. Weather-related issues were addressed as well as a pre-joint July meeting with the Park and Rec. Committee and the Winter Wonderland Committee. The City will determine and sign the flow of traffic with the City and Holtwood Park responsible for the electricity. Directives toward takedown, storage, and decor removal were noted.
- b. *2024 Winter Wonderland Route*– See a.
- c. *Update on tree trimming & removal*– See a.

III. Holtwood Sporting Complex: Holtwood Fields Project– **See Public Input: ***The Holtwood Sporting Complex**

8. Parks Update: **See PUBLIC INPUT**

- a. City Docks – Theresa LeMay – (Spies Road Project) Complete in spring.
- b. City Park & Campground – Diane Motiff
- c. Copper Culture – Lori Stenstrup
- d. Freedom Park – All
- e. Holtwood Park – Sue Anderson
- f. Sharp Park –
- g. Bond Park – Diane Motiff

9. Next Meeting Date/Time: **Wednesday, December 11 @ 5 p.m.**

Agenda Items: 2025 Proposed Budget; Manager’s Report/Mayor; Bird City Purple Martin Fest/VandenHeuvel/Park and Rec. food; Draft Holtwood Campground #s

10. **Motiff summoned adjournment @ 7 p.m. Reifsteck witnessed the second. (M/C)**

Minutes submitted by Susan K. Seidl