

City of Baraboo  
Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting  
Oct 12, 2022 – DRAFT Minutes

Present: H. Kierzek, R. Franzen, A. Witczak, R. Sanchez, A. Workman, S. Mordini & Mike Hardy  
Absent: C. Schlender

Others present: Amber Giddings, (Friends of Baraboo Zoo) and Don Wolterstorff (Freedom in Christ Assembly Church)

Franzen called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Legal posting of the agenda has been met. Witczak motioned and Mordini seconded approval of the Sept. 12, 2022, minutes. Motion carried. Workman motioned to edit the agenda by changing the date of the Splashpad park fundraiser to June 3, 2023, seconded by Kierzek. Motion to approve the agenda as amended carried.

Action Items

a. Discuss and consider lease for Freedom in Christ Assembly Church for use of the Civic Center gym and room 11 on Sundays from 8am-1pm for \$1,000 per month beginning November 6, 2022. Hardy reported that Freedom in Christ Assembly has requested the use of the Civic Center gym and room 11 for church services and Sunday school over the next 12 months while they are waiting for their permanent location to finish construction. This would require a staff member to be present, and our cost would be \$125 per day for staffing (\$25/hr x 5 hours) or \$500 per month. They are requesting a rent of \$1,000 per month for up to 12 months. Franzen asked what happens if Christmas is not on a Sunday; representative Don Wolterstorff said they are prepared for that and will not ask the City for any staff on the holiday. Hardy said 60 days written notice to change the lease is standard procedure. Franzen motioned that FICA be given a lease agreement for use of the Civic Center gym and room 11 on Sundays from 8am-1pm for \$1,000 per month beginning November 6, 2022, seconded by Witczak. Motion carried.

b. Discuss and consider request from Friends of Baraboo Parks to reserve the Campbell Park swimming pool for a fundraiser for the Splashpad June 3, 2023 from 11am-3pm. Witczak presented a request from the Friends of Baraboo Parks to reserve the swimming pool on June 3, 2023 from 11am-3pm for a fundraiser party for the splashpad project. The pool would open for the season the following weekend (after school lets out). The City would provide 4 lifeguards for the event. Mordini asked the date of graduation; Witczak thought it was the weekend before (in May). Mordini inquired about a rain date, since this past summer's fundraiser had weather issues, and suggested Sunday, June 4, as a rain date. Witczak said the following Sunday is the regularly scheduled opening of the pool, so no rain date will work. Mordini motioned that Friends of Baraboo Parks be allowed to reserve the Campbell Park swimming pool for a fundraiser for the Splashpad on June 3, 2023, from 11am-3pm, seconded by Franzen. Motion carried.

c. Discuss and consider installation locations for the Challenge Playground equipment donated by Friends of Baraboo Parks. The Challenge Playground, a fitness course playground designed for teens and adults, was planned, approved and set to be installed at upper Ochsner Park this summer. However, when getting utility locates prior to installation, staff found out that utility lines were buried underneath where the playground had been planned for, which required the playground to be pushed south. This would affect 2 (possibly 3) mature oak trees which would have to be removed. Because staff are not comfortable removing so many mature trees in this area, the recommendation is to site the Challenge Playground elsewhere. There are 3 alternative sites – Langer Park, Lower Ochsner Park along the

Riverwalk, and Mary Hoppe Felts Park. Langer was quickly eliminated as donors want the equipment closer to Middle/High School. Lower Ochsner is nice being close to school, restrooms and along the Riverwalk, but being a little hidden created worries of vandalism and the lack of lighting. Hoppe has better visibility/less chance of vandalism and close proximity to Middle School, but off the “beaten path” of the Riverwalk. Witczak said the Friends group had a long conversation about the siting and understand the concern with tree removal. Mordini and Workman voiced support for Lower Oschner; Franzen voiced support for proximity to the Splashpad. Workman motioned that Challenge Playground equipment be installed at Lower Oschner park, seconded by Mordini. Motion carried.

d. Discuss and consider installing temporary art pieces along Riverwalk near the Ho-Chunk kiosk/bench area on Water Street at the Circus World parking lot

Hardy reported that Judy Spring requested installing 3 temporary art pieces from Ho-Chunk Nation artist Chris Sweet near the Ho-Chunk bench & kiosk located on the Riverwalk on Water Street at the Circus World parking lot. These would be 3 large wooden figures representing Indigenous People and agriculture. Staff recommends placing along the Riverwalk between the kiosk and bridge (along the parking lot) and not on Water Street due to visibility and traffic safety, however this is land owned by the state Historical Society and would require permission for an easement on the path connection between Water Street and our new bridge. Witczak motioned that 3 temporary art pieces be displayed along the Riverwalk and Circus World parking lot, seconded by Sanchez. Motion carried.

#### Informational Items

a. Staff Report submitted by Hardy.

Revenues were \$13,692.91 for the month of Sept 2022

1) Upcoming projects & programs

Hardy reported a tree falling on the shed across from the County Historical Society building in Attridge Park. It was the 2<sup>nd</sup> one this year and the shed will need to be replaced, however could be in a new location so that the land could be better utilized in the future. Also, a phase 1 Archeological study is required in Attridge Park as part of the Splashpad grant. The grant would pay for the study.

Ornamental trees are being planted in Myron Park to give the South Boulevard corridor a more attractive entrance into the City. The City is making future meeting packets available online (no more paper copies). Starting in early 2023, packets will continue to be e-mailed as they are now, but will not be printed out. Members can print out copies at home if they want, and iPads will be made available in the future at meetings. Hardy will continue to show meeting agendas and documents on the big screen in the meeting room as well. The move will help cut costs as well as reduce paper use.

b. Subcommittee reports

1) Bicycle Advisory Committee (Workman)

Workman reported that a large volunteer work day is planned for Sat, Oct. 29, from 9 am - noon at Chief Naaga Keramani park. A smaller group of trail leaders is meeting at the site on Sat, Oct. 22, to mark off areas for work groups the following Saturday.

2) Friends of the Baraboo Zoo (Amber Giddings)

Hardy reported that FOBZ and an artist are installing paintings of zoo animals on either side of the gate this weekend, donated by FOBZ (value \$1,000).

**Next scheduled meeting:** October 10, 2022, 5:30 pm

Witczak motioned and Workman seconded adjourning the meeting at 6:05 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Workman, Secretary