

City of Baraboo
Parks & Recreation Commission
October 9, 2017 – Minutes

Present: Roy Franzen, Mary Mjelde, Angela McMurray, James Francisco, Craig Schlender, Dan Lewison & Mike Hardy

Also Present: City Attorney Truman, Ben Bromley (Baraboo News-Republic) and J.P. Roney (M-P garage lease)

Franzen called the meeting to order. Legal Posting of the Agenda had been met. The Agenda was approved as printed.

McMurray motioned and Francisco seconded approval of the September 18, 2017 minutes. Motion carried.

Old Business: Hardy reviewed status of the Maxwell-Potter garage. He noted that while the Parks Commission approved up to \$1,500 for a building appraisal, City Engineer was not able to find an appraiser who was approved by the DNR for less than \$3,500. Members reviewed draft sketches by Roney. Roney stated that if \$2,000 is the only holdup, he would donate the money to get the appraisal to see if this project can move forward. Lewison questioned where Roney's business plan was and suggested that he provide more formal drawings along with a business plan before the City spends money on this. Roney argued that he does not want to spend money or time unless the City is serious about the project. McMurray stated that the Commission previously voted to commit \$1,500 for the appraisal and sees that as a fair measure of commitment from the City, with expectation that Roney would contribute so both parties share the burden. McMurray moved to accept a \$2,000 donation from Roney and add \$1,500 from City Park Segregated Fund to get an appraisal, 2nd by Mjelde. Motion carried.

New Business: Hardy explained that the otter building footprint will be built over the existing zoo driveway, so the drive needs to be relocated. Options were to move it west or north of the zoo. Lewison approved moving the zoo drive to the northside of the zoo when otter building is finished. 2nd by Francisco. Motion carried.

Hardy explained the need for updated electric at the zoo, which was discovered during excavation for the otter building. As the amount exceeds available budget, Park Segregated funds would be needed. Zoo donations previously received would cover the amount not available in the budget (\$9,517). The upgrade will eliminate current risk of shock as well as supply future needs. The 100 amp current service is unsafe and unable to service any new additions, including the otter building. Proposal replaces it with 400 amp and makes safety corrections. Lewison moved to approve \$9,517 from the Park Segregated Fund to pay for the \$19,034 cost of electrical upgrades at the zoo. Seconded by Francisco. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on installing a room partition between room 12/14 which would allow the room to be reserved by 2 groups at once, as currently over 90% of the rentals use only one side. Hardy received 3 bids for the work with low bid of just under \$6,000, which is available in the budget. Members questioned the need as well as the payback, which Hardy estimated at 6-7 years. No action was taken at this time.

Communications and Reports

September revenues were \$15,337.40.

Hardy reported that City View basketball court was paved and hoops would go up soon. Also, with the school kitchen leaving next summer, he has approached a couple theater groups about their interest to use the space as a small "practice" theater. Groups seem interested and it may become a good revenue stream to replace the lost rent. Hardy also reported that a complaint was received regarding dogs in the dog park after hours by a park neighbor. The person had stated they had complained to the police several times, but was told there was nothing they could do. Hardy told the resident that the park is posted Dawn to Dusk, and police have the authority to kick out anyone in the park after hours. Hardy also contacted the police chief to ask that he remind officers of park hours. Also reported was that the Wine with the Wolves event is on October 12 and Zoo Appreciation Weekend on October 21 & 22. Hardy updated the Commission on the sale of the City Forest, which is being negotiated with West Baraboo. If Council approves, approximately \$133,000 could be available for the Riverwalk bridge and surrounding area.

Next Regular Meeting: November 13, 2017

McMurray motioned to adjourn, Mjelde seconded. Motion carried

Respectfully Submitted,
Mike Hardy, Parks, Recreation & Forestry Director