

City of Baraboo
Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Committee
February 1, 2021 – Minutes

Present: James Francisco, Chantel Steinhorst, Kimberly Bruggeman, Jimmy Kimball, Todd Pershe, John Statz, Carla Cross, Lili McDonald & Mike Hardy

Francisco called the meeting to order at 6:01pm. Legal posting of the agenda had been met.

Francisco introduced himself, thanked members for agreeing to help recommend a new 5-year plan for future parks and recreation facilities and programs, and discussed goals of the group to forward a recommended 2022-2026 CORP to the Parks Commission in August after soliciting public input and reviewing budgets and community needs.

Pershe motioned to approve the agenda with the addition of the election of a Vice-Chair added under New Business. Seconded by Steinhorst. Motion carried.

Presentations:

Hardy gave a presentation reviewing the 2017-2021 CORP and the process used to develop that plan. Attention was given to a community survey, and methods to better get the word out to the community. A big part of the Committee's role will be to discuss ways we can better reach our residents to get more participation.

Action Items:

Francisco asked members for their comments on what they feel the City should consider as priority projects in parks and recreation planning. He stated that the swimming pool will be at or near the top of the list as the facility is over 80 years old and needs attention. He also noted that we need to stay on top of ADA compliance and ensure accessibility at our facilities. Cross stated that the Splashpad project is at the top of her list. Pershe noted that holding more events in each park, drawing residents to the different parks should be considered. He also suggested additional communication methods to better promote parks. Steinhorst would like to see playground equipment at Deppe Park and more ADA accessible features in existing playgrounds. Statz suggested placing more signage and kiosks in parks so that users know where the parks are at and how to get to each, as well as the features that are in each park. Bruggeman suggested installing lights along the Arboretum path as it is very dark and removed from more populated areas in town. Kimball stated that the skatepark is over 20 years old and needs attention. McDonald would like to see consideration for another dog park area as the current dog park is often crowded.

Members reviewed a list of questions that were included in the last CORP community survey (2016). Notices to residents to complete the online survey will be included in the spring City newsletter, sent to residents in March, as well as on Facebook and announced through schools to parents. Community survey will be active mid-March through the end of April. Pershe asked about giving away prizes to encourage participation in the survey. Hardy stated that a free Family membership to the swimming pool was given away at the last survey and if a similar drawing is desired for this survey, it just needs approval from the Parks Commission. Items to consider at future meeting were given as swimming pool passes, dog park passes or credit to enroll in recreation programs or classes. Hardy will put together a list of questions between 20-25 long for the survey, include questions on the swimming pool, and bring to next meeting for consideration.

Members reviewed the list of stakeholders who regularly use City park facilities and discussed the preference to have them submit requests through e-mail rather than in person to save time as well as to avoid having too many people in the room unable to properly distance with COVID concerns. Steinhorst moved to have Hardy collect responses from stakeholders and bring to next meeting for discussion. Seconded by Bruggeman. Motion carried.

Pershe moved to elect Steinhorst as Vice Chair. Seconded by Francisco. Motion carried

Steinhorst moved to adjourn at 7:53pm, seconded by Francisco. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: March 1 at 6:00pm.

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