

City of Baraboo
Parks & Recreation Commission
February 8th, 2021 – Minutes

Present: Roy Franzen, Angela Witczak, Shelley Mordini, Amy Workman, Kathleen Thurow (via phone), Craig Schlender and Mike Hardy. Also present: Robert Kappel and James Heyn (Baraboo Soccer Club), Jimmy Kimball (Baraboo Skatepark) and 2 members of the public.

Franzen called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Legal posting of the Agenda had been met. Witczak motioned and Schlender seconded approval of the January 11, 2021 minutes. Motion carried.

Witczak moved to approve the agenda as printed, seconded by Thurow. Motion carried.

Franzen introduced new Commission member Amy Workman who was appointed for the remainder of Chantel Steinhorst's term (July 2023)

Action Items:

- a. Robert Kappel presented a request from the Baraboo Soccer Club to install temporary field signage at the Steinhorst soccer fields. The signs would be approximately 11" x 17" in size with two signs per field and allow teams to better understand which field is which by numbering them. Besides the large numbers, Kappel requested that a small logo from Mueller Sports Medicine be added to the signs as they donated first aid supplies to the club. The signs would be attached to the soccer goal nets and removed at the end of the season. Additionally they would like to have temporary banners and/or temporary yard signs with Mueller Sports Medicine logo which would be put up during soccer club games, but removed after each game. Kappel stated that the temporary banners/signs were more important to allow during their games than the logos on the field number signs on goals. James Heyn added that the Soccer Club is working to raise funds for an AED that will be donated to the City and kept at Steinhorst Park. Franzen stated that he is not opposed to temporary signs or banners with logos that are removed after each game, however he doesn't like the idea of logos on the field number signs that would stay up throughout the season and noted that our policy discourages advertising and the use of business-producing logos in City parks, with the exception of large donations that directly benefit the park and entire community, like the scoreboards at Mary Rountree or Pierce Park fields. Schlender asked about City Ordinance that he felt would restrict this signage request. Hardy responded that temporary signs like the banners used to promote their events if removed after the event are allowed with Park Commission permit and that the Park Commission enacted their own policy which dealt more with sponsorships, advertising and specifically scoreboard donations, and the soccer goal logo would be a similar situation as scoreboard panels, so based on the nature of the request it would require a Park Commission permission, assuming that it is for temporary signage as stated by the group. Mordini requested to see a copy of the sponsorship policy as she is a newer member and has not been involved in sponsorship requests. Hardy will provide the policy at the next meeting so new members can familiarize themselves with future requests. Franzen moved to allow temporary signs and banners in the park with the Mueller Sports Medicine logo only during Baraboo Soccer Club games, provided they are removed after each game. Seconded by Witczak. Motion carried.
- b. Jimmy Kimball presented a conceptual plan designed by Spohn Ranch with skatepark user input. He noted that they would like to use the conceptual sketch in fundraising, and noted that the design may change based on amount of money received or if the location changes. Since the park needs to be completely replaced as existing concrete is older, they may look at other locations which may alter the size or layout. The current plan was designed to sit on the footprint of the existing skatepark. Workman moved to accept the conceptual design for future skatepark renovations. Seconded by Witczak. Motion carried.
- c. Hardy noted that \$25,000 was budgeted for a new playground at Weber Park, and several companies are currently running sales. If a playground can be purchased and installed within budgeted, it can be ready for use by summer. If we wait until fall to purchase, we can have staff install but will not be ready until winter or next spring. A presentation of 9 sample playgrounds from 4 different vendors was provided. Members

suggested their preferences, with option 2 from Burke receiving the most votes. Members liked the idea of providing 2 structures, 1 for ages 2-5 and 1 for ages 5-12 like option 2 had. Workman suggested that area homeowners be allowed to provide input on the design. Hardy will provide a couple options to get feedback from neighbors of the park and place the item on the next Commission meeting for final vote.

- d. Members agreed that both the Birthday Party and Behind the Scenes Tours at the Zoo were a great idea, however there was some confusion in the naming levels and the interaction each level would get. Schlender moved to allow for staff to offer Behind the Scenes Tours and Birthday Parties at the Zoo as presented this summer with the exception that both the Otter and Bear Level names be changed to reflect what animals they would interact with. Seconded by Thurow. Motion carried.
- e. Hardy presented an update of where staff discussions were in regards to Great Sauk State Trail planning efforts. He noted that several meetings have been held with Devil's Lake State Park, DNR Trails staff, DOT Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator, City staff and the mayor. The 3 options discussed were shown with the challenges discussed of each, which included using a parking lane along Water Street on option 1 which eliminates some parking and moves the drop off area in front of Circus World 300 feet east; Option 2 which is significantly more expensive and requires land or easement acquisition to get to the old depot and a future new bridge/river crossing at the end of Vine Street to the Riverwalk at Kiwanis Park; and Option 4 which comes up the Walnut Street path to Pierce Park and over to South Boulevard, which requires unknown land easement/acquisition west of Pierce, use of South Boulevard which is wide enough but a question on safety with mixing of vehicular traffic, and misses many of our parks and downtown area which is not as attractive to visitors. Franzen likes option 1, using the north lane of Water Street. While it loses some on street parking in the area, it is the lowest cost, keeps the Circus World drop off location, and allows for the most exposure to City greenspaces and parks as well as the river. Mordini likes option 2 if we can find space, avoiding Water Street and Circus World. Witczak likes both option 1 and 2 and feels we should keep the trail as close to downtown as we can, and the option 4 doesn't do that. Mayoral candidate Rob Nelson noted that the City should consider a decision that is geared more toward resident use as opposed to tourists. Hardy noted that the Commission should note take action yet as not enough info has been made available, but comments are appreciated so that staff can understand what the City's priorities are as route options are presented. Ideally the Commission will be able to recommend a route to Council this year as we need to make some decisions both for our CORP as well as for planning with the County and State and Township in setting a plan.
- f. Witczak presented a request she received to place a "Free Sled Shed" at Steinhorst Park to allow for sleds to be left at the park for free use similar to the "Little Free Library" concept. Thurow asked what happens if someone gets hurt using a free sled, is the City liable. Hardy stated that at a minimum we could place a "Sled at your own risk" sign up, but can check with insurance carrier to see if other concerns. Roy moved to approve the placement of a Free Sled Shed at Steinhorst Park if the insurance company deems the City isn't held liable for injuries the sleds may cause and if Hardy approves of building materials used to ensure quality building materials. Seconded by Witczak. Motion carried.

Informational items: Hardy gave a summary on Winterfest, which despite COVID restrictions and cuts and freezing rain during the start of the candlelight Walk, was very successful other than the virtual run. He also noted that Allison Warming had been hired as the 2021 Pool Manager.

January revenues were \$18,602.09

Next Scheduled Meeting: March 8, 2021 at 5:30 pm

Witczak motioned and Franzen seconded to adjourn at 7:35 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Hardy, Parks, Recreation & Forestry Director