

City of Baraboo  
Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting  
April 11, 2022 – Minutes

Present: R. Franzen, C. Schlender, S. Mordini, A. Workman, H. Kierzek

Others present: Kristin White Eagle

Franzen called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Legal posting of the agenda has been met. Mordini motioned and Schlender seconded approval of the March 14, 2022, meeting minutes. Motion carried. Workman moved to approve the agenda, Mordini seconded. Motion carried.

Action Items

a. Conduct elections for 2022 Parks Commission leadership positions:

- 1) Commission President: Roy Franzen
- 2) Commission Vice-President: Jim Francisco
- 3) Commission Secretary: Amy Workman
- 4) City Plan Commission representative: Roy Franzen

Franzen motioned and Schlender seconded voting for current officers to retain their positions. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Discuss and consider naming new park and conservancy in the former Jackson property:  
Kristin White Eagle, District 2 Representative of the Ho Chunk Nation Legislature, thanked the Commission for the opportunity to speak on the topic of naming the former Jackson Farm property development. White Eagle gave an overview of the oral history of the Ho Chunk Nation's connection to the mound builders and the prevalent, highly concentrated occurrence of mounds in the Baraboo area. She spoke of the continuing partnership effort, called "One Sauk Naturally," between the Sauk County Historical Society and the Ho Chunk Nation, to educate the public about the historical locations of the mounds (many of which have been destroyed). As a member of the BOD of the SCHS, she has worked with Paul Wolter to tell an accurate history of the area, including the Council House and Village that existed near the Circus World Museum parking lot. The Council House was presided over by Chief Keramani (pronounced "care-ah-mahn-ee"), also called Naga Keramani, or "Walking Turtle."

Franzen expressed support for the idea of utilizing "Keramani" to name the former Jackson Farm property, as did Schlender. Mordini expressed support for the name and for an interpretive sign explaining the connection. Workman asked for correct spelling on the name, and Franzen asked how White Eagle would like it to be named. White Eagle said she would need to go back to the legislature and ask for their input and decision.

Franzen moved to name the park "Chief Keramani Park" and recommend it to City Council, provided the Ho Chunk Nation legislators approve, seconded by Schlender. Motion carried. Hardy said that park names must be posted publicly for 30 days and be open to a comment period. Kierzek asked if it would be helpful if someone from this Commission attended the H0-Chunk meeting; White Eagle said that due to the internal and historical structure of elder meetings, it would not be necessary.

c. Discuss and consider Summer 2022 Zoo hours:

Hardy reported that zoo staff said opening at 9:30 am and closing at 6:30 pm was workable. Kierzek motioned and Franzen seconded approving zoo hours as presented by staff. Motion carried.

d. Discuss and consider recommending the submittal of a 2022 DNR grant application for the Attridge Park Splashpad project:

Hardy reported that Parkitecture is writing the 2022 DNR grant application for a fee of \$2,000, paid for by Friends of Baraboo Parks. The grant would include restrooms and a picnic shelter for Attridge park in the amount of \$615,000. Mordini motioned to submit the grant application for the 2022 DNR grant for the Attridge Park Splashpad project, seconded by Schlender. Motion carried.

e. Discuss and consider recommending the submittal of a 2022 DNR grant application for the Riverfront Park project (phase 1):

The Riverfront Park project is in the CORP plan, located between City Hall and Ash/Walnut St. Phase I of the park plan includes just acquiring the land needed at a cost of ~\$650,000, pending land appraisal, using TIF money to match. Franzen motioned recommending to Council to submit the 2022 DNR grant application for the Riverfront Park project, seconded by Workman. Motion carried.

### Informational Items

a. Staff Report submitted by Hardy.

Revenues were \$18,593.89 for the month of March 2022

1) Upcoming projects & programs:

Hardy reported the summer brochure was sent out, and said May is typically park tour month, if the Commission wants a park tour. Franzen suggested visiting the Dog park, Riverfront Park and Ritzenthaler Park for playground upgrades; Commission members agreed.

2) Dog Park concerns:

Hardy reported receiving complaints about water in the dog park and losing weeks of use because of water near the entrance. Considerations include adding another dog park at an alternate site, moving entrance to avoid the low spot, or adding mulch in low/wet grassy areas. Hardy expressed doubt in adding a second dog park in the current budget climate.

3) 2023 Budget preparations

Hardy sent recommendations to the City Administrator; not many changes from last meeting. Zoo might move to vending machines in lieu of paying for more staff. Discussion points include bumping up rent for B&G Club and Senior Center. The Commission will return to this issue in September.

b. Subcommittee reports

1) Friends of Baraboo Parks and Zoo (Witczak):

Hardy reported on behalf of the Witczak, Ochsner Challenge Park is \$300 short of the final goal, but there is a volunteer group ready to install.

2) Bicycle Advisory Committee (Workman):

On March 26, a small group of the subcommittee marked about a half-mile of trail. The trail enters at the western corner of the cell tower with switchbacks added down by the dry creek. Another small group cut trail and marked eastern boundaries on April 1. The next work day is scheduled for April 23 at 9 am.

The regular Bike Advisory Committee is planning an event for Bike to School/Work Day in May, which will involve incentives from local businesses, a bike repair tent from Wildside Action Sports, and an elementary school. Planning is still in process.

**Next scheduled meeting:** May 9, 2022, at 5:30 pm

Kierzek motioned and Workman seconded adjourning the meeting at 6:31 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Workman, Secretary, Parks & Recreation Committee