

City of Baraboo
Parks & Recreation Commission Special Meeting
April 5, 2021 – Minutes

Present: Roy Franzen, Angela Witzcak, Shelley Mordini (via phone), Amy Workman, Kathleen Thurow, Craig Schlender, Jim Francisco and Mike Hardy. Also present: James Astle, Karla Uptagraw, Rob Nelson, and Kevin Kellogg (MAXFM)

Franzen called the meeting to order at 7:35pm. Legal posting of the Agenda had been met. Witzcak motioned and Schlender seconded approval of the March 8 minutes. Motion carried. Witzcak moved to approve the agenda as printed, seconded by Francisco. Motion carried.

Action Items:

a. Emergency repairs to Campbell Park Swimming Pool: average daily attendance is ~250 visitors/day. Pool is open 11 weeks, generating \$60,000 pool revenue of the ~\$120,000 needed to operate; the rest is taxpayer funded. Pool passes generate \$40,000 in revenue (Village Square pays ~\$13,000 for their residents). The remaining \$20,000 is lesson and water aerobics revenues. Riptide Swim Team also utilizes regularly with ~100/users. \$30,000 was invested last year (2020 while closed) to paint & plaster the main pool shell. Council members voiced support for repairing the pool as a needed community resource that receives regular public use. Hardy said it was anticipated that the City of Baraboo would receive stimulus money from Covid for lost revenues in 2020; the cost of repair to the pool (\$20,000) would account for about 1/3 of the 2020 lost revenues.

Witzcak motioned and Thurow seconded recommending to Council spending up to \$25,000 for a private contractor to repair the pool. Motion carried.

b. 2021 opening plan for pool – Hardy presented plans for three sessions of open swim, 2 hours each, with 15 minute intermissions to allow for regular deep cleaning. Opening Saturday, June 5, closing August 22, (or 29th if staffing is available). Regular pool passes will be utilized as well as pool coupons.

Francisco motioned to accept the pool opening and closing dates and the daily schedule as printed with the flexibility to change as needed as conditions change. Witzcak seconded. Motion carried.

c. Recommendations to pool future plans - Hardy shared three options from the study. 72% of survey respondents were in favor of Option #2 or Option #3 (\$4 to \$7 million dollar investment) only 7% said do nothing with the pool. Schlender spoke with Jack Waterman (founder of Noah's Ark) & Chuck Newman from Newman Pools, both stated when you put in a new pool you often can raise fees, but after the improvements are made the public is generally happy. Schlender also recommended not going low on budget requests for naming rights. Franzen said the donors are out there they just need to be found, and to consider keeping the character of the bathhouse. Hardy said we can do a more targeted survey closer to the renovation and that we have an opportunity for a new park plan that includes the skate park, tennis/pickleball courts, parking, and the pool. Thurow said preserving the historic character of the buildings may open up the way for new donors. Option 2 includes maintaining the facade but gutting the insides; Option 3 includes a whole new bathhouse. Witzcak recommended waiting for the CORP committee survey responses to see what the CORP recommendation is to the Commission.

Witzcak asked Hardy to provide details on options 2 and 3 for the next meeting as well as attendance numbers and survey results.

Next scheduled meeting: April 12, 2021 at 5:30 pm

Franzen motioned and Witzcak seconded to adjourn at 8:27 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Workman, Secretary, Parks & Recreation Commission