

City of Baraboo
Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting
June 13, 2022 – Minutes

Present: H. Kierzek, R. Franzen, A. Witczak, J. Francisco, A. Workman, C. Schlender & Mike Hardy

Absent: S. Mordini

Others present: Rob Nelson, Ryan Daum (Recreation & Aquatics Director)

Franzen called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Legal posting of the agenda has been met.

Witczak motioned and Francisco seconded approval of the May 9, 2022, meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Witczak moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Kierzek. Motion carried.

Action Items

- a. Discuss and consider permitting QR signage with suicide hotline information at new challenge playground site at Ochsner Park

Friends of the Parks wanted to incorporate a suicide prevention QR code, so proposing signage. The Challenge Park playground equipment will arrive soon, work day coming. Witczak reported that the Friends of Baraboo Art are working on an art piece that's a sitting bench with two children facing each other, called "Kodie's Corner" (Kodie was a youth who committed suicide a few years ago). There is a national QR code/text code that they would like to put on a sign, probably included on a donor's plaque, on the bench that connects to a nationwide suicide hotline. When a sketch of the artwork to be installed is available it will be presented to this group for approval (does not need to go through Council). No action needed.

- b. Discuss and consider request from Bike Advisory Committee to submit a letter to Wisconsin DOT regarding preferred Highway 33 bike crossings

Workman reported the letter came out of concern from the public input meeting invitation letter listing treatments that reduce crashes, but leaving out "pedestrian and bicycle refuge islands" that were included on the WisDOT's website. The letter expresses support for locations of pedestrian/bicycle refuge islands on Hwy 33 and additional treatments that prompt drivers to slow down. Workman said the advisory group agreed that if we want to promote biking to school and biking to work, there should actually be safe crossings on Hwy 33 that go beyond white paint on pavement.

Witczak motioned and Franzen seconded approving sending the letter on to Council for approval. Motion carried.

- c. Discuss and consider Deppe Park pond improvement project bids

Hardy reported that one bid was received from Organic Sediment Removal Systems for hydraulic dredging. A tube connected to a vacuum cleaner is used to suck sediment off the bottom and go into a holding tank with a filter to allow water to seep back into the ground. Pond is just over ½ acre, with cost depending on how many feet of sediment are removed. Possibilities for location of discharge are new pollinator garden at Potter and Mill Race, the community gardens, at Lower Oschner Park, or a local farmer. Schlender asked about cost of transport; Hardy reported an estimate of \$40/cubic yard. Witczak inquired on the make up of the sediment; Hardy responded a lot is the leaf material, grass clippings, bark, etc, that lands in the pond, sinks and decomposes to form sediment.

Schlender asked if the location of the possible discharge area could be moved closer to the road.

Franzen asked Hardy to inquire with the company to see if it's possible.

Witczak motioned approving the Organic Sediment Removal Systems proposal at the 1.5 ft depth at a cost of \$23,515, the Sediment Depth Study Report at \$1,100, and the \$1,800 chemical analysis report, seconded by Franciso. Motion carried.

d. Discuss and consider recommendation to name the future park located between Vine and Walnut Streets along the Baraboo River as “Mueller Family Riverside Park” in exchange for the sale of the I A.M. Dairy Plant as well as a \$5,000 donation to the park development. Franzen asked Mayor Nelson if he had any information beyond what was presented; he said he didn't. Schlender asked if the building was being donated; Kierzek said no, the City is buying the building. Witczak said the current policy states naming rights need to be for donations at least 1/3 the price of the park, and Hardy added the current policy includes more than just financial contributions for naming rights. Franzen said not in favor of naming the park just for selling the property and a \$5,000 donation, and Witczak spoke to the fairness issue given the amount of donations that were received for the Splash Pad without naming rights. The committee directed staff to recommend that Council review the City's naming policy, and to pass on the consensus from discussion.

e. Discuss and consider playground equipment purchase recommendations for Ritzenthaler Park. Witczak reported speaking to LSI regarding two elements that could be purchased and added to existing equipment, called the hemisphere and a 34-ft zip line. This would maximize budget dollars and allow cushion for repainting existing equipment. Schlender and Workman both expressed support for the idea. Schlender motioned adding two items to existing equipment at Ritzenthaler Park, seconded by Witczak. Motion carried.

f. Discuss and consider allowing Friends of Baraboo Parks to rent the Campbell Park Swimming Pool from 11am-3pm on Saturday, August 27th for a fundraiser for the Attridge Park Splashpad, and waiving fees due to all proceeds being donated to the City for Splashpad construction. Witczak reported that fundraising for the Splashpad is ongoing, but holding the fundraiser would allow for a challenge grant to be applied for. This would happen at a time when the pool would normally be closed; everyone would pay to enter and proceeds would go to the Splashpad. Schlender asked if lifeguards would be available; Ryan Daum reported he has an email out to existing staff to see how many would still be local and available. Franzen motioned that Friends of Baraboo Parks be allowed to rent the Campbell Park Swimming Pool at no cost from 11am-3pm on Saturday, August 27th, for a fundraiser event, seconded by Schlender. Motion carried

Informational Items

a. Staff Report submitted by Hardy.

Revenues were \$25,867.29 for the month of May 2022

1) Upcoming projects & programs

New subdivision aimed for seniors is planned for across from Pierce Park, which will include recreational facilities and a bike path to enter Pierce Park. It would be maintained and managed by the homeowners association. Witczak asked if park impact fees would go to Pierce Park; Hardy said yes. There will be a public input meeting run by JSD Professional Services on the design of the Campbell Park in late June or early July.

Ryan Daum reported on the opening of summer programs and provided a breakdown of registration numbers for summer programs. Campbell Park opening was delayed one week due to a chlorine leak. Pool attendance not too high but not surprising due to cooler, wetter weather. Staff received positive comments on the Sunday 1-7 family day schedule. Biggest challenge is staffing so far.

2) Zoo security

Zoo break in was all over the news; 10 locks were cut and several exhibits were left open. Monkeys did not leave, otters left but were found. Owls left but were found. Have two requests out for security cameras, and Amber Giddings has started a fundraising page Facebook campaign which raised ~\$3,400 in just the last week or so. Schlender asked if the zoo break-in was in any way connected with the previous fire in the llama structure; Hardy said no, the fire was accidental.

b. Subcommittee reports

1) Friends of Baraboo Parks and Zoo (Witczak)

Shifting to new parks; for dog park: agility equipment.

2) Bicycle Advisory Committee (Workman)

Bike to School/Work Day on May 20, had incentives from local businesses, a bike repair tent from Wildside Action Sports set up in Nanny Park, and bike literature. About 20-25 people total, weather was a factor. Bigger event with greater prior planning anticipated next year.

3) Playground Selection Committee (Witczak)

Picked out Jackson property playground equipment; several bids were solicited, but only one came back with substantial equipment; Hardy showed photos from the bid of equipment.

Next scheduled meeting: July 11, 2022, 5:30 pm

Witczak motioned and Kierzek seconded adjourning the meeting at 6:44 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Workman, Secretary
Parks & Recreation Committee