

City of Baraboo
Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Committee
June 28, 2021 – Minutes

Present: James Francisco, Jimmy Kimball, John Statz, Chantel Steinhorst, Kimberly Brueggeman, Carla Cross & Mike Hardy

Francisco called the meeting to order at 5:00pm. Legal posting of the agenda had been met.

Steinhorst motioned to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2021 meeting. Seconded by Brueggeman. Motion carried.

Steinhorst moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Kimball. Motion carried.

Action Items:

Francisco reviewed projects planned and requested for each park including the Civic Center, River Corridor, Riverwalk and Zoo. Members assigned priority numbers for each project based on their need, cost, and request from community members and/or stakeholder groups. Considerable time was spent on Campbell Park with members requesting the park to include all needs (swimming pool, tennis court re-surfacing, playground replacement, parking improvements and skatepark improvements) under one master plan and recommend referendum in near future to get all needs addressed there as quickly as possible as Campbell a highly visible entrance into the City and at the top of the list for needed updates. Projects requested but removed from consideration by the Committee included : new Riverwalk connection to downtown; new bandstand at Lower Ochsner Park; new pickleball courts at MRE Park; new picnic shelter at Ochsner Park; new bridge and Riverwalk connections at MRE Park (Committee recommended using pavement markings and signage to connect Riverwalk as opposed to both property acquisition or bridge); new basketball court, shelter & playground equipment at south Steinhorst Park; and relocated skatepark, seating area, parking additions & warming shelter/restrooms at Weber Park.'

Besides Campbell Park being the most desired project, the Committee would like to see the older monkey exhibit re-purposed into a North American small mammal exhibit (porcupine, raccoon and/or opossum) and taking monkeys out of the zoo, exploring solar at the zoo, inclusive playground equipment at Ochsner and Weber Parks, replace concessions building at MRE Park, replace walls and add HVAC at Pierce Park Pavilion, explore moving the war memorial to the Oak Street Overlook (with donations) and fix up the overlook as new park area, replacing war memorial with playground equipment, new bike and hiking trails at Jackson Conservancy, new playground and shelter with restrooms at Jackson Conservancy Park, Dredge Deppe Pond, new shelter w/restrooms at Attridge Park, and phase 2 trail loop with footbridge and Council Ring at Arboretum. Members noted that donations will be needed for many of the projects to become a reality, and the new Friends of Baraboo Parks group hopes to assist in financing some projects.

Steinhorst moved to adjourn, seconded by Statz. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: August 2, 2021 at 6pm

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