

City of Baraboo  
Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting  
August 8, 2022 – Minutes

Present: H. Kierzek, R. Franzen, A. Witczak, R. Sanchez, A. Workman, C. Schlender, S. Mordini & Mike Hardy

Others present: Karen Johnson of Baraboo Area Senior Citizen Organization, Kyle Crosby & Joan Kenney of Boys and Girls Club, Greg Sarnow of Hockey Club, and Mayor Rob Nelson.

Franzen called the meeting to order at 5:29 pm. Legal posting of the agenda has been met. Witczak motioned and Workman seconded approval of the July 11, 2022, meeting minutes. Motion carried.

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

Action Items

- a. Discuss and consider proposed 2022-23 lease for Baraboo Thunderbird Hockey Club use of the Pierce Park Pavilion

Hardy reported that the Pavilion was built in 1997 with construction costs split between City (\$146,000), Hockey Club (\$506,820) and a \$75,000 state grant. No rent has been charged to the group for 25 years. Hockey Club has paid utilities each year in the winter season (6 months); City pays ~\$5,000/year for utilities in off season due to increased base rate from Alliant because of heavy winter use. No HVAC, so difficult to use in the summertime. Due to the 2023 assessed budget cuts on the department as well as an effort to maintain fairness with other groups using City facilities, Hardy recommended future leases include a \$500/month (\$3,000 total for 6-month lease) rent on the Pierce Park Pavilion for the Hockey Club. Sarnow spoke to his 10 years experience with the Hockey Association, saying it takes a village to operate as it's all volunteer work. Compared to Baraboo, Sauk kids pay x3 what Baraboo kids pay for hockey. Schlender said he worked with the parks when the rink was built and it was supposed to be an open air building, but the hockey association wanted an enclosed building, which increased costs and caused ventilation problems with no heating. Franzen said we can't raise taxes and we're losing revenue. Mordini said that her son was in hockey for years and it's an expensive sport. Sarnow reported that last year about 105 youth participated, with new members not being charged. Witczak noted she felt half of the recommended rent would be fair. Witczak motioned to charge \$250/mo (\$1,500 total for 6-month lease), seconded by Mordini. Motion carried 4 to 3.

- b. Discuss and consider proposed 2023 lease for Baraboo Boys and Girls Club use of the Civic Center

Karen DeSanto sent a letter as she could not attend the meeting. Kyle Crosby reported that the Boys and Girls Club charges \$24/year for after school programming and provides meals to participants. Their free and reduced lunch participation is close to 57%. Hardy quoted the rent of various City subsidy levels (80% current subsidy = \$9,060 rent, 70% subsidy = \$13,590 rent, 60% subsidy = \$18,120 rent, 50% subsidy = \$22,650 rent). Mordini asked if the decrease in subsidy would cause them to find another building; Crosby said he has not looked at another building but it was doubtful they could find another building in two months. Joan Kenney said the Boys and Girls Club provides daycare for working parents and represents an investment in the community. Hardy asked how many are City of Baraboo residents; Crosby reported about 90%.

Witczak motioned that the City subsidize at 65% of the total normal rent rate, seconded by Mordini. Motion carried.

c. Discuss and consider proposed 2023 lease for Baraboo Senior Center use of the Civic Center Hardy reported that the 2023 Civic Center lease for the Senior Center has been treated similarly to the Boys and Girls Club and currently is subsidized at 80%. Karen Johnson reported that they lost 160 paid members since Covid. Other than dues, all money is fundraised in 12 events/year. 41% of membership is from outside the City of Baraboo. No similar centers exist in Reedsburg or Sauk City. Any increase will be difficult for them. Franzen reported that a lot of groups charge a slightly higher fee for out of City participants. Schlender asked for a subsidy decrease to 65% (same as Boys and Girls Club). Witzcak motioned that the City subsidize Baraboo Senior Center at 65% of the total normal rent rate, seconded by Franzen. Motion carried.

d. Discuss and consider proposed 2023 lease for Stage 3 Theater use of the Civic Center The 2023 Civic Center lease for Stage 3 Theater has typically been subsidized at 50%, as they often cooperate with City programming for youth theater and are required to share their space when available. Hardy recommended continuing a 50% subsidy. Franzen motioned and Witzcak seconded approving the Stage 3 lease as presented. Motion carried.

e. Discuss and consider proposed 2023 Fees and Charges Hardy reported that 2023 fees and charges need to be increased to meet staff shortages and rising wages/competition from the private sector and rising expenses. Sponsorship program includes an increase in the Senior Fitness Calendar fee. For the Civic Center Facility, the only increase is \$5 for weekend staffing rates. No changes made to Civic Center Program except not charging City Employees as a perk for employment, though almost no City employees take advantage of the 50% off. The small shelters and Lower Ochsner park fees are increased by \$20. Most pool program fees are increased by \$10-\$30. Hardy recommended asking the school district to cover all swim lessons which would open up the open swim times. Recommend raising adult volleyball rates which is showing increased participation, while adult softball participation is going down. Witzcak motioned that the 2023 program fees be accepted as presented with the exception of the Boys and Girls Club lease and Baraboo Area Senior Citizen Association lease which was set earlier, seconded by Mordini. Motion carried.

f. Discuss and consider proposed 2023 seasonal staff wage rates Hardy reported that in comparison to similar position wages in similar sized communities in south central Wisconsin, Baraboo is higher in some categories and lower in others. Hardy has also solicited other employment perks, like \$10 gas cards from Kwik Trip. For 2023, seasonal workers need to be increased (especially to pool and park/zoo maintenance staff) to compete with higher private sector wages and to retain and attract quality seasonal and part time staff. Frazen moved to accept the seasonal part time park and recreation wages as presented, seconded by Schlender. Motion carried.

g. Discuss and consider proposed 2023 Capital Improvement budget requests Hardy reported that most park improvement projects come from impact fees and grants. There is a possibility of tying into TIF funds for Riverfront Park. Larger purchases and projects include Civic Center light replacement to all LEDs, which PoweredUp Baraboo is considering donating to cover the cost- provided that energy saving money be reapplied to further energy efficiency improvements. Hardy reported on the other capital improvements listed in a separate handout, totaling \$1.5 million in capital improvements. Witzcak motioned to approve the Capital Plan Improvement Request, seconded by Franzen. Motion carried.

## Informational Items

### a. Staff Report submitted by Hardy.

Revenues were \$64,467.55 for the month of July 2022

#### 1) Upcoming projects & programs

Hardy reported that the Deppe Pond dredging was completed last week with 2 feet of sediment removed from the pond floor; in some places, 2.5 ft was removed. This will allow for aerator re-installation, topical treatments, and re-stocking of fish in 2023.

The swimming pool will close to the public on August 21 with August 27 reserved for Friends of Baraboo Parks splash pad fundraiser party. The main pump needed emergency replacement last month – the pool was closed for a day and a half and repairs cost over \$11,000.

The security cameras at the zoo were installed today. A small cooling shelter will be built in the Snowy Owl exhibit with donated materials from Friends of the Zoo and labor from the Lions Club. The area inside the shelter will be air conditioned on hot, humid summer days for the health of the snowy owl. The llama/wolf barn is 95% complete and waiting on backordered roof fencing.

On Wednesday, August 24, from 5:30-7pm, the second Open House will take place at the Civic Center where the public can meet with JSD Professional Services and City staff to give input on two proposed Campbell Park Master Plan options. Comments on the two options will be included with the draft proposed Master Plan for Parks Commission consideration at the September meeting. The target cost is \$10-\$12 million.

### b. Subcommittee reports

#### 1) Friends of Baraboo Parks (Witczak)

Witczak announced the matching grant of \$2,500 for the Aug. 27 splash pad fundraiser event. She received an anonymous foundation phone call that said if the WDNR grant is not received, they will cover the cost. An agility course is also planned at the dog park, approved by Friends of the Dog Park.

#### 2) Bicycle Advisory Committee (Workman)

Workman reported that there is a mile of single track completed at Chief Naaga Keramani Park with temporary signage. Hardy said he would talk with Pinion on the location of the parking lot in relation to the cell tower. He also inquired about a possible larger group volunteer work day and asked if any particular fall date would be preferable. Committee members advised Workman to avoid Sept 23-24 (Oktoberfest & Clean Sweep), October 8-9 (Fall Fest), and Homecoming (Sept 30?). Workman reported that the committee letter recommending additional crossings and traffic slowing measures in the Hwy 33 reconstruction was approved by City Council to be passed on to the WDOT.

#### 3) Playground Selection Committee (Mordini)

Committee has not met.

**Next scheduled meeting:** Sept 12, 2022, 5:30 pm

Witczak motioned and Mordini seconded adjourning the meeting at 7:09 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Workman, Secretary  
Parks & Recreation Committee