

City of Baraboo
Parks & Recreation Commission
June 13, 2016 – Minutes

Present: Greg Wise, Roy Franzen, Craig Schlender, Michael Plautz, Angela McMurray, Mike Hardy & Rick Luther

Also Present: Ben Bromley, Tim O’Keefe, Brady O’Leary & Jerry Jackson

Wise called the meeting to order, Legal Posting of the Agenda had been met. The Agenda was approved as printed.

Franzen motioned and McMurray seconded approval of the May 9, 2016 minutes. Motion Carried.

Unfinished Business: Franzen spoke with Bob Koss about getting the crosswalk striped from the Mary Rountree Evans Park drive across 2nd Ave. to better mark the Riverwalk crossing. Bob referred the request to Tom Pinion and will get back to him after Public Safety Commission weighs in on the request.

McMurray noted her support of the Oak Street Overlook project.

Wise noted that we did the best we could in 2003 on building the skatepark, but it is in need of an upgrade now and encouraged users to be more involved with the fundraising for improvements.

New Business: Joe Ward presented his idea for a historical plaque in the new Maxwell-Potter Conservancy. Ward will pay for the production and installation of the plaque. Franzen motioned to accept the donation, seconded by McMurray. Motion passed unanimously.

Brady O’Leary presented the proposed city bike route by the bike committee. Franzen noted that 2nd Avenue is very busy. McMurray noted 2nd is one of the few that intersects town completely. Wise noted that those concerned with 2nd Ave. traffic could use 6th Street/Ave. O’Leary noted that the Riverwalk is also an option for those who wanted to avoid cars. Hardy stated that upon recommendation, it would have to be considered by Public Safety Committee before going for approval. Motion by McMurray to send the recommendation to Public Safety Committee, seconded by Schlender. Motion passed unanimously.

Franzen moved to spend \$625 from Park Segregated for a new sign at the arboretum, seconded by Plautz. Motion passed unanimously.

Hardy said that we had been offered 2 snowy owls that were unable to be released in the wild for exhibit at the zoo. As there are no other Wisconsin zoos that exhibit snowy owls, Hardy said this could generate some extra attention and recommended putting them in the current bobcat exhibit and relocating the bobcat. A grant from the James Irwin Fund was received and must be spent by October 1st. Zoo staff had recommended either putting them in with the black bears or loaning to the NEW zoo in Green Bay who was looking for a bobcat. There would be some costs to renovate the bear exhibit to allow a bobcat, and there was some concern about mixing the two, so staff preference was to loan the bobcat to Green Bay until we can build a new exhibit. Wise motioned to approve using James Irwin Funds to renovate the bobcat exhibit into an owl exhibit, and if the bobcat cannot share exhibit space with the bears, release the bobcat to Green Bay or another zoo until we can provide a stand alone exhibit for bobcat. Seconded by Franzen. Motion carried.

Hardy stated he would like to use available donations from the Park Segregated Account to install new educational signage at the zoo up to \$6,800. Wise recommended that if possible, QR codes be included on the signs. Hardy noted that staff is looking into a donor that may pay to have the signs in Spanish as well as English. McMurray moved to spend up to \$6,800 on new signs, designed by staff. Seconded by Plautz. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Wise, second by Schlender to accept the donation of underground irrigation system and installation at Pierce Park field #5. Motion passed unanimously.

Communications and Reports

May revenues were \$26,082.28

Hardy reported on project updates, Otter Run and Zoo Crew events. Hardy also noted that EAB had been found in the City and noted the EAB Plan that was created in 2010 that has the City in good shape to deal with it.

Next Regular Meeting: July 11, 2016

McMurray motioned to adjourn, Schlender seconded. Motion carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Hardy, Parks, Recreation & Forestry Director