

City of Baraboo
Parks & Recreation Commission
September 14, 2015 – Minutes

Present: Roy Franzen, Denise Statz, Mike Plautz, Craig Schlender, June Dills, Rick Luther & Mike Hardy

Franzen called the meeting to order at 6:00PM Legal Posting of the Agenda had been met. The Agenda was approved as printed.

Statz motioned and Schlender seconded approval of the August 10, 2015 minutes. Motion Carried.

Appearances:

Tom Fitzwilliams, Baraboo Youth Hockey Association president, discussed their proposal to install permanent bleachers in the Pierce Park Pavilion at BYHA cost.

Steve Considine, Baraboo Amateur Baseball Association president, discussed their proposal to install a batting cage at Statz Park at their cost.

New Business:

Hardy discussed the BYHA proposal and noted that installing permanent bleachers in the pavilion would same time on moving bleachers in and out every year, be safer and ADA compliant for spectators and save on the current bleachers themselves as they aren't designed for frequent moving. Fitzwilliams noted the cost around \$100,000 and suggested the City may be able to contribute some towards the project as they have additional building improvement goals as well. Hardy explained that City finances are somewhat limited in a project of this size with no contributions from BYHA to Park Segregated in the past. He added that these bleachers would also serve current summer users, the Roller Derby Club, but they have only been using the facility 2 years and contributed \$1,100 to the facility, so help would be minimal.

Schlender motioned and Plautz seconded to have BYHA go ahead with fund raising without financial help from the Parks & Recreation Department to install permanent bleachers at the Pierce Park Pavilion. Motion Carried.

Considine requested using a donation of a batting cage (approximate value \$3000) to Statz Park in place of their Co-Sponsor Fees for use of the facility in 2016. Hardy stated that in the past, the Commission has frowned on allowing Club groups to install projects that serve themselves and waive fees, which help pay for field maintenance. This puts all field maintenance costs back on the City while Club increases their use at no cost. Additionally, the City is being requested to provide labor, excavating and grading material costs which are not budgeted and were not discussed. Hardy added that a batting cage in this location could be utilized by City recreation programs as well, so there would be some value to other groups as well as BABA.

Statz motioned and Plautz seconded to accept the donation of a batting cage, but would not accept the full value in lieu of future Co-Sponsor Fees. The Commission would consider a partial reduction in BABA fees when 2016 Co-Sponsorship Agreements are considered. Motion Carried.

Hardy explained a recommendation of instituting an "Urban Forestry Utility" on City customers. The idea was suggested by City Administrator Geick last fall after seeing a similar program run in Marian, Iowa. Hardy noted that the idea was very new to the state and other City Foresters from around the state were interested, but unfamiliar with the idea. Municipalities are somewhat "handcuffed" with rising forestry expenses dealing with things like EAB with levy limits restricting budgets. Hardy presented information from the City of Madison which just implemented a Forestry Utility this summer and is the first known community to do so in the state. Statz noted it was an excellent idea to level the playing field and make tax exempt property owners (i.e. churches) responsible for some of the street tree care costs. Plautz opposed the idea if it would raise property owner's payments. His concern was that forestry expenses would be moved to utility bills (off the levy) and rather than reducing the levy, another request (such as new police cars) would simply fill in the levy reduction. This would cause taxes to remain the same, but utility bills to rise which he feels would be difficult for many residents to accept. Commissioners agreed to continue discussions and pursue more information on the benefits this program may have in the future.

Hardy explained why a City View Park basketball court should not be built over a newly placed water line because of ground settling, and instead construct the asphalt trail around the pond, which was to be in the 2016 budget anyway. The difference was an additional \$3,000 Impact Fees would be used to install the trail this year and install the basketball court (at \$3,000 less than the planned trail) next year to offset the Impact Fee expenses.

Schlender motioned and Dills seconded to construct the asphalt trail around the pond instead of the basketball court in 2015. Extra money would come out of City View Park Impact Fees. Motion Carried.

Hardy requested using park segregated money to purchase 4 ADA compliant picnic tables for the parks. Dills motioned and Statz seconded to purchase 4 portable ADA Compliant picnic tables at \$324.00 each for city parks, using money from the Park Segregated Funds. Motion Carried.

Hardy presented a "Proposal of Service" outline for a City of Baraboo Employee Health Fair. As incentive to get the approximately 90 City employees to the Health Fair, he would like to offer a free 1-year membership to the Civic Center Fitness Rooms to those employees who attend. He stated that very few employees use the fitness rooms now, and while it would not cost the City to waive membership fees, it is possible that future insurance deductibles may decrease and the City could use the free membership as an incentive when recruiting employees. Also, employees who use the fitness rooms would improve their health and performance and hopefully reduce injury and illness.

Franzen motioned and Schlender seconded to allow City Employees free use of the Civic Center Fitness Rooms upon recorded attendance at the City Employee Health Fair. Motion Carried.

Hardy explained Department's 2016 Capital Budget requests. A Discussion followed. No new items were added or removed from Hardy's recommendations by the Commission.

Communications and Reports

August Revenues were \$16,922.92

Luther reported on the Outdoor Pool, Youth Soccer, and Adult Sports.

Hardy reported on:

- Statz Park picnic shelter completed. Hillside being landscaped-play equipment & ADA path installed soon.
- Northwest ADA ramp/entrance at Civic Center completed. We now have 2 compliant entrances.
- Permanent ADA sheltered picnic table at Dog Park completed with help of Eagle Scout John Meegan.
- Doggie Dip saw 72 dogs and over 120 humans to help raise \$650 for the Dog Park.
- Otter Exhibit funds from FOBZ has exceeded \$240,000 of their \$300,000 goal after successful golf event.
- Skatepark update.

Next Regular Meeting: October 12th, 2015

Dills motioned and Franzen seconded to adjourn. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

June Dills
Commission Secretary