

City of Baraboo
Parks & Recreation Commission
January 13, 2020 – Minutes

Present: Roy Franzen, Jim Francisco, Angela Witzcak, Chantel Steinhorst, Shelley Mordini & Mike Hardy

Also Present: Kannie Downing (City Administrator), Shirley White (EAB tree request) and 1 member of the public

Franzen called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Legal Posting of the Agenda had been met. Witzcak moved and Francisco seconded approval of the November 11, 2019 minutes. Motion carried.

Witzcak moved to approve the agenda as printed, seconded by Steinhorst. Motion carried.

Appearances: Shirley White, 409 12th Street, appeared to request that the ash tree in the ROW in front of her house be treated for EAB so that it does not have to be cut down. Hardy stated that the tree inventory lists it as “Excellent” however it is not being treated as Commission policy did not allow for the treatment of trees under 10” dbh (this tree was 9”). White stated that she was willing to pay herself to treat this tree against EAB as she worries she will lose all of her shade as other trees have aged and been removed or are currently in decline. Hardy stated that she would need to understand that treatment is not a guarantee and has a success rate of 97%, so while rates are very good – there is no guarantee on success. White understood and agreed to pay the costs knowing the risks.

Action Items:

Annual officer elections were held as follows:

President – Witzcak nominated Franzen, seconded by Francisco. Mordini moved to close nominations, seconded by Franzen. Motion carried. Members approved Franzen as Commission president unanimously.

Vice President – Witzcak nominated Francisco, seconded by Franzen. Franzen moved to close nominations, seconded by Francisco. Members approved Francisco as Vice President unanimously.

Secretary – Witzcak nominated Steinhorst, seconded by Mordini. Witzcak moved to close nominations, seconded by Mordini. Motion carried. Members approved Steinhorst as Secretary unanimously.

New City Administrator Kannie Downing made a request on behalf of City Department Heads to name the future prairie planting area around the elephant sculptures in Myron Park “Geick Gardens” after long-time City Administrator Ed Geick who recently retired. Franzen moved to approve naming the prairie plantings at Myron Park “Geick Gardens”, seconded by Witzcak. Motion carried.

Hardy presented updated cost estimates and comments provided via e-mail from MSA on the swimming pool renovation option under consideration. Considerable conversation took place on the need for a more accessible pool with zero depth entry as well as renovated shower rooms, however the public seemed to prefer keeping the exterior building as much as possible for historical aesthetics. Hardy reminded members that recommendations should be sent to Council this year so they can plug the project into a future Capital Improvement budget in the next 10 years, as well as get the project in our next CORP which will be started next year and cover 2022-2026. No action was taken and conversation will continue in future meetings.

Hardy presented a concept for restroom renovations at the zoo and explained the need to make accessibility renovations as well as aesthetic improvements. The initial estimate came in at about \$50,000 for what would be minimally required. Commission discussed if it was worth spending \$50,000 on an old building repair or using the money to build a new restroom building. Hardy will bring estimates for a brand new building to a future meeting so that members can compare costs.

Hardy presented a request from Bike Wisconsin to use the Civic Center as a stop on the 2020 bike tour again. About 100 bikers would like to camp in and around the Civic Center, with access to showers, kitchen, restrooms and room 12 as well as the gym. Hardy suggested \$620 for fees. Witzcak moved to recommend Bike Wisconsin be allowed to camp at the Civic Center overnight June 18, 2020 for a fee of \$620 to City Council, seconded by Francisco. Motion carried

Informational Items: City Administrator Downing introduced herself and thanked members for their service to the community. Hardy updated members on the Maxwell-Potter bridge and Kayak Launch projects as well as 2020 zoo construction priorities. Steinhorst updated members on discussion taking place at last week’s Splashpad Advisory Committee.

December revenues were \$8,892.65

Next Regular Meeting: February 10, 2020 at 5:30pm.

Witzcak motioned to adjourn, Mordini seconded. Motion carried

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