

City of Baraboo
Parks & Recreation Commission
October 14, 2019 – Minutes

Present: Roy Franzen, Jim Francisco, Angela Witczak, Chantel Steinhorst & Mike Hardy

Also Present: Rob Nelson, Baraboo Thunder Softball Club

Franzen called the meeting to order at 5:32pm. Legal Posting of the Agenda had been met. Witczak moved and Francisco seconded approval of the September 9, 2019 minutes. Motion carried.

Witczak moved to approve the agenda with the removal of the City Attorney discussion due to a sickness, seconded by Steinhorst. Motion carried.

Action Items: Rob Nelson presented a revised design for the press box at Don Pierce Field. The new press box would meet the Commission's design specifications to include color and building materials, however would be 2-story instead of 1-story. The press box would be paid for entirely by the Thunder Softball Club with Brute Construction doing the design and labor. Witczak moved to accept the revised design of the press box and allow construction to begin on the project. Seconded by Steinhorst. Motion carried.

Nelson explained that donations had been received to place 4 lightpoles and lights at Don Pierce Field which would allow for more flexible scheduling of games. The entire cost would be covered by the Thunder utilizing donations. This would be a Musco light system with electrical work by Hill's Electric. Motion by Franzen to accept the light donation and allow for lights to be installed on Don Pierce Field. Second by Francisco. Motion carried.

Nelson presented a request to install a future training center composed of pitching and batting cages between field #5 and Don Pierce Field at Pierce Park. He stated that it was lower on the Thunder's priority list, but that they were looking for input from the City to see if it would be allowed. No action was taken, however no Commission member present spoke against the concept. Consideration for approval will be made when a formal design is submitted.

Hardy noted that last month only City View Park was on the agenda as a splashpad site, and while discussion seemed favorable to locate one there, the item was placed on the agenda again to consider other park areas as alternate sites. Hardy stated that once the restrooms are built at City View, that Park Impact Fund balance will be essentially depleted until more homes are built. Hardy provided visuals of several existing splashpads and costs of each ranging from \$120,000-\$600,000 to give Commissioners an idea of how much money it will take. Franzen suggested forming an advisory committee to look closer at sites and possible revenue sources and asked for volunteers. Steinhorst and Witczak volunteered to be on the committee and will contact others in the community who may be willing to join.

Hardy presented a Diversity and Inclusion Policy that he will be presenting to the Council for approval next week and asked for Commission support. The policy would plan for better staff training and promotion of inclusive facilities and programs. It will also create an Inclusion Advisory Group to meet with the Director to discuss issues locally and how to make our programs and facilities more inclusive. Witczak moved and Steinhorst seconded recommending approval of the policy to Common Council.

Staff Report: September revenues were \$11,411.48

Hardy notified members that Katie Gries had been hired as the new Zoo Manager. The beaver exhibit was coming along nicely with anticipation of opening by the end of the month. Hardy invited members to the Great Sauk State Trail public event held in Prairie du Sac on October 19, as activities are beginning to move north towards Baraboo. Finally staff is looking into finding financing for the Riverwalk bridge and if Council approves the plan, could begin in January and be complete by the end of next summer.

Comments From Commissioners: None

Next Regular Meeting: November 11, 2019 at 5:30pm.

Witczak motioned to adjourn, Steinhorst seconded. Motion carried

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