

City of Baraboo
Parks & Recreation Commission
April 8, 2019 - Minutes

Present: Roy Franzen, Mary Mjelde, James Francisco, Mike Plautz, Craig Schlender, Angela Witczak, Chantel Steinhorst, Mike Hardy

Also Present: Ben Bromley (media); Trent Capaul and 4 members of the public in regards to the skatepark action item.

Franzen called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Legal posting of the Agenda had been met. Witczak moved and Francisco seconded approval of the March 18, 2019 minutes. Motion carried.

Witczak moved and Plautz seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Appearances: Trent Capaul in regards to skatepark renovations.

Action Items: Members discussed and considered rescinding the motion to install concrete ramps at the skatepark in 2019 and allow time for fundraising efforts to develop a plan for future construction. They would like to add seven more ramps made out of concrete, angled iron quarter pipes and bank, a flat box, and a pyramid. They also are looking to have the fences taken down and may be looking at a slight increase in surface area when making the improvements. Franzen commented that he believed none of the commissioners to be against rescinding the motion to install the concrete ramps so that fundraising could take place. Witczak moved to rescind the motion and Francisco seconded. Motion carried.

Members discussed and considered recommending action to Common Council on bids received to construct the Maxwell-Potter Riverwalk bridge. Concerns about the high cost were discussed as all bids came in at a cost higher than projected. Steinhorst questioned if money dogeared for the splash pad could be reallocated to this, but Hardy explained the money is not there yet. Franzen brought up another older bridge for sale, but it is not long enough for the stretch of river it would be on. Schlender questioned if we could use the old bridge, have one pier, and then build only the portion needed to finish the bridge all the way across. Hardy explained that the DNR is hesitant to use piers, and that it was not in the plans for this case. Witczak brought up the possibility of matching funding with Common Council kicking in some money (\$70,000-\$75,000) along with the grant. Franzen felt that it would make more sense to delay accepting a bit now and waiting until the fall for a possibly lower bid. Schlender feels we should have some bids for lighter bridge options and waiting until the fall to see where the bids fall, along with applying for the grant. Francisco felt there was not much choice but to reject the bids as shown. Mjelde also commented that she is uncomfortable using a new contractor that has not had much experience, even if it is significantly cheaper. Francisco moved that the current bids be rejected. Franzen seconded. Motion carried.

Witczak moved that Hardy apply for the DNR grant for additional funding. Francisco seconded. Motion carried.

Witczak moved to approve acquisition and disposition of animal policy for Ochsner Park. Steinhorst seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion was had about using \$250 from the Kuenzi Recreation Fund for costs associated with a "Start Smart" sports program for preschool children and parents. The program is centered around a more social and emotional sports program geared toward younger ages, following more of a physical education type structure. With this, there would be t-shirts, an instructor's book based on national skills. Jacob is in favor of using this program. Mjelde moved to use \$250 from the Kuenzi Recreation Fund for costs associated with "Start Smart". Schlender seconded. Motion carried.

Proposed owl exhibit designs were considered. In the proposed plan, the arctic fox would be placed to the west of the pigs. The goats and chickens would be located where the deer had been previously. This area would possibly see the pigs moved in as well at a later date. All four owl species would be located across from the prairie dogs, with the current snowy owl exhibit becoming a covered owl viewing area looking out to the four species. The idea is then to have informational signage in the viewing area about the owls, and also to be looking from the dark shelter out into the naturally lighted exhibits to make viewing much easier. In the plan as it was proposed, there would be four separate enclosures, but Hardy mentioned that Tori would prefer to take out the middle separator, combining the barred owl with the screech owl in the center enclosure, moving the snowy owl to the enclosure to the north, and the great horned owl to the enclosure to the south. It was mentioned that we may want to make the enclosures able to have the center wall added if the two need to be separated. The skunk may move into the owl exhibit at some point. Witczak moved to adapt this new design for the owls and fox. Plautz seconded. Motion carried.

A discussion was had about demolishing the old garage next to the Greg Wise Shelter in Maxwell-Potter Conservancy and putting in a parking lot to service the shelter and kayak launch area. Schlender brought up that it would be nice to save the sign built into the building when it is demolished. Franzen moved to approve the demolition of the building and put in the parking lot. Francisco seconded. Motion carried.

The Baraboo Area Lacrosse Association requested a 2019 co-sponsorship. Discussion was had about what we would charge BALA. In the past, they had paid \$500, but the membership has dropped, meaning they will not need access to the field as much. They will be playing at Lower Ochsner for games, and practicing at Langer Park until the electrical work is done at the Annex at Mary Roundtree. Franzen moved that we accept the co-sponsorship with BALA, with the fees cut down to \$300. Schlender seconded. Motion carried.

Staff Report: March revenues were \$20,164.35

Next week is the parks tour, so there will not be a meeting held at the Civic Center. The plan is to visit Ochsner Park, Weber Park, Ritzenthaler Park, City View Park, and the pool. An Arbor Day celebration will be held with schools on April 26th, which includes a contest with a tree planted at the winning school. We are celebrating our 28th year of being a Tree City, receiving five Growth Awards, with four of those in the last five years. World Migratory Bird Day is May 11th at Lower Ochsner Park & Zoo. There will be a 7am bird walk along the Riverwalk, and there will be talks and displays at various bird exhibits at the zoo from 8:30-10am. We are partnering with Baraboo Range Preservation Association and International Crane Foundation again for this 4th annual event.

Next Month: No meeting as the commissioners will be touring various parks.

Witczak motioned to adjourn. Mjelde seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Mjelde, Parks, Recreation & Forestry Secretary