

City of Baraboo
Parks & Recreation Commission
December 10, 2018 – Minutes

Present: Roy Franzen, James Francisco, Angela Witczak, Mike Plautz, Mary Mjelde & Mike Hardy

Also Present: Ben Bromley (media), Don Cone (Blue Line Hockey Club), Rebecca Hovde (resident)

Franzen called the meeting to order. Legal Posting of the Agenda had been met. Witczak moved and Francisco seconded approval of the November 12, 2018 minutes. Motion carried.

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

Action Items: Witczak nominated Franzen for Commission president, seconded by Francisco. Franzen was elected unanimously by voice vote. Witczak nominated Francisco for Commission Vice-President, seconded by Mjelde. Francisco was elected unanimously by voice vote. Franzen nominated Mjelde for Commission Secretary, seconded by Plautz. Mjelde was elected unanimously by voice vote.

Franzen appointed himself to continue serving as chair of the Forestry sub-committee. Franzen appointed Francisco to serve as chair of the Senior Center sub-committee with Plautz as alternate. Franzen appointed Witczak to serve as chair of the Bicycle Friendly Community sub-committee. Franzen appointed Francisco to serve as chair of the Swimming Pool Study sub-committee. Franzen noted that the Challenge Park sub-committee will be extended with Mjelde continuing to serve as chair. Hardy will sit on all sub-committees as a staff liaison and sub-committees are expected to bring recommendations on projects to the full Commission for future consideration.

Don Cone addressed the Commission on behalf of the Blue Line Hockey Club. He currently has 3 aluminum can collection sites around the area, with proceeds used to fund high school hockey costs. Cone requested permission to place a collection site at Pierce Park between fields 1 & 2. Hardy agreed that while Pierce Park is a good option, the location selected between fields 1 & 2 is often used during tournaments. Cone said he is open to moving it anywhere in the park. Francisco asked if it could be emptied more often as he often sees them overflowing. Cone stated he would be willing to make it look a little nicer and he will make sure this one is checked regularly. Franzen moved to place the unit near the Pavilion with more attractive appearance, with final location and appearance to be approved by Hardy. Seconded by Witczak. Motion carried.

Hardy presented a revised conceptual plan for the old deer exhibit at the zoo. The main change was the elimination of the new owl exhibit. Zookeepers had asked to build each owl exhibit in a different area of the zoo so they were spread out. Hardy stated his preference was to keep them closer together to aid in education, keeper talks and feeding/maintaining cost efficiency. Hardy had presented the plan to Friends of the Baraboo Zoo, who approved of the plan in general, with the separation of the owls, however they asked if owls could be in the same area, just not lined up in a row. Rebecca Hovde stated that she was present as a resident and lives a block from the zoo. She was concerned that the proposed access on the corner of Zoo Lane and Park Street could be dangerous. She proposed using the staff gate near the zoo office as that opens to the park. Witczak noted that if that were used, it would exit in the same area of the other gate, which eliminates our goal of providing an alternate safe and accessible entry/exit point. Hardy added that we could make a request to Public Safety Commission to restrict parking on Zoo Lane to increase visibility of pedestrians if that would help ease concerns. Franzen noted that he likes the current design which includes keeping the GH and Barred Owls where they currently are, building a new Snowy Owl exhibit, and placing concessions in the current Snowy Owl exhibit. He asked Hardy to consult with the Police Chief on the new access gate and any concerns they have. Franzen moved to approve the old deer exhibit plan as presented, with the assumption that police chief doesn't see any safety issues with the new gate location. Seconded by Francisco. Motion carried.

Hardy presented bids for a 2019 pool study along with alternate options. \$20,000 was budgeted, and MSA submitted a base bid of \$10,900 with \$7,000 in alternate options. Francisco moved to recommend approval of the MSA bid of \$17,900, seconded by Witczak. Motion carried.

Staff Report: November revenues were \$7,799.44

Hardy reported that otter exhibit pools will be poured soon so that project should finish by summer. Also tree removal work has started. He thanked members for their time in 2018 and wished every one Happy Holidays.

Francisco noted that the Elks Club will be celebrating 101 years with their annual Christmas party this month.

Next Regular Meeting: January 14, 2019.

Witczak motioned to adjourn, Mjelde seconded. Motion carried

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