

City of Baraboo
Parks & Recreation Commission
June 1st, 2020 – Minutes

Present: Roy Franzen, Mike Plautz, Angela Witczak, Chantel Steinhorst, Shelley Mordini, James Francisco, Craig Schlender and Mike Hardy. Also present were Police Chief Schauf, Fire Chief Stieve, City Attorney Truman, Alderman Jason Kent, City Administrator Downing, Recreation/Aquatics Coordinator McKeivitt, and six members of the public.

Franzen called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Legal posting of the Agenda had been met. Witczak motioned and Francisco seconded approval of the May 4th minutes. Motion carried.

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

Presentations: City Attorney Truman spoke on the recent Supreme Court ruling and how it affects responsibilities of the Parks Commission.

Public Invited to Speak: Mary Klingenmeyer, city resident, shared her concerns on how the pool should remain closed for the 2020 season. Seth Hittman, a former Baraboo pool employee, also wished to see the pool remain closed for the season. Kristi Martin, city resident, asked the commission to reconsider the original vote and allow the pool to open. Dan Lewison representing Baraboo Thunder Softball and Zack Ziegler representing Baraboo Amateur Baseball Association spoke on requesting permission to run youth softball and baseball tournaments in July and August.

Action Items:

Due to technical problems with the microphone, a short recess was requested to allow for a new microphone to be delivered to the meeting. Witczak moved to recess for 5 minutes to set up a new microphone, seconded by Steinhorst. Motion carried.

- a. Discuss and consider playgrounds and response to COVID safety measures: Commission members unanimously agreed that signage should be placed at parks and playgrounds that say 'play at own risk', 'this equipment is not routinely sanitized', and post CDC guidelines on hand washing and other COVID precautions. Staff is looking at purchasing large sprayers to mass spray bleachers and playgrounds.
- b. Discuss and consider athletic fields and requests to allow for games and tournaments: Dan Lewison and Zack Ziegler spoke on the precautions they would take in order to hold games and tournaments. Baraboo Thunder Girls Softball has a list of 15 precautions for players and coaches to take to help minimize COVID risks. BABA suggested different age groups and teams play at separate fields to help minimize risk. Franzen wasn't keen on allowing tournaments, implying that no one would social distance. Schlender said "everyone has to look out for themselves". Steinhorst said she "saw no problem with games and tournaments being held. They have waivers, they have precautions in place, and they should be able to play." Steinhorst made a motion to allow games and tournaments to be held and modified as needed. Seconded by Plautz. Clarification on motion was asked by City Attorney. Steinhorst mentioned that the motion does offer 'wiggle room' because the COVID situation is very fluid and felt if the organizers needed to modify materials for COVID risks or cancel games they should be able to. Motion failed. Steinhorst made a motion to postpone discussion till the 22nd of June. Witczak seconded. Motion carried.

- c. Discuss and consider sponsored recreational activities including adult volleyball and softball programs: Commission agreed that adults can social distance playing these activities. Mordini and Witczak were in favor of ceasing concession sales to help prevent COVID risks from adults lingering at parks and also from adults standing close in line purchasing food and/or drink. Witczak made a motion that waivers include COVID-19 risks, no concession stand, and an email be sent out to players that they need to leave after the game is done. Seconded by Francisco. Motion carried.
- d. Discuss and consider Civic Center and picnic shelter rentals—requests to allow larger groups, and bringing in shared equipment such as bounce houses: Franzen felt that bounce houses should not be allowed because children would be sharing the same air. Steinhorst mentioned that these kids would also be sitting and eating at a table together. Staff noted that bounce houses being used at a shelter location is rare due to the high cost of insurance for the bounce house that has to be in place. Generally only large events use them and with COVID many events have been cancelled. No action was taken to restrict rentals.
- e. Commissioner Plautz will make a motion to rescind the May 4th 2020 Commission action closing the pool for the 2020 season: Plautz made a motion to rescind pool closing, seconded by Steinhorst. Motion failed on a 2-5 vote with Plautz and Steinhorst voting for the motion.
- f. Motion E did not pass, no further discussion on 2020 pool schedule was held.
- g. Discuss and Consider Swimming Pool improvements and recommendation to the Common Council to re-allocate 2020 operational pool funds for capital improvement: While the pool is sitting vacant this summer it is the perfect time to make improvements. These upgrades will make the 2021 pool season a much better experience for patrons and pool staff. Steinhorst made a motion to recommend 2020 budgeted money for pool operations to be re-allocated for pool improvements, seconded by Francisco. Motioned carried.
- h. Discuss and consider approval of Don Pierce Field signage at Pierce Park: Commission members got to look at an image of the press box signage. Commission members liked it. Franzen thought the signage could have a little more oomph. Schlender made a motion to accept signage and if they want to adjust and make it fancier they can. Witczak seconded. Motion carried.

Informational Items: Staff reported that the Riverwalk Bridge is complete and open! Construction starts on June 15th for the Kayak Launch. The project should move relatively fast, there is a matter of bin wall availability but October 15th is the designated completion date. The Zoo asphalt replacement is looking good along with a new ADA entrance. The Zoo received kid goats and they are doing well. Recreation staff continues to modify programs to fit health guidelines. 85-90% of planned recreation programs will still take place with modifications. Staff and volunteers are being trained with PPE and masks are offered to anyone who wants one.

May revenues were \$12,939.59

Next Scheduled Meeting: June 22nd, 2020 at 5:30pm.

Witczak moved to adjourn, Steinhorst seconded at 8:06 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chantel Steinhorst-Commission Secretary