

City of Baraboo
Parks & Recreation Commission
May 13, 2019 - Minutes

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

Also Present:

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 April 8, 2019 minutes. Motion carried.

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

Appearances:

Action Items: The Baraboo Boys Hockey School Team is requesting the use of the Pierce Park Pavilion for off-season practice. There are 5 practice days and one equipment day. Francisco moved to approve the use of the facilities by the team on the dates listed on the letter. Witczak seconded.

An MOU needs to be recommended for Friends of the Zoo to Common Council so donors know they are affiliated with the Parks, Recreation and Forestry. There are other groups looking to fundraise for the zoo, so this would help clarify and establish an understanding with the city. This would also apply to Bekah Stelling's possible Friends of the Parks and any future groups looking to fundraise. MOUs can be established with any group wishing to raise funds, no group can make a donation without it being accepted by the department, and there needs to be an understanding between groups that there will not be efforts to cause issues for other fundraising efforts. Franzen expressed that we need to honor the working relationship with Friends of the Zoo. Tory and Amber need to make sure that all plans are run through the appropriate channels. There was a motion by Witczak to send the proposed MOU to Council as presented by our director, seconded by Steinhorst.

Staff Report: April revenues were \$32,098.05

Discussion about the dog park current location and issues, along with maps of possible new locations was had. Currently, the ground has been excessively wet due to the spring snow melt and high amounts rainfall. A couple of years ago, we were at a high number of members of 220+, and now we are down to about 150. More complaints are continuing to come in about the conditions of the ground at the park. We have been approved for a grant to extend the park up the hill and cut out parts of the wet section. The current location is just above the water table, which plays a big part in the conditions. This past year, there were more days in which the park

was unusable than usable. The three proposed new locations at Pierce Park and Mary Roundtree were discussed to be problematic because of the possibility of balls being hit into the park, parking concerns, space for athletes to warm up, and other patrons of ball games to be without the noise and nuisance of a dog park. The proposed location over near Attridge Park appears to be a good choice, and since the membership of the community garden has dropped significantly, it would be a better use of the space.

Sub-Committee Report:

Francisco met with BASCO, and they will be attending the June 10th meeting to present a draft to the committee.

Plautz motioned to adjourn. Francisco seconded. Motion carried.

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