

City of Baraboo
Parks & Recreation Commission
May 4th, 2020 – Minutes

Present: Roy Franzen, Mike Plautz, Angela Witzcak, Chantel Steinhorst, Shelley Mordidni, James Francisco and Mike Hardy. Also present were Police Chief Schauf, Fire Chief Stieve, City Attorney Truman, City Administrator Downing, Mayor Palm and three members of the public.

Franzen called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Legal posting of the Agenda had been met. Witzcak motioned and Francisco seconded approval of the March 9th minutes. Motion carried.

Witzcak moved to approve the agenda as printed, seconded by Mordini. Motion carried.

Presentations:

City Emergency Manager/Fire Chief Stieve and Police Chief Schauf presented the current state of the coronavirus situation in the County and concerns with parks facilities and programs. They stated that based on their concerns, both recommended not to open the swimming pool in 2020.

Action Items:

Discuss and consider operation changes due to COVID-19 to the following facility schedules:

A:

- 1) Tier 1: Swimming Pool- Fire Chief Stieve mentioned that if we were able to safely open the pool for the summer the 2020 season would most likely begin July 1st and end on Labor Day. Discussion and concern regarding how to enforce the 6ft rule in the pool area, locker rooms and admission area were mentioned. Steinhorst mentioned that if playgrounds are to remain closed it'd be nice to have the pool opened with parental discretion so kids have somewhere to play. Francisco made a motion to close the pool for season, seconded by Franzen. Motion carried 5-1 with Steinhorst opposed.
- 2) Tier 2: Pierce Park Pavilion, Playgrounds, Park Shelters and Restrooms- Everyone would love to see playgrounds opened up as soon as possible; however, they will remain closed as Wisconsin is restricted to open them under the *Safer at Home Order*. Commission members would like to see some of the restrooms opened up at some of the shelters. Due to increased cleaning needs and those associated cleaning costs, members would like to see some restrooms opening but not all of them. Due to the confined space, Pierce Park Pavilion was recommended not to open until it can be done in a safe manner.
- 3) Tier 3: Athletic Fields and Volleyball Courts, Basketball Courts, Dog Park, Skate Park, Tennis and Pickelball Courts- State and Country Restrictions must be followed as we navigate how and when to open these recreation areas. Contact sports must be avoided due to the 6ft social distance rule. Tennis courts will open with a maximum of ten people. Skate Park will also open with a maximum of ten people. Witzcak mentioned that when people skate they are not sharing an object (example basketball) that players are all touching. Also if people don't have a localized area to skate we are starting to see them skate in areas in town that are not safe and suitable. Members would like to see the Dog Park open but again enforcement and monitoring of social distancing rule is a concern.
- 4) Tier 4: Community Gardens, Deppe Fishing Pond, City Arboretum, Ochsner Park Zoo and Civic Center- Deppe Fishing Pond and City Arboretum pose little concern and can be used in accordance to CDC guidelines. The Community Gardens can be run with restrictions to allow for

social distancing, with ½ members gardening on odd days and ½ on even days so that no more than 10 are in the facility at a time. Also, no shared equipment will be allowed this year.

The Zoo has two entrances so this is helpful when it comes time to open with a 50 person limit. Docents and other volunteers can help direct foot traffic and be a counter at the gates. The Civic Center will not open as it cannot safely do so under the *Safer At Home Order* and Chief Schauf spoke on this.

B: Discuss and Consider recommendation to Common Council to allow a 50% discount for the 2021 Dog Park membership for anyone who purchases a 2020 membership at full price. Members were all in favor of sending the recommendation to Council. Franzen made a motion to send the 50 percent discount recommendation to Council, seconded by Witczak. Motion carried.

C. Discuss and Consider Sauk Prairie's School District Request to use Pierce Park for 2021 high school home softball games and determine fees. Sauk is redoing their fields and would like to use (and willing to pay) our fields for nine home games. Franzen made a motion to allow Sauk Prairie School District to use the fields for their 9 games at a rate of \$200.00 per game, seconded by Witczak.

Informational Items: Hardy discussed Riverwalk Bridge update and that it's positive ahead of schedule. Maxwell Potter Kayak Launch will need to meet and discuss plans and then construction will start later this month. Asphalt paths have been completed at the Zoo. Most Summer Recreation Programs will still be able to be held as planned, all while following CDC guidelines.

March revenues were \$59,538.21

April revenues were \$6,612.27

Next Regular Meeting: June 8th, 2020 at 5:30pm.

Witczak moved to adjourn, Mordini seconded at 7:07 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chantel Steinhorst-Commission Secretary