

City of Baraboo
Parks & Recreation Commission
October 8, 2018 – Minutes

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

Also Present: Ben Bromley (media), Raine Gardner & Carter Arndt (MSA)

Franzen called the meeting to order. Legal Posting of the Agenda had been met. Witczak moved and Francisco seconded approval of the September 10, 2018 minutes. Motion carried.

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

Presentations: Carter Arndt and Raine Gardner presented their proposal to provide a pool study for programming and facility upgrades to the Campbell Park Pool.

New Business: Hardy stated that staff needs direction from the Commission to move forward on the pool facility. At 82 years old, it is one of the oldest in the state and has become very inefficient and failing to meet safety codes without costly renovations. To get any consideration in the City 10-year plan, we need to provide some numbers and options now. Staff does not have the time or expertise to submit a comprehensive study with cost analysis, so 4 vendors were asked to submit bids. A pool study does not mean we will ask for a new facility, it will give us the data needed to understand the current and future abilities of the pool facility to meet resident needs, as well as funding required to meet those needs which the City will need to consider now for 10-year capital improvement planning and private groups will need to know for fundraising targets. Schlender asked MSA representatives if this was the normal process other communities use to determine facility needs. Arndt replied that this is very similar to how other communities determine needs of their aquatic facilities and feels Baraboo is in a very similar place as other communities who have benefited from a study. Hardy noted that 2 of the other 3 bidders had said the same thing when they made their site visits prior to submitting a bid, and that his colleagues in other communities have the same challenges with funding a study as opposed to just throwing it all at replacement, but the study helps determine what areas money can be saved as well, so many find that they save on renovations by doing a study first, in addition to developing a clear plan that the community can be involved in. Franzen moved to move forward with pursuing a pool study as part of the 2019 budget process, seconded by Witczak. Motion carried.

Due to the decision to conduct a pool study in 2019, no action was taken on replacing the pool fence as the study may recommend changes.

Preliminary discussion was held on recommending revisions to Chapter 19 of the Code of Ordinances relating to Park Regulations. Franzen stated that 19.2 c) pets “with City license” language needs to be better defined. Witczak asked if the Riverwalk is considered a “park”. Hardy stated that yes – the Riverwalk is technically a “sidewalk” within a linear “park”. Witczak asked then if the 6am-9pm park hours apply to the Riverwalk as well since many use before 6am for jogging. Commission members agreed that several areas need better definitions since the Code was not updated in many years. Hardy shared comments from City Attorney Emily Truman who had a late commitment and was unable to attend as originally planned. She would be at the November meeting, so with 2 Commission members absent and the City Attorney unable to attend, Hardy suggested that action be tabled until additional discussion could take place with the City Attorney present. The item will be revisited in November.

Staff Report: September revenues were \$32,539.16

Hardy reported that flooding damage was repaired in Lower Ochsner and under the Broadway Bridge at Kiwanis Park for about \$10,000, for which we were awaiting FEMA decision on whether it could be reimbursed. We likely won't know until 2019. Zoo winter hours begin October 29. The playground at Statz Park was finally installed. The cottonwood on private property on Center Street would be removed after City Council agreed to assist the homeowners with City being repaid in the future. Finally, Winter Recreation Guides would be distributed around October 31.

Next Regular Meeting: November 12, 2018.

Witczak motioned to adjourn, Mjelde seconded. Motion carried

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