

NEW BERLIN PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, January 12, 2009

Please note: Minutes are unofficial until approved by the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission at their next regularly scheduled meeting.

CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL; DECLARATION OF QUORUM:

The regular meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission was called to order by Chairman Bill Christel at 6:35 p.m. in the Common Council Chambers at New Berlin City Hall.

Present: Commissioners; Bill Christel, Chuck Bedwell, Michelle Della, Rick Kocchi (arrived 6:43 pm), Vern Radtke, Allison Thompson, Geno Wicichowski, and Council Representative Bill Moore.

Also Present: Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry Mark Schroeder and Administrative Coordinator Cheryl Bowers.

Excused: Darrell Standish

PUBLIC NOTICE:

This meeting was noticed on January 9, 2009 in accordance with Open Meetings law.

MINUTES:

Motion by Commissioner Bedwell, seconded by Commissioner Radtke to approve the minutes of the regular Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission Meeting of December 8, 2008. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

BILLS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS:

The Commission reviewed the preliminary December 2008 Expenditure Detail in the amount of \$24,911.52. They also reviewed the copies of the preliminary December Revenues and Expenditures. Mr. Schroeder reported the department will be coming in under budget and that these reports reflected only the preliminary end of year numbers and the Commission will be presented with the final numbers at the February meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Council Representative – No Report

Recreation Program Committee – No Report

Parks and Facilities Committee – No Report

Planning Committee – The Committee met on December 11th to discuss the Park & Open Space Plan which will be discussed under the Updates and Concerns.

Golf Course Committee – The Committee met on January 12th to discuss the Lease Agreement which will be discussed under the Director's Report.

CHAIRMAN/PLAN COMMISSION REPORT:

Chairman Christel reported that the Plan Commission will recommend to the Common Council to approve the option for a hotel developer to increase the height of the construction of the hotel by donating open space land to the City.

UPDATES AND CONCERNS:

Update on Park & Open Space Plan - The Plan Committee met with PDI on December 11th to review parkland service area maps, and begin to develop/update park service area standards for the City. The committee also started discussion on the development of a 5-year action plan. Committee members were asked to provide feedback for the next meeting on 1) Enhancements/Improvements to Existing Parks, 2) Park Expansion, 3) New Park Development, and 4) New Park Acquisition. The committee will also continue discussing Trails and Open Space Preservation/Acquisition at an upcoming meeting.

The committee has also been asked by the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee to review and provide feedback on the preliminary Section 35 Conceptual Site Layout Plan, specifically the need for parkland and recreational facilities for this undeveloped section of the City. The Commission received a copy of this plan.

Update on 2009 Parks, Recreation and Forestry Operating & Capital Budgets - The Common Council gave final approval of the operating budget on November 18th. The Approved 2009 Parks, Recreation & Forestry Operating Budget stands at \$1,659,614, an increase of \$21,678 or 1.3% over the 2008 Budget of \$1,637,936. The approved budget includes funding for all current staff positions, and all existing programs and services. The 2009 CIP Budget remains tabled, but is scheduled to be reviewed at the January 13th council meeting.

Update on New Berlin School District Agreement for Use of School Facilities - On December 9th, the Common Council approved the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission recommendation to approve the "Agreement for Use of School Facilities" with the New Berlin School District for School Year 2008-2009. The agreement has been signed by the City, and forwarded to the Board of Education for final approval at the January 12, 2009 meeting.

Update on New Berlin Hills Golf Course –2009 Greens Fees - The Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission recommendation will go before the Common Council for approval at the January 13th meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

New Berlin Hills Golf Course – Review & Recommendation on Extension & Amendment to Lease Agreement with Crown Golf Properties, LP - On December 2nd, Crown Golf gave notice to the Golf Committee of its intention to exercise the lease agreement renewal option for one additional five-year period, which would commence on the 1st day of January 2010, and end on the 31st day of December 2014. City Attorney Mark Blum indicated that since the original agreement with Crown Golf (1995) only allowed for two 5-year extensions, a new agreement will need to be prepared and executed. Crown Golf has indicated they would be agreeable to maintaining all terms contained in the current agreement. The Commission received the letter of renewal from Crown Golf, along with the draft Extension & Amendment to Lease Agreement which was drafted by City Attorney Mark Blum, and is currently being reviewed by Crown Golf. The Golf Committee will be meeting on Monday, January 12th to officially recommend to the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission approval of the agreement. Subject to final review/approval by the commission, the agreement will go before the Common Council on January 27th for review and approval.

Commission Radtke commented that he has played at New Berlin Hills which is well maintained, and he supports to continue the lease agreement with Crown Golf. Chairman Christel thanked Mr. Schroeder for his work with the Requested Action Statement (RAS), and would like the following entered as part of the official record to show the success of New Berlin Hills Golf Course under Crown Golf's management:

- Banquet use increased
- Group golf outings increased
- Both New Berlin High Schools Golf Teams using New Berlin Hills
- Storm water improvements helped neighbors and MMSD is happy
- New Berlin Hills is an asset to the area
- Golf Courses are closing due to financial difficulty; business is growing at New Berlin Hills due to the management by Crown Golf.

Motion by Commissioner Kocchi, seconded by Commissioner Wicichowski to recommend to the City Council to approve the Extension & Amendment to the Lease Agreement with Crown Golf Properties LP, for a five year period from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2014, with one additional five year renewal option, for the lease and operation of New Berlin Hills Golf Course, as recommended by the Golf Course Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

NEXT MEETING: February 9, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Commissioner Wicichowski, seconded by Commissioner Radtke to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Bowers for
Allison R. Thompson, Secretary
Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission

ART/cb