

NEW BERLIN PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, April 13, 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 6:34 p.m. in the Common Council Chambers at New Berlin City Hall.

Present: Commissioners; Bill Christel, Michelle Della, Vern Radtke, Darrell Standish, Allison Thompson, Geno Wichowski, and Council Representative Bill Moore (arrived 6:36 p.m.).

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

Excused: Chuck Bedwell and Rick Kocchi

PUBLIC NOTICE:

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

MINUTES:

Motion by Commissioner Standish, seconded by Commissioner Wichowski to approve the minutes of the regular Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission Meeting of March 9, 2009. Motion carried with Commissioner Della voting present.

COMMON COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS:

Commissioners Kocchi, Standish, and Wichowski terms will be expiring at the end of April. They have all agreed to serve another three-year term and their reappointments will be going before the Common Council for approval. Commissioner Christel thanked them for volunteering to serve to help enhance the lives of the residents of New Berlin.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Communication from Brian Rasmussen of SW YMCA regarding use of Malone Park for overnight camping. This item will be discussed under the Director's Report.

BILLS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS:

The Commission reviewed the March 2009 Expenditure Detail in the amount of \$38,620.83. They also reviewed the copies of the March Revenues and Expenditures. After a brief discussion, motion by Commissioner Della, seconded by Commissioner Standish to approve these financial documents. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Council Representative – No Report

Recreation Program Committee – No Report

Parks and Facilities Committee – The Committee met on March 30th to discuss the Malone Park Splash Pad Project. This item will be discussed under the Updates & Concerns.

Planning Committee – The Committee met on March 25th, and April 1st & 8th to discuss the Park & Open Space Plan. This item will be discussed under the Updates & Concerns.

Golf Course Committee – No Report

CHAIRMAN/PLAN COMMISSION REPORT:

Chairman Christel reported that the Plan Commission continues to work on the Growth and Development Plan and is currently looking at Park and Recreation issues which include Section 35. Mr. Schroeder and Chairman Christel are also members of the New Berlin Comprehensive Planning Steering Sub-Committee.

UPDATES AND CONCERNS:

Update on Park & Open Space Plan - The Plan Committee held meetings on 3/25, 4/1 & 4/8. The committee reviewed and made recommendations on the Parkland Service Area Maps, and the Park Action Plan including recommendations for 1) Enhancements to Existing Parks, 2) Development of Vacant Parkland, 3) Park Expansion, 4) Parkland & Open Space Acquisition or Dedication, 5) Open Space Preservation. The committee also reviewed several plan chapters. Staff has forwarded these comments/recommendations to Planning & Design Institute for incorporation in the plan and/or discussion at a future meeting.

Update on Malone Park Splash Pad Project -The Parks & Facilities Committee met on March 30th with the New Berlin Junior Woman's Club. Staff provided a brief history of this topic, the discussions held, and the interest shown by the New Berlin Junior Woman's Club in partnering with the City on development of a Splash Pad or water playground for the community. The committee briefly discussed the following two preliminary goals.

Committee Goals

- Research Splash Pad/Water Playgrounds & identify the purpose, and feasibility of providing this type of facility for the community.
- Make a formal recommendation to the Parks, Recreation & Forestry Commission, as well as presenting the future steps/actions/timeline in the process.

The committee then listened to a very informative power point presentation by Ron Romens and Derek Paulowski of Commercial Recreation Specialists (CRS). CRS is the Wisconsin Representative for Vortex Splashpads, a leader in aquatic play technology and design since 1995. CRS has worked with several communities on successful splash pad projects including Middleton, Wautoma, Appleton, and currently they are working with Milwaukee County on two park installations.

The presentation included an overview of facility user groups, water/spray features, mechanical systems, safety, site selection process, facility design, costs for design & construction, operational and maintenance budgeting, and project planning.

The Parks & Facilities Committee has tentatively scheduled another meeting for April 20th to continue review and discussion on this project which the Commission would to include discussions on water conservation and recycling.

Update on Parks & Forestry Supervisor Position - On April 21st, Dave Jeske will be retiring from his position as Parks & Forestry Supervisor. Mr. Jeske has enjoyed a long and illustrious career in the parks, recreation & forestry profession spanning 30 years, including the last 16 in New Berlin. Mr. Schroeder reported that even though staff is happy for Dave, they are all very sad to see him retire, he will be greatly missed. Staff is currently working with the Human Resources Department on the hiring process, with interviews tentatively scheduled for the week of April 20th – 24th. Alderman Moore commented that Dave has done an excellent job and New Berlin will miss him. Commissioner Standish commented that Dave was easy to work with and his retirement is a great loss to the City.

Update on Section 35 Revised Conceptual Site Layout Plan - At the March commission meeting, the Parks, Recreation, & Forestry Commission sent this item to the Park Plan Committee for further review. The Comprehensive Plan Steering Sub-Committee had tabled discussion on the revised plan to allow for the Comprehensive Plan Steering Sub-Committee to conduct a site visit of this area. The tour is scheduled for Saturday, April 25th at 11:00 a.m. Park Plan Committee members are encouraged to attend this tour. The Commission was asked to contact Director of Community Development Greg Kessler if they would like to attend the tour.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Malone Park – Review & Recommendation on use of park on July 17th by YMCA for overnight camping – The Commission received correspondence from Brian Rasmussen of the South Suburban YMCA requesting use of Malone Park shelter on July 17th, including overnight camping. The Commission also received the section of the municipal code which indicates camping in City parks is subject to the rules and regulations of the Commission. Staff is not opposed to granting this request, but recommends the following conditions:

- YMCA provides adequate supervision throughout the event.
- A certificate of insurance is provided with insurance limits as stipulated in the park use guidelines.
- YMCA adheres to the park use hours including making sure that shelter #1 is cleaned and vacated by 9:00 a.m. in time for use by the Saturday rental group.
- Notification is provided to the police department.
- \$95 Shelter Fee will be charged.

Motion by Commissioner Radtke to approve the YMCA camp-out on July 17, 2009 with the conditions and rules as designated by staff. Seconded by Commissioner Standish. Motion carried unanimously.

Paul Gihring Memorial - Review & Recommendation on Naming Park Trail in his Honor - At the October meeting, the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission briefly discussed ways to honor Paul Gihring's dedication and service to his community and its parks system through the planting(s) of Memorial Trees, and the naming of a feature in one of our parks. Mr. Schroeder has spoken to Diane Gihring, and the family is honored to know that the Commission would like to recognize Mr. Gihring in these ways. The family has selected Lion's and Gatewood parks for the planting of two oak trees in May. Diane wanted to leave the final decision on the naming of a park feature to the Commission, but liked the ideas of either naming the trail at Deer Creek Sanctuary or ProHealth Care Park in his honor. The Commission received a copy of the policy guidelines for naming public parks and/or features within parks.

The Commission agreed with the Memorial Trees at Lion's and Gatewood Parks. The Commission would like to name the trail at Deer Creek Sanctuary as the Paul Gihring Memorial Trail to reflect his love for nature.

Motion by Commissioner Wichowski to recommend to Council to approve renaming Deer Creek Sanctuary Trail within Deer Creek Sanctuary the Paul Gihring Memorial Trail. Seconded by Commissioner Thompson. Motion carries unanimously.

NEXT MEETING: May 11, 2009

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Commissioner Standish, seconded by Commissioner Wichowski to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

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

ART/cb