

## NEW BERLIN PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, October 18, 2004

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

The regular meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission was called to order by Chairman Bill Christel at 7:05 p.m. in the Common Council Chambers at New Berlin City Hall.

Present: Commissioners; Chuck Bedwell, Nancy Duff, Paul Gihring, James Gradel, Rick Kocchi, Vern Radtke and Council Representative Paul Gallagher.

Also Present: Mayor Wysocki, Police Lt. Randy Alf, Robert Gassert representing Welch Hanson and Associates, Dave Burch of Bonestroo Rosene Anderlik & Associates, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry Mark Schroeder and Administrative Coordinator Cheryl Bowers.

Absent: Michael McAdams

*This meeting was noticed on October 15, 2004 in accordance with Open Meetings law.*

### MINUTES:

Motion by Commissioner Gallagher to approve the minutes of the regular Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission Meeting of September 20, 2004. Seconded by Commissioner Bedwell and carried unanimously with Commissioners Kocchi, Gradel and Gihring voting present.

Consensus of the Commission to proceed to the renaming of Valley View Park, the Disc Golf Course at Valley View Park, and the Carleton Pointe Condominiums, under the Director's Report to accommodate the visitors present.

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

**Review and recommendation regarding request to rename Valley View Park in honor of New Berlin resident Michelle M. Witmer** - This item was referred to the Parks & Facilities Committee for review. It was the general consensus of the committee members to recommend to the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission to table a decision on this item to allow for further study and research.

Michelle Hawley of 1722 S. Carriage Ln. restated that she originally contacted Alderman Gallagher requesting the renaming of Valley View Park to Michelle M. Witmer Park in honor of Specialist Michelle M. Witmer. Witmer was the first Wisconsin Army National Guard soldier to be killed in action since WWII, and the first female casualty in the history of any National Guard Unit in the United States.

Don Hermann of 5575 S. Maberry Ln. and Commander of the New Berlin VFW Post, informed the Commission that the VFW post and the American Legion Post were never contacted regarding their endorsement, as stated by the letter of request, to rename Valley View Park to Michelle Witmer Park. There have been other New Berlin residents that have given the ultimate price, their life, for freedom. There were 18 Civil War, 2 WWI, 7 WWII, 2 Vietnam, and 1 Iraq War New Berlin soldiers that have died for their country. There currently is no veterans' memorial honoring any of New Berlin's fallen soldiers. The new library is planning a veterans' memorial for all veterans that gave their life for freedom.

Rick Cherone of 12880 W. Wimbledon Dr., and member of the League of Purple Heart, would like Michelle Witmer honored with naming Valley View Park after her for her ultimate sacrifice. Michelle worked with children at the orphanage in Iraq so naming a park after her, where children play, would be very appropriate.

Gordon Messmer of 5515 S. Martha Dr. and Commander of American Legion Post 488 informed the Commission that the American Legion Post would like to see a memorial for all fallen veterans. It is impossible to explain to families why a park is being named after one fallen veteran and not their loved one that also paid the ultimate price for freedom. It would be more appropriate to add Michelle to other fallen veterans being honored at the new library.

Carolyn Tyler of 4524 W. Morgan Ave., Greenfield and member of the American Legion All Women's Post along with other military organizations, asked the Commission to consider renaming Valley View Park after Michelle Witmer. Honoring Michelle in this way would also symbolize the community's appreciation to all women that have served their country, past, present, and future.

Kevin Cavanaugh of 3949 E. Mallory, Cudahy and Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart informed the Commission that the Order endorses the request to rename Valley View Park to Michelle Witmer Park. Since Michelle worked with children at the orphanage in Iraq, naming a park after her, where children play, would be very appropriate.

Commissioner Gallagher reported to the Commission and to the public, that the sub-committee would like to review and research Park Naming policies from other communities before a decision is made.

**Disc Golf Course at Valley View Park – presentation by Lt. Randy Alf, New Berlin Police Department** - Lt. Randy Alf reported to the Commission that during the summer, the New Berlin Police Department conducted an aggressive directed patrol at Valley View Park. A majority of the patrol activities were associated with the Disc Golf Course in response to complaints from residents. The results from this directed patrol included 25 arrests, 39 warnings/summonses, and 32 traffic violations, in which the majority offenses were caused by non-New Berlin residents. New Berlin Police Officers were undercover with the primary arrests dealing with drug abuse violations. The direct patrol was not a success since there were as many arrests in September as there were in June when the directed patrol started. Although there have not been any directed patrols in the other municipal parks, there were almost no violators. Direct patrols are only contacted if there have been citizen complaints or ongoing problems have been detected by Police Officers. The Police Department is very concerned since the non-residents are bringing in drugs to use and/or sell at Valley View Park, therefore, the Police Department is recommending closing the disc golf course.

The Commission would like to review this situation and the possibility of charging non-residents a fee, only allowing non-residents that are accompanied by a resident, or possibly posting signs that violators will be arrested/prosecuted.

Motion by Commissioner Gallagher to refer the operation of the Disc Golf Course to the Recreation Committee for review and to bring suggested solutions to the full Commission at a future meeting. Seconded by Rick Kocchi and carried unanimously.

Eric Schmidt of 13880 W. Wilbur Dr. and the Secretary of Youth Advisory Board, spoke on behalf of the Board and New Berlin teenagers. He asked the Commission to not punish the hundreds of law abiding New Berlin teens, that use the disc golf course, by closing it.

Terry Miller of W165 N1855 Grand Ave., Menomonee Falls and Wisconsin State Coordinator of Disc Golf Professional Players, informed the Commission that he organized disc golf tournaments and teaches clinics. This is not only a teen sport but also an adult sport. There can be 200 – 800 participants in an average summer day at the Valley View Park course. This is the only course in Waukesha County and the nearest within 20 –25 minutes. The course is very beginner friendly and easy to play. There are over 70 courses in the state, with only 4 or 5 courses charging a fee. There have not been any courses closed due to problems. The Brown Deer course was moved to Dretzka Park due to the enlargement of the ball golf course.

Matthew Angiolo of 5211 S. Valley View Dr. informed the Commission that disc baskets are within 30 to 40 ft. of his property line. He has two young children and the abusive language can be heard not only in his yard but also in his house.

Mary Fennig of 5090 S. Small Rd. informed the Commission that there have been problems with public urinating on the trails, littering, and destroying trees. Ms. Fennig recommends the course be moved to another park and a fee should be charged.

The subcommittee was directed to address the complaints and violations and recommend to the full Commission solutions to these problems.

**Carleton Pointe Condominium project- Review and recommendation on conceptual plan proposal by Welch Hanson Associates** - City and golf course staffs have met with Welch Hanson Engineers on site, and also with legal counsel to discuss this project. The Golf Course Committee is not opposed to studying this idea and would endorse the project if it is beneficial to the golf course. Bob Gassert representing Welch Hanson and Associates distributed updated plans of the area in question. Mr. Gassert informed the Commission that this plan would benefit New Berlin Hills and there will no longer be complaints from the neighbors to the east regarding storm water drainage from the golf course. A berm would be constructed on the golf course to temporarily stage the water, with an outlet structure and pipe on the private developer's property to convey the storm water. This would address drainage problems and allow storm water to drain in hours instead of days.

The Committee was concerned about; the environmental impact of removing trees and nature habitats, aesthetics, and the recreation impact on the golfers. The Committee will be working with Legal, Engineering and Planning Departments, and make a presentation to the Commission at a future meeting.

Consensus of the Commission to proceed to the update on Quarry Park under the Updates/Concerns to accommodate the visitors present.

#### **UPDATES AND CONCERNS:**

**Update on Quarry Park** - Dave Burch of Bonestroo Rosene Anderlik & Associates reported to the Commission that Johnson Sand & Gravel completed the grading, placement of topsoil and seeding of the Phase I area (ball diamonds) on

September 21<sup>st</sup>. The southern slope from the ball diamonds to the buildings has also been graded, top soiled, seeded and mulched. This work was finished on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Although the weather was sunny and warm during September, the lack of rainfall has meant little seed growth. Johnson is now working on constructing the stone parking area for Phase I, along with grading and shaping the eastern lake area (Phase II). A site meeting was held on October 1<sup>st</sup> to review the progress of Phase I, and discuss the grading plans, field staking, and reclamation activities for Phase II (eastern lake area). Phase II will also include Stormwater control plan, boat launch & pier, trails, sand volleyball courts, picnic areas and parking.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**BILLS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

The Commission reviewed the September 2004 Expenditure Detail in the amount of \$26,003.24. They also reviewed the copies of the September Revenues and Expenditures. Mark Schroeder reported that the Park revenues are lower than anticipated however, the Recreation revenues are \$38,000 higher than last year and are in line with projections. After a brief discussion, motion by Commissioner Kocchi to approve these financial documents. Seconded by Commissioner Radtke and carried unanimously.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Council Representative – No Report

Recreation Program Committee – No Report

Parks and Facilities Committee – Met on October 4, 2004. Discussed under Director's Report concerning renaming Valley View Park.

Planning Committee – No Report

Golf Course Committee – Met on October 15, 2004. Discussed under Director's Report concerning Carleton Pointe Condominiums. The Committee will meet in November to discuss the Greens Fees and will make a recommendation to the Commission at the November meeting.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** No Report

**PLAN COMMISSION MEMBER REPORT:** No Report

**UPDATES AND CONCERNS:**

**Update on ProHealth Care Park** - The landscape sub-contractor was on site the week of September 13<sup>th</sup> to remove the dead plants and shrubs. Replacement of the plant material and remulching of the planting beds was completed the week of September 20<sup>th</sup> with the exception of the rose garden. A majority of the trail washouts have been repaired, with additional stone added to the trail system. A majority of the park, especially the athletic fields, needs to be restored and reseeded before the City will give final acceptance for the project. The park entrance sign was installed on October 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Update on Weston's Antique Apple Orchard** - Giles Engineering conducted a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment, which was completed on September 8<sup>th</sup>. The assessment revealed two environmental concerns on the property: above ground storage tanks without spill containment, and the potential of arsenic and lead pesticide use in the orchard. Based on these findings, a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment was recommended to further evaluate soil and groundwater conditions. Following discussion with the Mayor and legal counsel, Giles Engineering was retained to perform these additional professional services, which included installing three GeoProbe soil borings at the location of the storage tanks and six soil borings in the orchard, testing and laboratory analysis of the soil samples, evaluation of the information collected and preparation of the Phase II ESA Report. The soil borings were taken on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Recommendations from Giles Engineering Associates, Inc. states that "Based on findings and conclusions of this Limited Phase II ESA further environmental investigation of the Site is not warranted. However, the following recommendation should be considered: Upgrade the existing ASTs on the Site to be located within a self containment system, to prevent the possible release of petroleum constituents."

Mark Schroeder will provide a copy of the report to Legal counsel. The Commission was concerned the level of arsenic/lead slightly exceeds the range of naturally occurring arsenic concentrations of 2 to 5mg/kg. The Commission would like Legal to research who would be responsible if the acceptable State/Federal levels should change.

**Update on Verizon Wireless Cell Tower Proposal at Hickory Grove Center** - An issue arose with Verizon regarding the school district lease and whether they would feel this lease represents a non-municipal use of the site such as would trigger the buy back provision under the City's contract with the district. The City requested a letter from the School District acknowledging that the placement of a cell tower is not an issue. At the September 27<sup>th</sup> Board of Education meeting, approval was given to send this letter to the City. On October 4<sup>th</sup>, the City issued the Zoning Permit for this project. Currently the City Engineering and Inspection departments are reviewing the site and shelter plans as part of the building permit process.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

**New Berlin Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department – A Presentation on Department Programs, Services & Accomplishments** – Presentation was rescheduled for November.

**2005 Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department Budget** - The Public Hearing on the City Budget is scheduled for November 16<sup>th</sup>. Paul Gallagher requested the Council approve adding one full-time park worker position that was removed in 2004, however it was defeated by a 4 to 3 vote. Mark Schroeder thanked Alderman Gallagher for his support which convinced the Council to approve a \$10,000 increase to the Parks Budget for additional seasonal help.

The Gypsy Moth program remains in the budget. The spraying was so successful in 2004 that it is expected that the 2005 program will be smaller than the acreage sprayed in 2003 which was the first year the City participated in the aerial spray program.

The New Berlin Athletic Association has increased their fees to cover the decrease in the City support. The Commission expressed concerns that this not be a trend to reduce support in the future.

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2005 Budget remained the same as for 2004. The Commission was able to save monies by bidding out the contract for tent and restroom rental. Donations increased from 2003 with Schoeneck Containers donating \$27,000 in sponsorship for the fireworks and bands.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**NEXT MEETING:** November 15, 2004.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Commissioner Gihring to adjourn at 9:53 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Duff and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Bowers for  
Nancy Duff, Secretary  
Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission

ND/cb