

NEW BERLIN PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, November 15, 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 Vice-Chairman Paul Gihring, at 7:05 p.m. in the Common Council Chambers at New Berlin City Hall.

Present: Commissioners; Chuck Bedwell, Nancy Duff (arriving at 7:15 p.m.), James Gradel, Rick Kocchi, Michael McAdams, Vern Radtke and Council Representative Paul Gallagher.

Also Present: Mayor Wysocki, Division Engineer-Storm Water Eric Nitschke, Associate Planner Olofu Agbaji, New Berlin Hills Golf Course General Manager John Rader, Golf Course Committee Member Ray McInerney, Robert Gassert representing Welch Hanson and Associates, Rebecca Roeker of Murn & Martin, S.C. representing Hans Stute and the Carleton Pointe Development, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry Mark Schroeder and Administrative Coordinator Cheryl Bowers.

Excused: Bill Christel

This meeting was noticed on November 3, 2004 in accordance with Open Meetings law.

MINUTES:

Motion by Commissioner Gradel to approve the minutes of the regular Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission Meeting of October 18, 2004. Seconded by Commissioner Bedwell and carried unanimously with Commissioner McAdams voting present.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Council Representative – No Report

Recreation Program Committee – The committee met on November 12, 2004 to discuss the disc golf course at Valley View Park. It is a work in progress and the committee will keep the Commission updated.

Parks and Facilities Committee – The committee met on November 8, 2004 to discuss the proposal to rename Valley View Park in honor of Michelle Witmer. This topic will be discussed under the Director's Report.

Planning Committee – No Report

Golf Course Committee – The committee met on November 10, 2004 to discuss the 2005 Greens Fees and the Carleton Pointe Condominium Project. These topics will be discussed under the Director's Report.

Consensus of the Commission to proceed to the review and recommendation regarding the request to rename Valley View Park in honor of New Berlin resident Michelle M. Witmer, 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 - The committee met on November 8, 2004 to discuss the proposal to rename Valley View Park in honor of Michelle Witmer. Motion from the committee – Motion by Commissioner Gallagher to recommend to the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission to rename Valley View Park to Michelle Witmer Veterans' Park. Seconded by Commissioner Radtke. Motion carried 2-0 with Commissioner Bedwell abstaining.

Motion by Commissioner Gallagher to rename Valley View Park to Michelle Witmer Veterans' Park. Seconded by Commissioner Duff for discussion. The Commission wanted the following items considered prior to voting:

- What do the citizens' think?
- Options to place the memorial elsewhere – was not discussed by the subcommittee.
- Honor all veterans.
- Connection to Valley View Park or would another park be more appropriate?
- Would precedent be set to name parks after other fallen veterans?
- Historic significance – 1st Woman U.S. Army National Guardsman to be killed in action.
- Is there an appropriate location at Valley View Park for a memorial?

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. Arlington National Park is creating a memorial for Michelle Witmer and New Berlin should follow suite.

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.

Kevin Cavenaugh of 3949 E. Mallory, Cudahy and Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart stated children would learn about the price of freedom by observing a memorial to Michelle Witmer near the playground equipment.

Paul Lincoln Scheuble of 19890 W. Julius Heil Dr. stated a different location should be considered since Valley View Park is not a good location for a memorial to Michelle Witmer.

Sgt. Brown stated he was in the same squad as Michelle Witmer. She was age 20 when she died defending her country. She was very devoted to the children in the orphanage and would visit them everyday.

Don Hermann of 5575 S. Maberry Ln. and Commander of the New Berlin VFW Post, informed the Commission that there were 30 plus residents that were killed in action but there is no memorial for them. A memorial at the City Center for all resident veterans that were killed in action would be more appropriate. The New Berlin VFW Post supports naming something in honor of Michelle Witmer but wants to see the other 30 plus veterans honored also.

Mayor Wysocki informed the Commission that he is working with the New Berlin VFW Post in searching for a park and memorial for all veterans. The Mayor would like the next park acquisition to be called "Freedom Park". The Mayor is also working to create a relationship between the City of New Berlin and the orphanage as a living memorial to Michelle Witmer.

Motion by Commissioner Kocchi to table the renaming of Valley View Park to Michelle Witmer Veterans' Park. Seconded by Commissioner Bedwell. Motion carries 7-1 with Commissioner Gihring voting no.

Consensus of the Commission to proceed to the Carleton Pointe Condominiums Project under the Director's Report to accommodate the visitors present.

Carleton Pointe Condominiums Project – Review and recommendation on conceptual plan proposal by Welch Hanson Associates – The plan was referred to the Golf Course Committee to study the proposal. At the November 10th Golf Course Committee meeting Welch Hanson Engineers, city and golf course staff met to review two proposals for locating a dry detention area on New Berlin Hills. One of the plans calls for minimal disturbance to the golf course, while the other "disturbed" plan calls for additional grading. Following considerable discussion the Golf Course Committee recommended moving forward with the "disturbed" plan as it would move the 100 and 25-year storm inundation limits from the 16th fairway. Both plans will include the construction of a berm on city property with the outlet structure and pipe on the developer's property. This "disturbed" plan design does mean additional construction and restoration activities would have to take place. This recommendation was subject to three items: 1) technical review by the Storm water Division staff, namely Eric Nitschke, 2) use of sod as the preferred method of stabilization, and 3) the construction schedule would need to be coordinated with golf course staff to reduce the impact to golf operations. In summary, the Golf Course Committee was receptive to either design based on the analysis by city engineering staff and taking into consideration the benefits to the golf course from both a maintenance and playability standpoint.

Eric Nitschke informed the Commission that these plans will help solve storm water problems. The Hybrid plan, which was presented tonight, was the third plan. This plan combined certain aspects of the two proposals. The Developer's general grading plan should more closely follow the "undisturbed" proposal, with a little more grading to be done along the southern property line. This will allow for greater ease of maintenance for the golf course (more pitch to allow for the facility to drain dry more quickly and less land disturbance), and will also be a cost benefit to the Developer due to less grading. The Developer should also upsize the outlet pipe from the "undisturbed" proposal size of 24" to the "disturbed" proposal size of 30". The upsizing of the outlet pipe will help decrease the limits of inundation on the golf course. Finally, the berm should be raised and lengthened to match into the 794 contour, and the trees should be cleared within the 790 contour along the lot line to accommodate proposed grading, drainage, and maintenance. The berm would keep the majority of the water from running in the neighbors' yards, however, it is really a staging area to draw the water to Cleveland Avenue. Even though the Golf Course Committee is

recommending the "disturbed proposal" staff recommends the new plan being submitted. Rebecca Roeker of Murn & Martin, S.C informed the Commission that she is working with City Attorney Mark Blum on the project and following his suggestions of:

- Minimum grading on golf course
- Some trees down – clean low lying areas
- Go to Engineering Department for approval
- Chapter 13 approval needed from MMSD
- Berm located on Carleton Pointe property will be maintained by the Condominium Association
- New Berlin Hills will maintain the area on the golf course
- An easement will be secured for any construction of the pond on the golf course property

John Rader, General Manager of New Berlin Hills Golf Course, stated that he will support the Hybrid Plan. Crown Golf will be able to maintain this area since they currently maintain it. This new plan will benefit the golf course. Mark Schroeder suggested sod placement for the areas that trees are removed instead of seed due to run-off concerns. Robert Gassert representing Welch Hanson and Associates informed the Commission that a landscaping plan would be provided.

Motion by Commissioner Bedwell to recommend to Council the approval of the "Hybrid Plan" for the Carleton Pointe Development Project as recommended by the Storm Water Department and New Berlin Hills Golf Course Staff. Seconded by Commissioner Kocchi and carried unanimously.

Consensus of the Commission to proceed to the New Berlin Hills Golf Course greens fees under the Director's Report to accommodate the visitors present.

New Berlin Hills Golf Course – Review and recommendation on 2005 Greens Fees – At the November 10th Golf Course Committee meeting, the committee reviewed the greens fees market analysis, and has unanimously recommended the Greens Fees for 2005 remain at the same rate as in 2004. John Rader, General Manager of New Berlin Hills Golf Course, informed the Commission that New Berlin Hills fees are now getting on the high end compared to other courses. Area pros are not increasing their fees for 2005, if New Berlin increases fees, these fees will be higher than other area courses and will cause loss of patrons. 2004 was a bad year due to weather, even though Crown Golf invested \$24,000 in marketing specials. These specials did increase rounds played in September and October. In fact, these two months were the best September and October in New Berlin Hills' history. The Commission's recommendation will be sent to Council on December 14, 2004.

Mark Schroeder thanked John Rader and his staff for a great job in 2004, dealing with the bad weather, Streambank stabilization project, planted trees, new computer system for the irrigation system, and great promotions. The department is looking forward to working with John and his staff in the upcoming years. Commissioner Gihring thanked the Golf Course Committee for all their work and effort.

Motion by Commissioner Bedwell to recommend to Council the 2005 Greens Fees for New Berlin Hills Golf Course as recommended by the Golf Course Committee. Seconded by Commissioner Kocchi and carried unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: No Report

PLAN COMMISSION MEMBER REPORT: No Report

BILLS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS:

The Commission reviewed the October 2004 Expenditure Detail in the amount of \$17,121.78. They also reviewed the copies of the October Revenues and Expenditures. After a brief discussion, motion by Commissioner Kocchi to approve these financial documents. Seconded by Commissioner Gradel and carried unanimously.

UPDATES AND CONCERNS:

Update on ProHealth Care Park - The contractor has been on site to grade and compact the trail system. A majority of the park, especially the athletic fields, needs to have washouts repaired and areas reseeded next spring. The city parks crews recently installed the stone planter and landscape plantings for the park entrance sign. The remaining punch list items from the October letter to the contractor will need to be completed before the city will give final acceptance for the project.

Update on New Berlin Hills Stream bank Stabilization Project - This project has been completed to the satisfaction of the parks and engineering departments. In spring, city staff will meet with the contractor for final inspection, and address any warrantee items including seeding and landscape plantings. The engineering department has retained monies to insure all necessary items are addressed to the city's satisfaction. The department is very pleased to announce this project was selected

for a Facility Design Award of Excellence at the recent Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association Annual Conference. Commissioner Gihring commented on an excellent job on this project.

Update on Weston's Antique Apple Orchard - Giles Engineering was hired to conduct a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment to further evaluate soil and groundwater conditions. These professional services 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. Based on the findings and conclusions of the Phase II ESA further environmental investigation was not warranted. However, the above ground storage tanks are recommended to be located within a self-containment system to prevent possible release of petroleum products. The city is currently working with Ken Weston to install this spill containment system. Other paperwork has been put in place by the attorneys to allow for the closing to be scheduled once the spill containment system is completed.

Update on Verizon Wireless Cell Tower Proposal at Hickory Grove Center - The lease agreements have been signed and the City Building Inspection Department has issued the building permit.

Update on Gypsy Moth Program - In 2003 and 2004, the department worked in cooperation with the DNR on an aerial spray program. In 2003, the city qualified for the spraying of 5 spray blocks totaling approximately 450 acres. In 2004 the population exploded to the point where the city qualified to spray 14 blocks covering over 1,300 acres. In all over 32,000 acres were sprayed in 2004 in SE Wisconsin.

The cool, wet spring of 2004 created the perfect environment for a fungus that infected millions of the gypsy moth caterpillars. In addition a naturally occurring virus along with strong winds that knocked the caterpillars from the trees kept the defoliation to a minimum. Lastly, the results of the spray program exceeded expectations. The result is no areas of the city will qualify for the spray program in 2005! City parks/forestry staff did conduct the annual egg mass surveys in October. While they did find some areas of egg masses, none of these areas qualify for spraying per the guidelines established by the DNR. Many of the surrounding communities are reporting the same good news.

Update on Parks Division Projects (Lion's Park baseball diamond & Buena & Gatewood Parks playground projects) - The Parks & Forestry Division staff has been busy the last two months completing several park improvements projects in addition to their regular parks and forestry duties. First the Lion's Park baseball diamond was completely reconstructed including installation of drain tile, placement of topsoil and sod in the infield and home plate areas, installation of ball mix and infield conditioner. Over 50% of the material costs for this project were provided by the New Berlin Magic organization. In addition, the crews removed the outdated play equipment at Buena and Gatewood Parks, and installed new modular systems that meet safety codes and accessibility guidelines. Mark Schroeder thanked the crews for a job well done.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

New Berlin Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department – A Presentation on Department Programs, Services & Accomplishments – Due to the late hour, the presentation will be shown next month.

2005 Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department Budget - The Common Council approved the 2005 Budget on October 12th. The Public Hearing will be held on November 16th.

2005 Picnic and Athletic Field Usage Fees – Review and Approval of 2005 Fees - The 2005 proposed fees for athletic field use reflects a 5% increase over the 2004 fees. Cheryl Bowers informed the Commission that staff is recommending the Picnic Site Rental rates remain at the same level for 2005 and the deposit fee be eliminated. There has been a decrease of park reservations due to the 25% rate increase for 2004. Increasing the picnic rates for 2005 will place New Berlin's fees the highest in the area.

Motion by Commissioner Gihring to approve the 2005 Picnic Fees as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Radtke and carried unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Duff to approve the 2005 Athletic Field Usage Fees as presented. Seconded by Commissioner McAdams and carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: None

NEXT MEETING: December 20, 2004

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Commissioner Radtke to adjourn at 9:57 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Gradel and carried unanimously.

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

ND/cb