

Minutes

NEW BERLIN PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, April 21, 2003

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

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chairman Bill Christel at 7:01 p.m. in the Common Council Chambers at New Berlin City Hall.

Present: Chairman Bill Christel, Commissioners; Chuck Bedwell, Rick Kocchi, Vern Radtke, and Council Representative Paul Gallagher.

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

Excused: Nancy Duff, Paul Gihring, James Gradel, and Larry Kilmer

MINUTES:

Motion by Commissioner Kocchi to approve the minutes of the regular Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting of March 17, 2003. Seconded by Commissioner Radtke and carried unanimously.

Consensus of the Commission to proceed to the Request for a Dog Park under New Business to accommodate the visitors present.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mark Schroeder received several e-mails in support of the dog park. He stated other municipalities/counties have dog parks such as Mequon, Grafton (a private park), Dane County, the City of Brookfield, and Milwaukee County. Denise Lucas of 4410 South Regal Drive, New Berlin stated the dog park could be funded with private donations or an increase of dog license fees. Ms. Lucas felt there were areas in Malone and Stigler Parks for a dog park. Mayor Wysocki advised the Commission that a recommendation to Council for consideration would be needed for any increase in license fees to fund the dog park.

The Commission would need questions answered such as: a list of priorities i.e.; parking lot, acres needed, a design criteria; costs involved; potential locations, liability, maintenance, etc.

Motion by Commissioner Bedwell to refer the request for a dog park to the Parks and Facilities Committee for review of existing park areas for a possible a dog park. Seconded by Commissioner Gallagher and carried unanimously.

ELECTIONS:

Election of officers and committees were postponed until next month.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

BILLS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS:

The Commission reviewed the March 2003 Expenditure Detail in the amount of \$40,119.34. They also reviewed the copies of the March Revenues and Expenditures. After a brief discussion, motion by Commissioner Gallagher to approve these financial documents. Seconded by Commissioner Kocchi and carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Council Representative – No Report

Recreation Program Committee – No Report

Parks and Facilities Committee – No Report

Planning Committee – No Report

Golf Course Committee – No Report

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Bill Christel suggested the Commission refer to the previous Sunday Milwaukee Journal article on bike paths which stated the importance these bike paths have for a community.

PLAN COMMISSION MEMBER REPORT: No Report

UPDATES AND CONCERNS:

Update on ProHealth Care Park – Mark Schroeder reported the permit from the DNR will be obtained sometime next month. The Parks and Forestry Crews completed the installation of approximately 3,600 lf. of silt fence by the March 22nd DNR deadline to allow for summer construction to take place.

Update on Park and Open Space Plan – Mark Schroeder reported the Plan Commission public hearing scheduled for April 7th was postponed until April 14th due to a snow storm. Mark Schroeder thanked Nancy Anderson of SEWRPC for her attendance and for answering the questions from the Plan Commission and the audience. The Park and Open Space Plan will be sent for approval to the Plan Commission on May 5th and if approved, then to the Common Council on May 13th their approval.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

New Berlin Hills Stream Bank Stabilization Resolution to apply for Urban Non-point Source and Storm water Construction Grant – Monies have been included in the 2003 Storm Water Utility Budget in the amount of \$250,000 for this project. Design plans have been completed, and DNR permits applied for to allow for Fall/Winter 2003 start of construction. Staff is recommending the submittal of a DNR Urban Non-point Source and Storm water Construction Grant to offset a portion of the construction costs. The DNR requires applicants to pass a resolution authorizing the application for grant funding.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Kocchi, seconded by Commissioner Radtke, to recommend to the City Council to adopt Resolution 3-20 authorizing Mark Schroeder, Director of the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department to act on behalf of the City of New Berlin to submit an application to the State of Wisconsin for financial aid for Urban Non-point Source & Storm water Design and Construction purposes for the New Berlin Hills/Root River Stream bank Stabilization Project. Motion carried unanimously.

Request to Acquire Weston's Antique Apple Orchard – Mark Schroeder reported that recently Ken Weston, owner of the Weston Apple Orchard, contacted Mayor Wysocki regarding the donation of the orchard and site buildings to the City as an extension to Historic Park. Based on past correspondence, it appears there was an interest in accepting the donation of this property to the Parks System, but several items such as site and building maintenance, and operation of the orchard concerned the Commission. Mark Schroeder, Mayor Wysocki, and Paul Gihring met with the New Berlin Historical Society to discuss the Society's interest in this property. The Historical Society endorsed the proposal of the Weston's turning the orchard over to the City and felt it would be a welcomed addition to Historic Park.

The Commission stated their concern of the costs involved in operating and maintaining the orchard and buildings. A horticultural professional or UW Agriculture Extension would be needed to operate the orchard and maintain the property. The Parks and Forestry Division does not have the manpower or funds to support this addition. Before sending this to the Park Planning Committee for review, staff was directed to contact the Waukesha County Extension Office and the UW Madison School of Agriculture to determine their interest in this proposal.

NEXT MEETING: May 19, 2003

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Commissioner Gallagher to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Kocchi and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Bowers for

Nancy Duff, Secretary Parks and Recreation Commission

ND/cb