

NEW BERLIN PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, September 15, 2003

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 7:15 p.m. in the Common Council Chambers at New Berlin City Hall.

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

Also Present: Tim Klingman of Wireless Facilities, Inc., Mayor Wysocki (arrived 8:25), Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry Mark Schroeder and Administrative Coordinator Cheryl Bowers.

Excused: Bill Christel and Vern Radtke

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONER:

Vice-Chairman Paul Gihring welcomed newly appointed Commissioner Mike McAdams to the Commission.

MINUTES:

Motion by Commissioner Duff to approve the minutes of the regular Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission Meeting of August 18, 2003 as amended to reflect the changes under AAT Wireless Proposal at ProHealth Care Park under the Director's Report to state; "The proposed facility/tower will not unreasonably interfere with the view from any public park, natural scenic vista, historic building or district, or major view corridor." Seconded by Commissioner Gradel and carried unanimously with Commissioner McAdams voting present.

Consensus of the Commission to proceed to the review and recommendation request by Verizon Wireless to locate a Wireless Telecommunications Facility at Hickory Grove Center under the Director's Report to accommodate the visitors present.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Tim Klingman of Wireless Facilities Inc., representing Verizon, Inc., requested the Commission to approve a 100 ft. stealth flag pole style telecommunications tower along with a small facilities building to be located at Hickory Grove Center. The tower would be able to supply services for two carriers. Verizon would maintain the flag and it would be lit at night.

Tim Klingman will work with Mark Schroeder, the Parks and Facilities Committee, and Planning to determine the location and appearance of the tower and building.

Motion by Commissioner Paul Gallagher to recommend to the Plan Commission to approve placement of a Verizon stealth flag pole cell tower at Hickory Grove Center, with the condition that the lease revenues be credited to the Public Site and Open Space Account. Seconded by Commissioner Nancy Duff. Motion passes unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

BILLS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS:

The Commission reviewed the August 2003 Expenditure Detail in the amount of \$50,617.85. They also reviewed the copies of the August Revenues and Expenditures. Mark Schroeder reported that as of August 31st the Recreation Program Revenue account 384.100 is approximately \$20,000 greater than the same date last year, due to an increase in enrollment and fees. After a brief discussion, motion by Commissioner Kocchi to approve these financial documents. Seconded by Commissioner Gradel 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: No Report

PLAN COMMISSION MEMBER REPORT: No Report

UPDATES AND CONCERNS:

Update on ProHealth Care Park – The DNR Chapter 30 permit was received on August 25th and construction started on August 27th. The grading was done for the soccer fields, the top soil will be spread and seeded the week of September 22nd. The parking lot has been staked and staking for the boardwalks and trails will be done shortly.

Update on Weston’s Antique Apple Orchard – The Weston Apple Orchard Ad-Hoc Committee met with City Attorney Mark Blum on September 4th. Their next meeting is scheduled for September 29th and the Ad-Hoc Committee will update the Commission at the October meeting.

Update on Forestry Division – The Commission received the Forestry Division responsibilities, goals, 2002 – 2003 Accomplishments, and the 2003 & 2004 goals, (this information is available on the new City website). Mark Schroeder reported that the division was created in 2002. The staff, from the office to the park crews, have done a great job, especially Parks and Forestry Supervisor Dave Jeske, in the time consuming task of managing the gypsy moth aerial suppression program.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

2004 Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department Budget – The Commission received the 2004 Budget as it was submitted to the Mayor. The department’s main concern is to keep the same level of staffing due to the increase in services and responsibilities. The Commission will receive a copy of the Council Approved Budget when it is available.

National Avenue Phase II Landscaping Project – The Commission received copies of the landscaping plans for Phase II of this project. The planting is part of the 2003 Urban Forestry Grant that will cover 50% of the project costs. The Commission scheduled a special meeting for Monday, October 6th at 5:30 PM, to review bids and recommend to Council, the award of the contract.

Park Zoning Districts – Commissioner Gihring explained the Plan Commission has discussed the proposal of Alderman Ament to change the current Park zoning of P-1 to have three different Park Zoning Districts. The Plan Commission referred the proposal to the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission their review of recommendation.

- P-1 Active Parks
- P-2 Passive Parks
- P-3 Publicly Owned Permanent Open Space

Items to Consider

- To implement this you would have to define the activities that are permitted in active parks, passive parks and publicly owned permanent open space.

- Each park site would need to be reviewed to determine which areas fit into the above categories. Note that a single park might have several zoning districts.
- Conversion from one activity to another would most likely require a zoning change (public hearing & council approval).
- It could be difficult to define and enforce P-1 vs. P-2 uses. For example, would a wood-chip trail be a passive use and a paved trail be an active one? Would roller bladers be prohibited from using a trail in a P-2 district?
- Planning process. The Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission completes a natural resource inventory of each site to determine appropriate environmental use, a needs analysis is also done with review of standards found in the Park and Open Space Plan combined with public input through the Master Planning process.
- SEWRPC is not aware of any community in our Region that has separate zoning districts for active and passive parks. SEWRPC has prepared zoning ordinances of 43 cities, villages and towns in the Region. None of these 43 ordinances have separate districts for active and passive parks. Local ordinances generally contain one Park@ zoning district, which allows for a range of recreational activities. Staff recommendation: Recommend one zoning district for all public parks. Specific uses within each park would be determined through preparation of a park master plan, with public review and input.

After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Rick Kocchi to recommend to the Plan Commission to leave Park Zoning as currently established in the municipal code. Seconded by Commissioner Jim Gradel. Motion passes unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: None

NEXT MEETING: October 20, 2003

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Commissioner Duff to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Kocchi and carried unanimously.

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

ND/cb