

Minutes

NEW BERLIN PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, January 9, 2002

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chairman Bill Christel at 6:34 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Present: Chairman Bill Christel, Commissioners; Chuck Bedwell, Nancy Duff, Paul Gihring, James Gradel, Larry Kilmer, Rick Kocchi, and Council Representative Paul Gallagher. Tony Mescher arrived at 7:00 PM.

Also Present: Brian Lennie from Bonestroo, Rosene, Anderlik, and Associates. Director of Streets, Parks and Recreation Mark Schroeder and Administrative Coordinator Cheryl Bowers.

MINUTES:

Motion by Commissioner Gradel to approve the minutes of the regular Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting of November 26, 2001. Seconded by Commissioner Kocchi and carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Karen Halley of Corporate Capers has requested a waiving or reduction of the fees for their tournament for Special Olympics. The tournament is scheduled for April 27, 2002. Staff recommendation is to be consistent with the other groups and charge the current fees.

Motion by Commissioner Bedwell to waive the fees for Corporate Capers for the Special Olympics on April 27, 2002. Seconded by Commissioner Gihring and carried with Commissioners Bedwell, Gihring, Kilmer, and Gallagher voting yes and Commissioners Duff, Kocchi and Gradel voting no.

BILLS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS:

The Commission reviewed the November 2001 Expenditure Detail in the amount of \$31,470.56. They also reviewed the copies of the November 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 – Meeting on December 4th for Pro Heath Care Park. The Commissioners received the minutes from the meeting with no further discussion.

Planning Committee – No Report

Golf Course Committee – No Report

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: None

PLAN COMMISSION MEMBER REPORT: None

UPDATES AND CONCERNS:

Update and recommendation on 2002 Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Dates - There has been a request to start televising the Parks and Recreation Commission meetings. In order

for this to happen, the meetings need to be held in the Council Chambers. Since the School Board meets on the 4th Monday, the Commission meetings need to be changed to a different day. Consensus for the Commissioners to change the Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting to the 4th Thursday of the month. Chairman Christel requested Cheryl Bowers to update the by-laws.

Update on Disc Golf Fees - During last years discussion with the neighborhood regarding concerns with disc golf, there was a recommendation to direct staff to do a study of other communities regarding disc golf policies, fees, etc. Staff has not had the time to complete this study at this time. The Commission requested Director Mark Schroeder to complete the disc golf course study and bring the results to the February Commission meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Pro Health Care Park; Review of Park Master Plan – The Commissioners received a copy of a refined park master plan. The new plan incorporates some of the comments presented by the public at the October 29th and December 4th meetings. Some of the plan changes include: remove the football field overlay, but provide for 3 sports fields, remove the parking lot off Fieldpointe Drive while leaving the 86 car parking lot off Sunny Slope Road, include turning lanes on Sunny Slope, move the basketball court from along Fieldpointe to adjacent to Sunny Slope, provide asphalt trails for accessibility, provide one play area by the restroom/shelter but remove the play area along Fieldpointe, add passive use amenities such as the gazebo and rose gardens along Fieldpointe and perennial planting beds near the restroom/shelter building, include a native grassland area along the wetlands and only provide lighting for along the trails, not for the athletic fields.

COMMUNITY INPUT:

Consensus was given by the Commission for the Public to voice their concerns. There were several comments by the citizens of New Berlin, they are as follows:

- How can 180 ft tower fit in an area that is 50 ft by 100 ft.
- Water damage will be caused by drainage. How can runoff go into the pond when the grade is uphill? The retention pond would interfere with the wetlands in the parkway. Answer: The retention pond is not there to help with drainage problems in Fountain Square but to help with the run-off from the parking lot and athletic fields.
- Would like more wood chips in passive area instead of paved surface. The paved surface would encourage bicycle riding and roller bladers which may run into the seniors walking on the path. Answer: The paved surfaces will allow the wheelchair bound to be able to use the paths.
- What kind of lighting will be in the park? Answer: Individual lamps only on the trails. There will not be lighting of the diamonds. The fields are not for league play.
- The basketball court should be moved closer to the parking lot, what happened to the second parking lot? Answer: It was determined that one parking lot would be sufficient.
- Will the compacted ball fields cause drainage problems? Answer: The fields will absorb as much water run off as would a buffer or prairie land.
- This area has senior units and adult condos, residents want passive land to replace athletic fields.
- Why should Commission meetings be televised? Residents should have known about this issue along time ago. Answer: It has been a goal to have all meetings televised for convenience of the public.
- Having the park in this location will attract too many people causing a traffic problems.

The Commissioners discussed the revisions of Pro Health Park. Members suggested; developing the park exactly as the surrounding residents wanted, removing the east ball diamond, park survey of residents by the UW-Extension reflect the residents want both active play areas and passive parklands, and parks are for use of all residents not just the surrounding neighbors.

Motion by Commissioner Kocchi to approve the Pro Health Park Plan as presented and to replace the east baseball field with a natural area with a trail design. Seconded by Paul Gihring and carried with Alderman Gallagher voting no.

Once the final master plan can be agreed upon, the consultant will attach cost estimates for the

park development and potential phases for the construction of the park can be decided upon.

Pro Health Care Park; Discussion on Proposed Telecommunications Facility - At the November 26th meeting a recommendation was made to allow for the siting of a cell tower at the park site subject to financial considerations and secondly the final determination of the location by the Commission. This item was to go before the Plan Commission on January 7th, but was tabled until February 4th to allow discussion by the Parks and Recreation Commission. There was discussion by the Commission to not allow the tower in the park.

Motion by Commissioner Paul Gallagher to recommend to the Plan Commission to not permit the cell tower to be placed in Pro Health Care Park . Seconded by Commissioner Rick Kocchi and carried with Commissioners: Gallagher, Duff, Kocchi, Bedwell, and Klimer voting yes, and Commissioners; Gradel, Mescher, and Gihring voting no.

Calhoun Park Reforestation Project – Sanfilippos Landscaping owns the property to the north and adjacent to the park. They are in the process of removing the old apple orchard and starting a Christmas tree farm. An approximately 10 acre unused portion of the park, is currently zoned C-1, borders this property. The park in this area consists of non native species including less desirable trees such as Hawthorne. Following a site meeting December 20th with the Planning Department, there is potential of leasing this 10 acre parcel to Sanfilippos for the purpose of expanding his tree farming operations. The first benefit to the City would be improving the environment by removing the less desirable species and replacing with quality stock, and making this area that is currently unused usable for the public in the future. Secondly, the City has the potential to realize revenue from this lease. Details would need to be worked out on the lease with the owner and legal. On January 3rd, staff met with a Certified Arborist who provided a summary on the condition of the existing forest at the park along with some preliminary thoughts on a reforestation plan for this parcel. This information was distributed to the Commissioners. Staff has also met with the tree farmer to discuss the potential lease agreement, and he would be interested in discussing this with the City. Staff feels it is very important that in the lease agreement there is a provision that at the conclusion of the tree farming operation, the operator leaves a fully forested site for future park use.

Consensus of the Commission for Director Mark Schroeder to move forward research and bring back additional information on the revenues.

New Library; Review of potential site locations – The Commission was presented with a map of Lion's Park showing the LAWCON project boundary. Before approval of these lands could be given for location of a new library, the federal government would need to agree to the conversion of these lands from parkland. The other site considered is the area north of City Hall. Library Director Katie Schultz informed the Commission soil borings will be taken at both the Malone and Lions Park sites.

NEW BUSINESS: None

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, January, 24, 2002.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Commissioner Kocchi to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Gradel and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Bowers for

Tony Mescher, Secretary
Parks and Recreation Commission

TM/cb