

Minutes

NEW BERLIN PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, March 18, 2002

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chairman Bill Christel at 7:00 p.m. in the Common Council Chambers at New Berlin City Hall.

Present: Chairman Bill Christel, Commissioners; Chuck Bedwell, Nancy Duff (arriving at 7:20 PM), Paul Gihring, James Gradel, Larry Kilmer, Rick Kocchi, and Council Representative Paul Gallagher.

Also Present: Robbie Robinson and Nancy Anderson of SEWRPC, Director of Streets, Parks and Recreation Mark Schroeder and Administrative Coordinator Cheryl Bowers.

Excused: Tony Mescher

MINUTES:

Motion by Commissioner Gihring to approve the minutes of the regular Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting of February 18, 2002 as amended to state "The City has received a DNR Forestry Matching Grant for \$25,000 for this project." under National Avenue Landscaping Plan of the Director's Report. Seconded by Commissioner Gallagher and carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Joseph Boehnlein would like to request the Commission to purchase a property in Thorn-Apple Subdivision as park land. The Commission will return to this item when Mr. Boehnlein is present.

Ken Dretzka of the Wisconsin Off Road Bike Club requested the Commission to review Malone Park as a possible location of off road bike trails. Consensus of the Commission for Mr. Dretzka to present his ideas at a future meeting.

UPDATES AND CONCERNS:

Consensus of the Commissioners to move to the discussion on the potential skate park facility of the Updates and Concerns to accommodate the visitors present. Commissioner Bedwell informed the Commission that there are youth in the community that are interested in creating a skate board area in one of the City Parks.

Consensus by the Commission for the audience to speak their opinion. The students believed that the skate board park would benefit the area businesses as well as the participants. The skateboarders would no longer skate on private business property. If located in Malone Park, the participants would have easy access to the fire department in case of an injury and the Police Department for any fights or other conflicts.

A nominal fee could be charged to off set the costs of building the skateboarding park. The group of students are interested in designing, planning and fund raising for the project.

Consensus of the Commission for Mark Schroeder and his staff to research the possibility and the costs of a skateboard park. Motion by Commissioner Bedwell to proceed with the research of the skateboard park and bring information to a future meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Kilmer and carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Joseph Boehnlein would like to request the Commission to purchase a property in Thorn-Apple Subdivision as park land. The property is located on Thornapple Lane just south of New Berlin West's track. Mr. Boehnlein requested the City purchase the property as a neighborhood park and place a retention pond in this new park. Mr. Boehnlein will build the park and pay for the equipment.

The Commission by consensus was not interested in purchasing this parcel for a neighborhood

park; the parcel is too small, there are flooding problems, and nearby New Berlin West High School supplies a play area.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Consensus of the Commissioners to move to the discussion on the Park and Open Space Plan under the Director's Report to accommodate the visitors present.

SEWRPC presented the Commission with the updated changes to the plan. At the January meeting SEWRPC was asked to modify the recommended plan to reflect the potential purchase of environmental lands in combination with protection of these areas through the city's conservancy zoning regulations. The major changes were from the Planning staff in order for the Park and Open Space Plan to match the Master Plan. The Planning Department has updated the Alternate Transportation Plan and the new update will be placed in the Park and Open Space Plan. The cost to implement the Park and Open Space Plan over the 20 years of the 20 year plan is 38 million but with grants, land dedication and impact fees, the cost could be lowered to 22.6 million.

Motion by Commissioner Gihring to recommend to the Plan Commission to adopt the Park and Open Space Plan as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Duff. Motion carries with Commissioner Gallagher voting no.

BILLS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS:

The Commission reviewed the February 2002 Expenditure Detail in the amount of \$29,217.22. They also reviewed the copies of the February Revenues and Expenditures. After a brief discussion, motion by Commissioner Kocchi to approve these financial documents. Seconded by Commissioner Gallagher 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:

Bonestroo has started work on the ProHealth Care Park design plans for use in bidding Phase I of construction. This item has been placed on the April 22nd Plan Commission agenda. The Public Hearing regarding the cell tower was cancelled for March 4th as U.S. Cellular withdrew their request. Based on discussions with the Planning Department, it is U.S. Cellular's desire to review the company's strategic plans as it relates to new technology. At the February meeting, the Park Planning subcommittee had indicated a desire to meet to discuss funding for future park planning and development. Once the Planning Department completes the long term revenue projections for the Public Site and Open Space Account a meeting can be scheduled to discuss the budget and potential funding for ProHealth Care Park construction in 2002. Mark Schroeder will submit a grant to the DNR for the nature based portion of the park.

New Berlin Hills Streambank Stabilization Plan from Bonestroo, Rosene, Anderlik, and Associates is in process. The field delineation work has been completed and the topographic site survey is in progress. The City was recently notified by the DNR that this project was **not** selected for grant funding through the Municipal Flood Control Grant Program. Staff is now looking at the option of submitting a project grant through the River Protection Program. Once the design plans and cost estimates are completed, the City can review potential sources of funding, i.e. Golf Course Reserve Account, to determine if the project could be bid out in 2002,

or should be resubmitted for a potential grant in 2003.

The Plan Commission would like an update on the status of the Johnson Quarry Park reclamation project. Staff would recommend scheduling a site visit as part of the April meeting agenda to review the progress made to the park site, and to review plans for future development.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

At the October 2001 meeting, the Commission made two recommendations regarding future development of Kelly Lake Park, 1.) The KLA should submit a project update of their activities to date and a request for assistance from the City to accomplish the goals of restoring the wetlands and providing access opportunities at the park site. 2.) Staff should develop a plan for design and construction of an accessible fishing pier at the park. In checking with the DNR the grant monies initially awarded in 1994 for the fishing pier project were applied to other projects back in August of last year. The City can reapply for another grant through the Sport Fish Restoration Grant Program. Monies are already earmarked for 2002 projects. There are \$100,000 allocated each year but the competition is statewide. The KLA submitted a letter to the Parks and Recreation Commission requesting to partner with the City and SEWRPC to prepare grant applications for Wetland Restoration Grants for both the park site and lands acquired by the KLA on the west shore of Upper Kelly Lake. Copies of this letter were distributed to the Commission. The Kelly Lake Association has requested to make a presentation to the Commission at the April 15th meeting. KLA would like to discuss future goals, activities, and the proposed funding for these projects.

The Streets, Parks and Recreation Annual Report was distributed to the Commission. Mark Schroeder thanked Cheryl Bowers and staff for doing such a great job. 2001 was a successful year and the department was highly rated for great Customer Service.

NEW BUSINESS: None

NEXT MEETING: April 15, 2002

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Commissioner Gihring to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Gallagher and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Bowers for
Tony Mescher, Secretary
Parks and Recreation Commission

TM/cb