

Minutes

Monday September 16, 2002

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chairman Bill Christel at 7:05 p.m. in the Common Council Chambers at New Berlin City Hall.

Present: Chairman Bill Christel, Commissioners; Chuck Bedwell, Nancy Duff, James Gradel, Larry Kilmer, Rick Kocchi, Vern Radtke, and Council Representative Paul Gallagher.

Also Present: Brian Lennie of Bonestroo, Rosene, Anderlik & Associates, Nancy Anderson of SEWPRC, Alderman Ken Harenda, Alderman Dave Ament, Director of Streets, Parks and Recreation Mark Schroeder and Clerk/Typist Lori Schulpius.

Excused: Paul Gihring

MINUTES:

Motion by Commissioner Gallagher to approve the minutes of the regular Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting of July 15 2002. Seconded by Commissioner Radtke and carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

BILLS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS:

The Commission reviewed the July 2002 Expenditure Detail in the amount of \$54,267.77 and the August 2002 Expenditure Detail in the amount of 73,871.18. They also reviewed the copies of the July and August Revenues and Expenditures. After a brief discussion, motion by Commissioner Radtke 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: None

PLAN COMMISSION MEMBER REPORT: None

UPDATES AND CONCERNS:

ProHealth Care Park – Bonestroo is nearing the completion on design plans and construction documents for Phase I construction. Following completion, the plans will be submitted to the Engineering Department for review and comment. On July 18th, the permit information was sent to the DNR and Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) for review. A Chapter 30 permit will be required as well as Water Quality Certification and Endangered Species Review (Butler Garter Snake). Work continues with Gary Casper on the Snake Preservation Plan for the park site and how this planning will integrate with the park development plans. The department is still awaiting word from the DNR on the grant application for Phase I development.

Malone Park Improvements- In August the department completed the tennis court-resurfacing project, and also contracted for the paving of park pathways and bleacher areas. The tennis court project was a 2002 budget item, while Malone Park Concession Stand monies funded the pathway project. Parks Division Staff will complete Landscaping and restoration along the pathways this fall.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Park and Open Space Plan - Mark Schroeder gave a brief summary of what has been happening with the Park and Open Space Plan. The Public hearing for the Plan was held before the Common Council on July 9th. The Plan was then sent back to Plan Commission on August 5th at which time, the Plan Commission approved the resolution to adopt the Park and Open Space Plan as part of the City of New Berlin Master Plan. In addition, the Plan Commission recommended to the Common Council, approval of the resolution to adopt the Plan. At the August 27th Common Council Meeting, the Plan was referred back to the Parks and Recreation Commission for review and to answer questions and provide clarification to several questions posed by residents to the Council.

The Park and Recreation Commission received packets with correspondence from the Citizens' For Responsible Government, which included the organization's position statement and questions. Also included were summary answers provided by staff and SEWRPC to those questions. By consensus, the Commission allowed the public to state their comments and to ask questions.

Q). Why does there have to be so much activity needed in the parks?

A). Parks are located in part by geographical location so they are accessible to everyone. Both active and passive facilities are needed in all areas where people live.

Q). How much money has been spent on Pro Health Care Park?

A). The land was donated for Pro Health Care, have spent approximately \$15,000 for the master plan. The contact for phase I design is \$30,000, the City has applied for grant funding for Phase I development.

Q). If people drive their kids to the parks why do the parks have to be where they live?

A). We want kids to be able to walk or ride their bikes to the parks and be accessible for the whole community.

Q). What lands do we own? Do we have an inventory?

A). The parks are listed in 4-4 in the plan which details all the parks the City owns and the acreage.

Q). Why don't we add on or purchase land adjacent to the parks we have now?

A). Some of the parks, there is no land available to purchase

Q). What is the status of Rustic Ridge Park?

A). Right now it is at the county level.

Comment:

Concerned about the preservation of conservancies and how much money is being spent on the park planning and active parks.

Also that four conservancy areas were given away for development.

A). Not sure what areas were given away.

Over the 20 years for the plan, not everything will be done. A lot depends on the financial resources available.

There are 2 contracts going on right now, one is for the Quarry Park master plan. The other is for the construction design for Pro Health Care Park the total for the two of them is approximately \$50,000. The money for funding the park plan comes from the Public Site and Open Space account from developments, not tax dollars.

Priorities should be given to an acquisition of the primary & secondary environmental corridors and open space.

We have lost over 400 environmental corridors to development.

Money should be spent on corridors and open space. Would also like to send out a survey to people with land over 15 to 20 acres to see if they would set aside land that could be acquired by the City at a later date. The Citizen's For Responsible Government would like the City to fund sending out the surveys.

We should look at a skateboard park for the future.

Develop a priority list on what we really need now.

Maintaining what we already have and keeping it maintained.

Comment: Land should have a fee attached to conservancy areas and pay equivalent at fair market value, then the City can turn around and buy more conservancy areas with the money

Answer – The Park and Recreation Commission has no zoning authority, but it is a great recommendation.

Comment: Sidepaths were a stumbling block for the council not only financially but there are members that do not want them.

Answer - The ideal idea would be to link paths around the city to connect to parks and schools.

Chairman Bill Christel said he's not sure what action we need to take, so he asked the Alderman that were present what direction do you think we need to take to address all questions and comments. He also asked is there anything that we missed so we could address it tonight. Alderman Gallagher said Council had referred this to the Park and Recreation to answer the questions and that has been done. Alderman Ament agreed, and Alderman Harenda also agreed. Chairman Christel said this is not a budgetary request, it is a plan and we're hoping to have council endorse the plan.

Quarry Park Master Plan – On July 15th, the department held an informal planning session with the public to identify interest areas and desired recreational activities to be incorporated in the planning process for Quarry Park. Based on the public input and previous park plans, Bonestroo developed a preliminary conceptual plan and Brian Lennie talked about the conceptual plan for Quarry Park. The Public and the commission asked questions and gave comments. Bonestroo will take the comments and make changes to the plan for review at next month's meeting.

National Avenue Phase I Landscaping – Phase I will include materials and labor to plant a variety of species of deciduous trees on both the north and south sides of National Avenue starting at the intersection at Moorland, Sunny Slope, and 124th Street. We have received a 50/50 grant from the DNR in the amount of \$25,000. There will be 124 trees planted in Phase I. We have received 2 bids for the project from Bluemel's and Erv Larsen Landscaping.

Motion by Commissioner Rick Kocchi to recommend awarding the contract to the low bidder Bluemel's in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 for materials and labor for the Phase I National Avenue Side Path Landscaping Project based on unit prices per submitted bid. Seconded by Commissioner Radtke and carries with Commissioners Gallagher and Gradel voting no.

2003 Parks, Recreation and Forestry Budget - The Commission received the 2003 Operating and Capital Improvements Department Budgets for their review.

Parks and Recreation and Forestry Department Organizational Profile – The Commission received an organizational profile of the various divisions that comprise the department for review. Included were Mission Statements, Goals and Objectives, Primary Responsibilities and Organizational Chart for the department. This item will be reviewed at next month's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: None

CLOSED SESSION:

Motion by Alderman Gallagher to move into closed session to discuss items as enumerated in Section 19.85(1)(e) of the Wisconsin State Statutes: "Deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session." Seconded by Commissioner Gradel and carried Unanimously.

OPEN SESSION:

Motion by Commissioner Duff to refer closed session discussion of property on West Lincoln to the Parks and Facilities

Sub Committee to review the property. Seconded by Commissioner Gradel and carried with Alderman Gallagher Abstaining.

NEXT MEETING:

Scheduled for October 21, 2002

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Commissioner Kocchi to adjourn at 10:52 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Radtke and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Lori Schulpus for

Nancy Duff, Secretary
Parks and Recreation Commission

ND/lis