



## Minutes

### NEW BERLIN PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, April 23, 2001

(Amended 5/21/01)\*

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chairman Bill Christel at 7:02 p.m. at the Parks and Recreation Office.

Present: Chairman Bill Christel, Commissioners; Chuck Bedwell, Nancy Duff, Paul Gihring, James Gradel, Rick Kocchi, and Ralph Schroeder.

Also Present: Kirk Merz of Living Arts Gardens, Robbie Robinson and Nancy Anderson of SEWRPC, former Alderman David Patzer, Director of Streets, Parks and Recreation Paul Leuthold and Office Coordinator Cheryl Bowers.

Excused: Tony Mescher

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Consensus of the Commissioners to move to the update on the Park and Open Space Plan by SEWRPC (Chapters 2 & 3) of the Director's Report to accommodate Robbie Robinson and Nancy Anderson of SEWRPC.

Robbie Robinson of SEWRPC reviewed Chapter II – Inventory Findings and Chapter III – Status of 2010 Plan Recommendations with the Commission. Mr. Leuthold will forward any Commission questions to SEWRPC. Recommendations to be implemented from Chapter III will be reviewed by SEWRPC with the Commission. SEWRPC informed the Commission that wetlands must be acquired/purchased by the City in order to protect them. The property will not be protected by zoning it as a conservancy or wetland.

Consensus of the Commission to place the Status of 2010 Plan Recommendations Summary into the minutes. "The City of New Berlin has fulfilled many of the recommendations made in the 2010 park plan related to the acquisition and development of community and neighborhood parks. Remaining implementations measures include the acquisition and development of six new neighborhood parks, completion of the recreational trail system, and additional development at various existing City-owned park sites. Recommendations related to the acquisition of open space lands for resource protection purposes and trail development remain to be implemented."

SEWRPC is working on two more chapters with a target time in September or October. The Commission will be able to review the plan in November with SEWRPC. After the Commission approval, the plan will be sent to the Plan Commission for review, a public informational meeting will be held, and then it will be presented to the Common Council for final approval.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Consensus of the Commissioners to move to the Council Representative Report to accommodate Dave Patzer.

Mr. Patzer enjoyed working with the Commission and informed the Commission that Paul Gallagher will be the new Council Representative to the Commission. Mr. Patzer also stated Mr. Leuthold will be greatly missed. The Commission thanked Mr. Patzer for his three years he served on the Commission.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Consensus of the Commissioners to move to the request on behalf of Kirk Metz to have a community garden in ProHealth Care Park of the Director's Report to accommodate Kirk Metz.

At the last Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, Ray Brown of the Fountain Square Condominium Association was concerned about a community garden in ProHealth Care Park. Kirk Metz of Oakwood Corporate Housing stated he approached Michael Zimmerman of Linden Grove with the idea of a community garden on their property. Mr. Zimmerman liked the idea because some of the residents of Linden Grove would be able to take advantage of this program. The vegetables would be donated to the New Berlin Food Pantry and the flowers would go to the residents at Linden Grove. The garden would be 50' x 70' to ½ acre in size and would be northeast of the Fountain Square Condominiums.

However, this area is owned by the City and not Linden Grove. The area in question will be developed as ProHealth Care Park and the proposed garden area is planned for soccer fields. The Commission suggested Mr. Metz contact Katie Schultz, the director of the New Berlin Public Library. A community garden was tried at the Library a few years ago but it was not very popular. The garden is now used by the Library staff.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

Due to two new members starting in May, the elections will be postponed until the May Meeting.

## **MINUTES:**

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

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Mr. Leuthold informed the Commission the Mayor has appointed Mr. Larry Kilmer to the Commission to replace resigning Commissioner Schroeder. Commissioner Kocchi has agreed to serve another term and will be reappointed by the Mayor.

Mr. Leuthold announced his resignation as the Director of Streets, Parks and Recreation effective May 25, 2001. He has accepted a position in the community of Bellingham, Washington as the Director of Parks and Recreation. This community has less than 100,000 in population with a warmer climate. Bellingham is located two hours north of Seattle and 1 hour south of Vancouver. It is a college town surrounded by mountains and near the ocean. Mr. Leuthold stated it will be hard to leave Wisconsin and the best staff he has ever worked with.

Cheryl Bowers informed the Commission there will be a reception on Friday, May 25<sup>th</sup> and they will be receiving an invitation with the details.

Chairman Christel stated that Bellingham's gain is New Berlin's loss, a great loss and Mr. Leuthold will be extremely missed.

Mr. Leuthold informed the Commission that Streets will remain apart of the department since this is primarily an administration function. Most of the Streets administration duties that are handled by the Director are the responsibility of Cheryl Bowers and her staff. The Mayor and Human Resources is looking for someone that is a "Park & Recreation" person with strong administration skills to manage the Streets division. The position is being advertised in the local papers and the trade magazine *Impact* from the Wisconsin Parks and Recreation Association (WPRA). The Selection Panel will be made up of the Director of Human Resources, a Commission member, a Department Head and additional members the Mayor may want to appoint.

Chairman Christel will send the Mayor a letter stressing the Commission's Concerns that the new director has a strong Park and Recreation background and not a Streets background.

City Attorney Paul Reilly sent an opinion that The Park and Recreation Commission is in charge of all public parks and therefore has the authority to grant easements without taking it the Common Council for approval.

Rich and Lena Eng sent a complaint regarding dog waste in Biver Park. Mr. Leuthold was directed to notify the Police Department to watch the parks for owners that violated the dog waste ordinance. Mr. Leuthold was also asked to send the Eng's a letter stating if they see any violators to contact the Police Department.

New Berlin Hills has put together an information folder on catering and renting the clubhouse for business meetings and special occasions.

The *Impact* magazine from the WPRA has an article by Parks & Recreation Program Specialist Mary Berg on the Fright Night Halloween teen party. This program was also sponsored by the City of Greenfield and the Dare Program. This program was awarded the 2000 WPRA Silver Star award. The Department is proud of this program and the efforts Mary put into it.

#### **BILLS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

The Commission reviewed the March 2001 Expenditure Detail in the amount of \$17,027.46. They also reviewed the copies of the March Revenues and Expenditures. After a brief discussion, motion by Commissioner Schroeder to approve these financial documents. Seconded by Commissioner Gehring 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 – The Committee met on April 18 at New Berlin Hills Golf Course. A letter of good wishes was sent to the newly elected Mayor Wysocki from the Committee. The Committee discussed the storm water management proposed by the Milwaukee Metro Sewage District (MMSD), the resignation of Mr. Leuthold, and revenue decrease in 2000.

#### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

Chairman Christel informed the Commission on current ID items the Plan Commission is working on. The Growth Development Master Plan was approved.

**UPDATES AND CONCERNS:** None

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Request by New Hope Community Church to allow horse rides at their picnic – Mr. Leuthold informed the Commission the New Hope Community Church would like to have a circle pony ride at their picnic in Valley View Park. Parks Supervisor Dave Jeske reported this will be rough on turf but could be possible.

Motion by Commissioner Schroeder to deny permission for the New Hope Community Church to have pony rides at their picnic in Valley View Park. Seconded by Commissioner Kocchi. Motion fails with Commissioners Schroeder, Kocchi, Gradel voting yes and Commissioners Duff, Bedwell, Gihring voting no. Chairman Christel broke the tie by voting no.

Motion by Commissioner Duff to authorize the New Hope Community Church to have pony rides at their picnic in Valley View Park. Seconded by Commissioner Gihring. Motion carries with Commissioners Duff, Gihring, Bedwell voting yes and Commissioners Gradel, Schroeder, Kocchi voting no. Chairman Christel broke the tie by voting yes.

Request by Roger Lewicki to obtain a refund for softball player fees – Mr. Lewicki is a manager of one of the adult men's softball teams. The teams are required to pay a team fee along with individual player fees. There are two rates on the player fees, one for residents \$5 and one for nonresidents \$15. Residents must provide a current ID to qualify for the resident rate. Mr. Lewicki requested a resident rate for a player that did not have the proper ID. Mr. Lewicki was informed this ID was not accepted and could return at a later date with his team fee and player

cards, this was unacceptable to him and he paid the nonresident rate for this player. At a later time, Mr. Lewicki brought ID for this particular player asking for a \$10 refund.

Motion by Commissioner Kocchi to deny a \$10 player fee refund to Mr. Lewicki. Seconded by Commissioner Gradel and carried unanimously.

Request by the New Berlin Fire Department to use a softball diamond for summer league play – The Fire Department would like the use Malone Park on Sunday afternoons at 2 PM for a co-ed game beginning May 20, 2001.

Motion by Commissioner Gradel to approve the use of Malone Park by the New Berlin Fire Department League. The League will be required to follow the rules and rates as established by the Field Use Guidelines. Seconded by Commissioner Duff and carried unanimously.

Request by a resident to limit the disc golf course hours of operation – Sue Sadowski requested to have the hours of the disc golf course be limited so hikers may use the trails at Valley View Park.

Motion by Commissioner Kocchi to deny the request to limit the hours of the disc golf course. Seconded by Commissioner Duff and carried unanimously.

\*Update on communication tower RFP – The Planning Department was considering placing a communication tower in ProHealth Care Park or Fountain Square Conservancy. Since there were many calls in protest to placing the tower in Fountain Square Conservancy, the tower may be placed in ProHealth Care Park subject to approval by the Parks and Recreation Commission. Commissioner Kocchi will discuss with the school district, the possibility of placing a communication tower on the school buildings. Mr. Leuthold informed the Commission that he will require the communication company to provide the funds (approximately \$175,000) to build a park shelter if the company wants a communication tower in a park.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

The Commission thanked Commissioner Schroeder for his six years of service to the Commission.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Commissioner Schroeder to adjourn at 9:40 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Bedwell and carried unanimously.

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

TM/cb

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