

# Park & Recreation Commission

## Minutes

### NEW BERLIN PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, September 27, 1999

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chairman Bill Christel at 7:03 p.m. at the Parks and Recreation Office.

Present: Chairman Bill Christel, Commissioners; Paul Gihring, Gregg Hallberg, Rick Kocchi, Tony Mescher, Ralph Schroeder, and Council Representative Dave Patzer.

Also Present: Mayor Gatzke, Ron Pierce, Director of Parks and Recreation Paul Leuthold, and Office Coordinator Cheryl Bowers.

Absent: Chuck Bedwell and Peter Piotrowski

Recognition of Ron Pierce for his twelve years of service to the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Golf Course Committee. Mr. Pierce has helped make New Berlin Hills what it is today. On behalf of the Parks & Recreation Commission, Mr. Pierce was honored with an Audrey Casey print which will be on display in the Parks & Recreation office in his name.

#### MINUTES:

Motion by Tony Mescher to approve the minutes of the regular Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting of August 30, 1999 as amended. Seconded by Rick Kocchi and carried unanimously with Dave Patzer voting present.

#### CORRESPONDENCE:

SEWPRC has responded and will be able to complete the update of the Park & Open Space Plan by the end of next year. The update could begin in the Summer of 2000 and take approximately six months to complete.

The Commissioners were invited to the Annual Boards and Commissions Appreciation Dinner which is scheduled for Saturday, January 22, 2000.

The Historical Society will be holding it's 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Applefest program on October 3 at the New Berlin Historical Park. Everyone is invited. The Commissioners also received the Fall Newsletter.

#### BILLS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS:

The Commission reviewed the August 1999 Expenditure Detail in the amount of \$45,298.52. They also reviewed the copies of the August Revenues and Expenditures. After a brief discussion, motion by Dave Patzer to approve these financial documents. Seconded by Paul Gihring and carried unanimously.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Council Representative - None

Recreation Program Committee - None

Parks and Facilities Committee - None

Planning Committee - None

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

Bill Christel praised Ron Pierce for his dedicated service to the City of New Berlin.

There will be a discussion and a public hearing tonight (September 27) regarding the New Berlin City Center .

**UPDATES AND CONCERNS:**

Maple Ridge neighborhood Park development - Progress on this project has been very good. The turf has been established and the basketball court constructed. The shelter, playground apparatus and baseball backstop will be installed in Spring 2000.

Bridge Replacement at Prospect Parkway - The bridge has been delivered and construction is now being scheduled with the students from the School of Engineering at MSOE.

Contract for heating system conversion at Hickory Grove Center - Progress on this project has been very good and is nearing completion.

Park Development in High Grove subdivision - One bid, in the amount of \$113,880 was received from Berg Construction, Inc., this bid will be reviewed by the Common Council on September 28, 1999.

Motion by Ralph Schroeder to recommend to the Common Council to award the High Grove subdivision park development contract in the amount of \$113,880 to Berg Construction, Inc. Seconded by Gregg Hallberg and carried unanimously.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

A. Park and Open Space Plan Update - UW has not contacted Mr. Leuthold on the status of the survey for the Park and Open Space Plan Update. Consensus of Commission for Mr. Leuthold to contact UW and inquire about the status of the survey.

B. Request to obtain Weston's Antique Apple Orchard - The orchard is 15 acres and contains over 100 species of antique apples. The property contains a barn, house, and greenhouse. The property is one of the only orchards recognized on the National and State Historical Registers. The Weston's Antique Apple Foundation, Inc. operates the orchard and generates approximately \$30,000 annually. Mr. Weston would like to donate the property to the City of New Berlin for the inclusion in the City's Historic Park as long as his mother and sister are allowed to remain in the house until their death.

Since the property is on the Historic registers, grants may be available to help maintain the grounds. The sale from the apples could also be used to offset the cost to maintain the grounds. Other benefits to the Community include school tours, public tours, and studying of the apples by UW Extension.

After a lengthy discussion, the Commission had questions on the limitations of the land usage. Which liability was the responsibility of the City, which was the Foundation, and will the Weston's be responsible for the maintenance of the house until it is vacated? Once the house is vacated, could it be used as a Bed and Breakfast?

The Commission allowed John Hebert of 6015 South Aberdeen Drive to address the Commission. Mr. Hebert encourage the Commissioners to experience the unique taste of some the apples and the beautiful property of the orchard.

Consensus of the Commission for Mr. Leuthold to investigate this issue further.

C. 2000 Operations Budget - The Common Council has removed the School Grounds maintenance from the department budget and included the funds to pay the custodians fees for use of the schools.

D. Progress on Johnson Quarry Acquisition - The Common Council has approved the purchase of Johnson Quarry for the use of a Community Park. The City Attorney would include the construction plan as part of the closing of the property. This plan would cost between \$23,000 - \$24,000 and be obtained from the Park and Open Space account.

Motion by Dave Patzer to approve the proposal to create a reclamation construction plan to Graef, Anhalt, Schloemer and Associates Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$24,000. Seconded by Ralph Schroeder and carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Dave Patzer to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. Seconded by Ralph Schroeder and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Mescher, Secretary  
Parks and Recreation Commission

TM/cb

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