

PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, February 10, 2009
6:00 p.m.

- 1) Call to order by Secretary Audrey Stowell.
Roll Call: Members Present: Audrey Stowell, Dale Berg, Carmen Muenich, Beth Arneberg, and Heidi Hoekstra. Absent: Curt Stepanek and Dennis Doughty.
Staff present: Dick Hebert and Bill Faherty.
- 2) Approval of December 9, 2008, Minutes: **Motion by Dale Berg, seconded by Beth Arneberg, all present voting aye, to approve minutes of the January 13, 2009, meeting.**
- 3) Personal Appearances: None.
- 4) Discuss/Consider Security system for Zoo & Parks by Access Security. No discussion.
- 5) Outdoor Recreation Plan 2008-2012. The City of Chippewa Falls Outdoor Parks & Recreation Plan was distributed. Brief discussion. **Motion by Carmen Muenich, seconded by Audrey Stowell, all present voting aye, to approve the Outdoor Recreation Plan 2008-2012 as prepared.**
- 6) Discuss/Consider Friends of Irvine Park Zoo Donation of \$15,000. Bill Faherty reports that the Friends of Irvine Park Zoo have given us a donation of \$15,000 for the bobcat exhibit. We acknowledge this and the other donations received from the Friends. Their support has been wonderful.
- 7) Discuss/Consider Zoo Plan for Main Animal House. Bill presented the two drawings prepared by Themescapes for the Main Animal House. Themescapes will be evaluating whether it is cheaper to rebuild or to remodel the existing building. If a new building is built, this may be a good opportunity to “go green.” The DNR is determining whether or not the building is in a flood plain. Discussion regarding the set up of the building, i.e., having concessions to bring in some revenue, education area, restrooms, etc. Bill said some exhibit possibilities would include beavers and snow monkeys, but he would like suggestions for any type of native animals that could be outside year-round. Carmen suggested that the design of the exhibits should be flexible so that it can be used for more than one type of animal.
- 8) Discuss/Consider Garbage Compactor for Parks. Discussed possibility of replacing one of our dumpsters in Irvine Park with a solar powered garbage compactor. The thought being that it would replace one of the dumpsters or cut down on the garbage service required. It would hopefully also decrease the public use of our dumpsters. The one Bill has information on is a Big Belly. The cost is about \$4,000, but it can also be leased. Discussion regarding location, safety, cost, savings, etc. Bill will check with local companies to see if they offer anything similar. He will also inquire about using one on a trial basis.

9) Update on Current Projects.

- a. Dog Park Playground in Chippewa Falls. Bill reports that the second meeting is being held on March 16. They are looking at two sites. He emphasized that the goal is to implement the park with private funds. He indicated some cities require a dog permit that would pay for the cost of maintenance and clean up rather than relying upon volunteers. Discussion regarding the pros and cons of such a permit. No action.
- b. Bobcat Exhibit Phase 2. The main wall is up. Bill believes this should be finished up this spring.

Dale Berg leaves at this time.

- c. Kell's Corner in Irvine Park. Bill met with the architect, who will be drawing up some plans.
- d. Community Gardens at Marshall Park. The committee met, and this project will be starting this spring. WalMart will be supplying volunteers. If 25 employees participate for five hours, then WalMart will also donate \$3,000 for the project. The County Extension Agency is taking care of the leasing part of the project. We will be providing water, and the land. The City will receive the funds for the costs of water and maintenance costs.
- e. Compliance with Title XIV. No update.

- 10) Budget. Bill reports that work has begun on the 2010 budget. He states they are looking more closely at the food requirements of the animals and making adjustments there. We will also be looking at cutting the high maintenance animals. For example, removing the fallow deer and bringing in a couple of ostriches for the summer.
- 11) Discuss/Consider Recreation Program Report. Dick said there some adjustments may need to be made in staffing because of the new minimum wage requirements.
- 12) Discuss/Consider Personnel Report. Contracts for summer employees will likely be sent out next month.
- 13) Discuss/Consider Friends of Irvine Park Zoo Report. No report. Donation of \$15,000 previously discussed.

Curt arrived at this time.

- 14) Discuss/Consider Parks Maintenance Report. Bill has received a quote for the cement work and installation of the shelter at Casper Park for \$15,000. Discussion regarding any requirement to bid that out and potential of using a local company.

Also, Bill was contacted by the owners of Glen Lock concerning use of adjacent park land for outdoor volleyball courts. Bill presented an aerial and topographic map of the area. Discussion followed regarding leasing of land, development of the adjacent land including the boat landing area, concerns of liability, future sale of the bar, precedence of action to others who live near park land, what exactly are owners of Glen Lock are interested in doing. Discussed need for an overall plan for the future use of the land. Motion made by Carmen Muenich for Bill to go back to Glen Lock owners for details and more information. No second.

- 15) Board Member comments or concerns. None.
- 16) Approve Claims. Discussed expense to Xtreme Motors for \$4,945. This was for the cab. **Motion by Carmen Muenich, seconded by Curt Stepanek, all present voting aye, to approve claims of \$30,175.76.**
- 17) Adjournment. **Motion by Curt Stepanek, seconded by Heidi Hoekstra, all present voting aye, to adjourn.**

Submitted by:

Audrey Stowell, Secretary