

PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, November 10, 2009

6:00 p.m.

- 1) Call to order by Curt Stepanek

Roll Call: Members Present: Curt Stepanek, Audrey Stowell, Dale Berg, Carmen Muenich, Beth Arneberg, and Heidi Hoekstra. Absent: Susan Zukowski. Staff present: Dick Hebert, Bill Faherty, & Chuck Cyr.

- 2) Approval of October 13, 2009, Minutes: **Motion by Curt Stepanek, seconded by Heidi Hoekstra, all present voting aye, to approve minutes of the October 13, 2009, meeting.**

- 3) Personal Appearances: None.

- 4) Communications:

- a. Bill Faherty has received an application for a softball tournament to be held on the weekend of July 30-August 1, 2010. Bob Zwiefelhofer is organizing. All proceeds will benefit St. Jude's. There was discussion regarding sponsorship vs. fee. If a sponsor is found for particular items in need at Casper, a donation will be acceptable for this year in lieu of fee payment.

- b. Dick Hebert received an award from the Parks & Recreation Association for his 25 years of service. This was presented to him at Wisconsin Dells.

- c. Bill Faherty reports that he has received a letter from Crime Victims Dept. for our costs in the release of the zoo animals. He will complete the forms so our expenses can be included in the criminal case.

- d. Bill reports that the Department of Agriculture has a new rule requiring a 30' separation between facilities to keep herds from commingling and spreading disease. This affects our deer and bison pens. Bill proposes moving the elk to the bison pen and the bison to the elk pen. The elk will have more room, and the bison will be more visible. This will put us in compliance and is felt to be a good cost-effective solution.

- e. The DNR has inspected the Pine Grove Shelter. DNR grant money was received for this shelter. A few changes need to be made, such as moving a grill, to make the shelter handicapped accessible.

- 5) Discuss/consider Security Systems for Zoo & Parks: Bill suggests that perhaps we should look at this from a different angle. Maybe it makes more sense for security cameras to be looked at as one system city-wide, to include parks. There may be grants available to the City for this purpose. After discussion, **motion by Dale Berg, seconded by Beth Arneberg, all present voting aye, to refer the issue of installing security cameras to the Police & Fire Commission.**

- 6) Update on Current Projects:

- a. Canine Leisure Area. Bill distributed a memo regarding the dog park and reports that it has been named, "Happy Tails Dog Park." Public Works is retaining jurisdiction. **Motion by Carmen Muenich, seconded by Dale Berg, all present voting aye, that the Park Board concurs and fully supports the recommendation that Public Works retains jurisdiction and full responsibility for the dog park.**

b. Bobcat Exhibit Phase 2. Bill reports that we will be looking at a spring open house. Themescapes is paid. Windows are about \$30,000. Curt asks if there is money for that. Bill reports that there is money in the Irvine Park regular donations, which can be used if there's not enough in the Zoo donations.

c. Purchase of Land at Casper Park. Bill has not received the appraisal yet. Bill also reports that the Council may be looking at selling some of the neighborhood parks. If federal grant money was used at one of the neighborhood parks, then this land could be swapped for that land.

d. Facility Regulations and Policies. Bill has not had the time to do much work on this. He suggests going to the Eau Claire website to see what their regs and policies are, so that we can compare theirs to ours or see if want to incorporate any of their policies into ours. Curt suggests prioritizing. There was also a suggestion to deal with Irvine policies first. Discussed looking at fees in December so any changes could be approved in January.

7) 2010 Budget. Bill reports that the Parks & Rec budget was cut about \$60,000. This reflects Andy Guthrie's retiring. There was discussion regarding weekend coverage and getting rid of or incorporating small animal cages if it results in a time savings for staff.

Dale Berg leaves at this time.

Discussed having a separate meeting to discuss regulations and policies. **Motion by Carmen Muenich, seconded by Curt Stepanek, all present voting aye, that Park Board will have a separate meeting from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the regular January meeting date to discuss only facilities and policies.**

8) Donation Fund Report.

a. Gaylord Howard Estate. Mr. Howard's entire estate was left to the Park. The personal representative has been appointed. Everything has been removed from his apartment and placed in storage. Per the will, any material item not wanted will be sold and the funds placed in the Irvine original trust fund. The approximate value is \$225,000 and includes a car worth about \$25,000.

b. Earl Scholl Estate. The Parks was named as beneficiary of Mr. Scholl's IRA. Ownership of 996 shares of JP Morgan stock has been transferred to the Parks. After discussion, **motion by Curt Stepanek, seconded by Carmen Muenich, all present voting aye, to take no action to dispose of the stock at this time.**

9) Discuss/consider Recreation Program report. Dick distributed the recreational brochure. The Board thanks the Chippewa Herald for their work and especially Julie LaValle for the layout. Dick will send letter to Mark Baker.

10) Discuss/consider Personnel Report. Bill reports that Andy Guthrie will be retiring as of December 23.

11) Discuss/consider Friends of Irvine Park Zoo Report. The Friends will be giving \$20,000 to the Zoo to help pay for the windows in the bobcat exhibit.

12) Discuss/consider Parks Maintenance Report. Chuck reports that everything has been closed up, except for the bear den. Trail work is being done, and roads cleaned. A lot of the outdoor

work is being done; i.e., leaves, benches, tables. Christmas Village is being set up. Casper is closed up. Footings for press box will be done next week and press box up by the end of November. Pitching areas are in at the softball complex.

13) Discuss/Consider Board Member comments or concerns.

- a. Bill distributed memo he received from the city attorney regarding the skateboard park. Discussion followed. Heidi and Audrey expressed desire to keep skate park. Bill will advise Ms. Grube. Carmen was adamant the Board then needs to address and fix the problems we have there. Concurrence.
- b. Carmen asked Bill to look into some sort of policy or statement regarding preserving the north end of the park in its natural state.
- c. Carmen questioned whether the concession stand at the pool was profitable. Bill states it is self-supporting. Discussion regarding concessions, allowing carry-ins, hours, and website design followed. Pool operations as well as developing the Parks & Rec page on the website will be placed on the agenda.
- d. Discussion regarding Bill's summarizing in writing much of meeting content and distributing to members prior to the meeting. Any issues on the summary would be placed on the agenda at any member's request with any other issues that need discussion and/or action with the intent of focusing on major issues at the meeting and bypassing basic reports and information.

14) Approve Claims. **Motion by Heidi Hoekstra, seconded by Carmen Muenich, all present voting aye, to approve claims of \$43,092.93.**

15) Adjournment. **Motion by Heidi Hoekstra, seconded by Curt Stepanek, all present voting aye, to adjourn.**

Submitted by:

Audrey Stowell, Secretary