

CITY OF MANITOWOC
PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Monday, June 3, 2013 at 4:30 pm
City Hall-East Hearing Room

Members: Jason Sladky – Chairman, Al Schema, Dave Soeldner, Mike Howe, Tyler Martell

Staff: Mayor Justin Nickels, Greg Minikel, Kevin Glaeser, Jim Muenzenmeyer, Denise Larson

Guests: Jim Brey - Alderman, Wade Marx – NEW OM, Stephen Miller, Thomas Tittel, Charles Sontag, Jeremy Fischer, Glenn Stradtkoft, Mr. Knickelbine, Dave Korte – Manitowoc Rapids Town Chairman, Laura Ziemer, Randy Heinzen - MYBA

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm by Chairman Sladky.

Ald. Sladky made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 7, 2013 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Ald. Martell and approved unanimously.

Discussion & possible action regarding Camp Vits Off-Road Mountain Bike Trail

Wade Marx, NEW OM, explained their proposal for an off-road mountain bike and hiking trail at Camp Vits. Their club has developed three miles of trails at Maribel Cave Park and has three state certified trail builders in the club. Mr. Knickelbine from the Woodland Dunes offered his expertise in preserving the park areas. W. Marx showed the committee a map and explained that they are aware of the environmental issues and will be working with various groups to make sure they do their best to preserve the natural state of the park and to enhance/fix some of the problems that currently exist in the park. There would no cost to the City for the development of the trail.

Mayor Nickels and Ald. Brey are in support of this project. Several citizens spoke up regarding their concerns for the project. They would like to preserve the wildlife in the park. Ald. Schema said that at Maribel, the trails are hardly noticeable and are designed so that if the trail would no longer be used, the vegetation would grow over and no one would know the trail had been there. There was concern that children may not stay on the trail. K. Glaeser stated that he would like to see a cross country ski trail developed there as well. D. Korte said that the township is concerned with parking issues. A suggestion would be to have parking on only one side of the road. Also, they would like to see the narrow access area being marked better so that people stay off of private property. Stephen Miller, a biologist, would like to see a biological survey of the area done and an impact statement done. His opinion is that there are not enough wild areas left, so the trail should not be made.

Ald. Schema said that when there were a lot of rains, the bike trails were closed in Maribel. He also stated that there are currently some areas of the park that have 20' wide trails where people are mud-running. A comment was made that there is nothing stopping the group from using the

park, so it may be a good idea to work with them in order to preserve as much as we can. The NEW OM would like to give back to the park by re-vegetating and then preserving the areas where the ATV trails are currently.

Discussion & possible action regarding Miracles and Manitowoc Youth Baseball improvement plans

Mayor Nickels gave an update on the plans and stated that Goodwill is on board to be a major sponsor of the project. The location will be at Dewey Street Park due to the sensory issues that the participants have, and there will be enough room there to still have a MYBA field there as well. About 1/3 of the money (\$107,000) has been raised so far. The proposed field has a rubberized surface, which the group is willing to maintain. They hope to break ground in fall. As they raise more funds, they would like to add on some handicapped accessible playground equipment. The group would like first dibs on playing time at the field, but after that, the field would be available to the public.

Randy Heinzen, MYBA, said the renderings for their fields will be done in a few weeks. Their plan is to have four diamonds at Citizen Park - three regular-size fields with the fourth one being a little bit smaller due to space limitations. Due to the Aquatic Center being close by, they will be building a 125' fence on the fourth field and using it for t-ball, pitching machine league, etc.

Update on HVAC replacement project at the Armory Building

The original engineer has left the area but has agreed to continue with the project for \$1,000. Ald. Sladky made a motion to authorize the hiring of the original engineer. Ald. Schema seconded it, and the motion carried. The project should be completed by fall before the heating season begins.

Update on the bathroom remodeling at the Citizen Park Recreation Center

J. Muenzenmeyer stated that the bathroom was framed up today.

Discussion & possible action regarding park rules signs

K. Glaeser will meet with City Attorney McDaniel to work on a fairly generic sign for all of the parks. He is also working on developing Adopt-A-Park signs.

Discussion & possible action regarding Visitors Welcome sign by Farmers Market

No action at this time.

Discussion & possible action regarding regulating tree height on private property

J. Brey received a complaint about the maximum height of trees on private property. He thought it might be difficult to enforce. J. Muenzenmeyer stated that there is a height restriction of 35' near the airport. Ald. Schema said that the closest a tree can be planted to the property line is 2'. He also mentioned that one local tree trimmer will not trim trees overhanging onto a second party's property line, because he could be sued if the first party's tree dies.

Discussion & possible action regarding deer and wolf pens, as well as other zoo-related issues

The application was sent to the DNR, and K. Glaeser is waiting to hear back.

Discussion & possible action regarding condition and improvement plans for the Community Built Playground

The playground area is aging and is in need of maintenance/updating. The Parks Department has a list of items that need to be taken care of at the playground (such as painting, replacing fasteners, etc.), and they are working on them as time permits. He assured the committee that there are no safety issues at this time.

Discussion & possible action regarding condition of ball fields and overall park condition

Ald. Sladky said that there weeds on the diamonds. K. Glaeser said that it was a timing issue since the seasonal employees were just beginning the season. He said that they are cultivating the diamonds and spraying for weeds. He reminded the committee that there was snow late in the season this year.

Update, discussion, & possible action regarding new playground equipment at Red Arrow Park

K. Glaeser said that the equipment should be ready by Friday. The playground area was leveled out and filled with 12” of woodchips due to the height of the playground equipment. The area near the parking lot has been seeded and grass is growing already.

Update, discussion, & possible action regarding seeding at Silveridge Park

Per K. Glaeser, MCM Excavating has completed this project.

Discussion & possible action on special event request (13-129) from the Lincoln Park Zoological Society, requesting the use of Lincoln Park and cabin 2 from November 29th to December 28th, with setup on various dates in November, the use of cabin 1 on December 6th and various equipment, and a waiver of fees, as detailed therein

K. Glaeser reported that the parties have agreed to change cabins.

Discussion & possible action regarding special event fee and waiver requests

Ald. Sladky stated that the Committee’s unwritten policy is that they would waive 50% of the fees if the event was open to the public. The groups are informed of what they can do to save themselves money. Now that the budget is recovering somewhat, Ald. Soeldner would be open to waiving more of the fees. Ald. Sladky said that he doesn’t want to see the City being taken advantage of by having to provide more services than needed. D. Larson said that in the past, former Parks Manager, Joe McLafferty handed repeat special event requests, but new ones were brought to the committee.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ald. Soeldner and seconded by Ald. Schema at 5:31 p.m. The motion carried.

DL/smsr