

CITY OF MANITOWOC
PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Monday, July 1, 2013 at 5:00 pm
City Hall-East Hearing Room

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

Staff: Mayor Justin Nickels, Dan Koski, Kevin Glaeser, Jim Muenzenmeyer, Denise Larson

Guests: Wade Marks, Brandon Smith, George Kapitz, Glenn Strodthoff, Pete Sturtz, Janelle Miller, Stephen Miller, Don Goeke, Robert Hansen, Jerry Fischer, Marc Johnson, Randy Drumm, Phil Kinzel, Matt Sissill, George Luebke, Geoff Wolf, Mike Sobisch, Jeff Horneck, Ken Schoenike, Dan Mitchell, Jessica Terrien, Joe Terrien, Corey Franz, Aaron Franz, Dave Powell, Rhienna Jensen – NEW OM, Josh Gabriel, Riley Biddle, Rick Biddle, Michael Braun, Casey Brauer, Ann Holsen, Bev Cole, Joshua Meyer, Jessica Meyer, Amy Schoepp, Thomas M. Tittl, Ald. Hennessey, Ald. Brey

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 pm by Chairman Sladky.

Approval of Minutes

Ald. Schema made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 3, 2013 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Ald. Soeldner and approved unanimously.

Update on HVAC replacement project at the Armory Building

J. Muenzenmeyer reported that bids are due in mid-July.

Update on the bathroom remodeling at the Citizen Park Recreation Center

J. Muenzenmeyer stated that the trim work and punch list still has to be completed.

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

Chairman Sladky explained that this meeting does not have an open public input session, but each opposing side will have ten minutes to state their case. There is a public input session during the Common Council meeting.

Wade Marks, President of the NEW OM explained the organization's mission for Camp Vits. Five members of the organization are certified trail builders. The proposed trail would be used for jogging, walking, snow shoeing, mountain biking, etc. The group advocates environmentally friendly trails which help to prevent natural and man-made trail erosion when people adhere to the trails. Currently, there is erosion and ruts at the park due to ATV users making their own trails. The group would like to enhance the park and the trail system in the area. Many trails, similar to the one proposed, are being developed all across the state. The NEW OM has worked with Boy Scout groups and the Kohl's Associate Action Program. In the past, they have had

very positive media coverage from Fox 11. Mike Sobisch, Maribel Caves Park board member, believes the trail that the group developed at their park was a positive addition. Goeff Wolf, from the Fish & Game organization, believes this is a positive for the area also. His organization has offered financial and volunteer support toward the development of the trail.

On the opposing side, Stephen Miller feels that the park is a very special area for many birds and feels that this is not the place to put the trail. He believes that the NEW OM does a great job, but thinks that the process should be slowed down to check out other options. Mark Johnson, homeowner, feels there may be a threat to the neighbors if more people, who they do not know, come to the park, because they could potentially cause problems. He feels that there is no one to oversee the area. The Ice Age Trail Volunteer Coordinator would like to see the Camp Vits area be used as part of the Ice Age Trail.

Ald. Martell would like the City to find out how close to the homes this trail will get. Ald. Soeldner believes the group is very sincere and is an established group that wants to do good things. He feels that the trail is a good fit for the park. Chairman Sladky indicated that the City's potential use of the property is within the grant. Ald. Schema indicated that at Maribel Caves Park, there is split rail fencing three feet from the lot lines in order to prevent participants from going onto private property. No areas there have been distressed by the trail. Ald. Howe said that bathroom and parking issues need to be addressed. If the City allows the mountain bike trail, the Township of Manitowoc Rapids has indicated that they will post No Parking signs on the neighboring roads. Chairman Sladky would like the Engineering Department to determine what would be needed in order to put a driveway into the park. Ald. Hennessey is in favor of the plan and what the group is doing, but would like to see some collaboration with the neighbors. Chairman Sladky made a motion to approve the NEW OM request to build the mountain bike trail at Camp Vits pending approval from the Engineering Department and other City entities. Ald. Schema seconded the motion. Chairman Sladky clarified that motorized vehicles would not be allowed. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & possible action regarding regulating tree height on private property

No discussion or action at this time.

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

The estimate from E. F. Becker (which matches the existing tubing) is way above the budgeted amount for the deer pen alone. A spec will probably need to be written and put out on bids. Ald. Schema suggested asking the Lincoln Park Zoological Society to help with the cost. Chairman Sladky will discuss it with them. The Committee would like D. Koski to prepare specs for the fencing and in order to forward with the project.

Discussion & possible action regarding special event fee and waiver requests

The Committee feels that it has been a struggle to be fair to all of the groups. Ald. Soeldner would like to see the Committee continue to waive fees, but criteria need to be developed, which has been difficult. He would like to see the groups do more of the work themselves, and then, if they can't, they would be charged. Mayor Nickels suggested that a threshold be set at a certain dollar amount, and that the group would be responsible for paying the balance. J.

Muenzenmeyer suggested having an administrative fee. The Mayor also suggested that \$15,000 - \$20,000 from the room tax could be set aside to help fund special events.

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

Stop signs and pedestrian walkways will be installed, probably this week. Ald. Brey suggested that speed bumps be installed. J. Muenzenmeyer stated that they have worked great at the Aquatic Center, and they are removed before the snow season. The Committee agreed that it may be best to install all three. K. Glaeser will look into the speed bumps.

Discussion & possible action regarding a request from the Friends of the Mariners Trail to erect a donation tube

Ald. Schema motioned to deny the request for the donation tube. It was seconded by Ald. Soeldner. The motion passed unanimously.

Information regarding donations of two memorial benches (Lower Henry Schuette Park & Silver Creek Park)

This was just to inform the Committee that there will be a memorial bench installed at Lower Henry Schuette Park and another at Silver Creek Park.

Discussion & possible action on request to pay for additional zoo brochures from donation tube monies

Ald. Soeldner made a motion to approve the request for additional brochures, as long as the cost does not exceed \$500. The motion was seconded and carried.

Discussion & possible action regarding trimming of trees on private & public property by utility contractors

No discussion or action at this time.

Discussion & possible action regarding recycling in parks

K. Glaeser stated that this has been tried several times in the past, and they just turn into garbage bins. No action was taken at this time.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ald. Schema and seconded by Ald. Soeldner at 6:30 p.m. The motion carried.

DL/smsr