

PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

6:00 p.m.

- 1) Call to order by President Curt Stepanek.
- 2) Roll Call: Members Present: Curt Stepanek, Lisa Bjork, Audrey Stowell, Dale Berg, Brian Flynn, and Bob Hoekstra. Absent: Tony Kovach.
Staff present: Bill Faherty, Dick Hebert, Chuck Cyr, Ade King, and Terry Johnson
- 3) Approval of December 12, 2006, Minutes: Motion by Dale Berg, seconded by Curt Stepanek, all present voting aye, to approve minutes of the December 12, 2006, meeting.

Bob Hoekstra asked us to discuss item 6a at this time.

- 6) Decisions:
 - a. Accept Funds from the Bradford Family Trust of \$250,000. Motion by Bob Hoekstra, seconded by Dale Berg, all present voting aye to accept the funds from the Bradford Family Trust in the amount of \$250,000. Bill Faherty presented various options for the use of the funds. Currently the funds are in the City's Fund 21 where it is earning 4% interest. The interest rate for the endowment fund is 8.2%. The Board discussed its responsibility to use the funds wisely. Discussion included interest rates, accessibility of the funds, administrative fees, cost of delaying projects, and amount required to finish bobcat exhibit. Bill presented listing of park projects for 2007 with descriptions. These could be paid for with these funds or other donation funds. Bill presented chart of available funds and invested funds. The total of available funds is \$420,828.77. This includes the Bradford donation of \$250,000. Some of these funds are earmarked for specific projects at Casper Park, Christmas Village, the Zoo, etc. Curt Stepanek indicated that members of the public have contacted him with ideas for the use of the funds. He would ask that anyone with ideas or suggestions for the use of the funds come to and present his or her ideas at a Board meeting. Bob Hoekstra and others felt it was too soon to make any decision with regard to investing a sum certain, so the funds will be left in Fund 21 until further information about the completion cost of various projects is known.

Bob Hoekstra left at this time.

- 4) Personal Appearances by Citizens. None.
- 5) Planning:
 - a. Bobcat & Cougar Display Plan of Action: Bill Faherty reported that current estimates indicate the cost of completing the exhibit will exceed \$500,000. However, he and the staff feel there were items that can be changed to cut costs. He discussed eliminating the rock wall and painting a mural instead and eliminating or using a cheaper netting material. This will be looked into.
 - b. New Artifact / Gift Shop Building in Irvine Park: Bill Faherty again discussed closing the road in front of zoo. Not only would this be safer for pedestrian traffic, but it would also allow more room for this building. This will be looked at further, and a layout of the area will be prepared.
 - c. Soda Pop Contract 2007. Bill Faherty indicated he had recently read an article indicating that these types of contracts are not in our best interest. We will continue on as is without a contract for now. No other discussion.

- 6) Decisions:
- a. Accept Funds from the Chippewa Falls Lions Club of \$2,425. Bill Faherty indicated that the Lions Club is donating undesignated funds of \$2,150, \$150 for the skateboard park, and \$125 for the zoo. These donations are from proceeds the Lions received from concessions at Casper Park. Motion by Dale Berg, seconded by Brian Flynn, all present voting aye, to accept the Chippewa Falls Lions Club donation of \$2,425.
- 7) Information:
- a. Committee Reports:
 1. Friends of Irvine Park Zoo. Curt Stepanek reported that there was no December meeting and, therefore, nothing to report.
 2. Irvine Park Annual Celebration June 28, 29 & July 1 Weekend. Dale Berg indicated Tony Kovach would like to continue with the bands and fireworks again this year.
 3. Christmas Village Report. All of the Christmas displays have now been taken down. Next year will be the 20th anniversary, so we will try to come up with extra special things to do. Also, replacing our existing lights with LED lights is a goal for the future.
 - b. Staff Reports
 1. Recreation Programming Report. Motion by Brian Flynn, seconded by Curt Stepanek, all present voting aye, to approve the increased wage rates for the recreation department as presented by Dick Hebert.
 2. Irvine Park Zoo Updates. It was reported that the cougar kittens are now 7 weeks old and doing very well. No other problems or updates.
 3. Park Projects. Staff is working on reshingling the roofs of the fallow and elk barns. The old bear cage and an old shelter have been torn down. The old museum building is also being taken down. The warm weather is very conducive to allowing staff to work on these types of things. The street department is helping.
 4. Bradford Family Trust to Irvine Park. Discussed previously.
 - c. Donations
 1. The donations were discussed earlier.
 - d. Board Member comments or concerns. Brian Flynn wanted to thank all of the staff (most of which were present) for all of their hard work. Curt Stepanek stated that he would like to include covering the bridge by the old bear den in the list of possible projects for the Bradford funds. Lisa Bjork felt it was important to repair/replace some of the shelters.
- 8) Approve Claims. Motion by Curt Stepanek, seconded by Dale Berg, all present voting aye, to approve claims of \$6,066.39 for 2006 and \$5,725.90 for 2007 for a total of \$11,792.29.
- 9) Adjournment. Motion by Dale Berg, seconded by Curt Stepanek, all present voting aye, to adjourn.

Submitted by:

Audrey Stowell, Secretary