

PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, November 11, 2008  
6:00 p.m.

- 1) Call to order by Secretary Audrey Stowell.
- 2) Roll Call: Members Present: Audrey Stowell, Carmen Muenich, Dennis Doughty, Beth Arneberg, and Heidi Hoekstra. Absent: Curt Stepanek and Dale Berg.  
  
Staff present: Dick Hebert and Bill Faherty.  
  
Introduction of new members Beth Arneberg and Heidi Hoekstra.
- 3) Approval of October 14, 2008, Minutes: **Motion by Carmen Muenich, seconded by Dennis Doughty, all present voting aye, to approve minutes of the October 14, 2008, meeting.**
- 4) Personal Appearances: None. Bill Faherty did present several pieces of mail. The McDonnell soccer team sent a thank you card for the use of the facilities. One of the groups also thanked us for the opportunity to work in the park. The Community Foundation sent a letter of acknowledgement of the Elks Lodge donation to our fund. Also, there was a letter from the Northern Wisconsin State Fair Association confirming the arrangement we have with them regarding use of the grounds for soccer practices in exchange for mowing. Bill also reported that the DNR has approved our grant request of \$15,000 for work on the Duncan Trial. Bill also passed out the Park Board Mission statement for each member to review and keep.
- 5) Discuss/Consider moving Parks & Rec office from 21 E Grand. Bill Faherty indicated that the phones will be changed over on December 9<sup>th</sup>. He plans to have the Department moved to City Hall by then.
- 6) Discuss / consider developing a dog park in Chippewa Falls. Bill has received several calls in support of a dog park. The Public Works is looking at a couple of sites. One is the holding pond that Bill suggested at the last meeting. A second is the area beyond the current Renaissance Fair. If a dog park is developed, the Board intends to keep the current policy of allowing leashed dogs in our parks.
- 7) 2009 Budget. The 2009 final budget is not approved yet. Bill Faherty indicates there a few things that he intends to recommend be cut from our budget. He passed out a letter from the Community Foundation. Our fund recently lost \$14,000 because of the current market conditions. He also indicates that through October, we have earned approximately \$6,500 from the original Irvine trust. In the coming months, the Board will need to decide what to do with that money. The donation fund accounts were also reviewed. Bill Faherty also indicates that Parks & Rec has been named as a beneficiary in two estates and those funds are estimated to be between \$130,000 to \$300,000 total. Carmen Muenich asked what cuts Bill will be recommending. Bill indicates he will recommend delaying the purchase of a truck. Also, there were tables, benches, and shelters in the outlay budget that could be deleted. Items that Bill will be asking

remaining the budget are \$3,900 for tracks for grooming of the ski trails as well as a hood for the machine.

- 8) Discuss / Consider Security System for Zoo. Bill Faherty presented a quote for a security system from Access Security. Carmen Muenich left briefly at this time. This type of system would be helpful with vandalism, etc. There was discussion regarding systems at the pool and skateboard area as well. Dennis Doughty suggests we look into a wireless system. Also, he believes it would be advantageous to discuss with and obtain input from Councilman Dachel and the county's IT personnel.
- 9) Discuss/Consider Recreation Program Report. Dick Hebert distributed the new brochure. The Herald obtains the advertising and prints this brochure for us. They do a marvelous job, and it looks great. Carmen Muenich suggests Dick send a letter of recognition and thank you to the Herald for their efforts.
- 10) Discuss / Consider Personnel Report. Bill Faherty reports that with some of our regular personnel out on vacation, the community service workers and high school groups have been a big help.
- 11) Discuss / Consider Friends of Irvine Park Zoo Report. No report.
- 12) Discuss / Consider Parks Maintenance Report. Bill Faherty estimates the cost to finish the bobcat exhibit (excluding window glass) at \$144,000. We have \$32,000 in donations; however, Bill expects that we will have the funds available to finish the project by spring. Bill will be meeting with Themescapes in the near future to discuss plans to complete the outer wall. Carmen Muenich questioned how natural the outside exhibit will be. Bill indicates that the bobcat exhibit will be similar to the cougar exhibit in terms of grassy areas. There was also discussion about the dates and times of the closing of various park roads and the park in general.
- 13) Board Member comments or concerns. Carmen Muenich asks about plans to cover the locomotive. Bill Faherty indicates plans are in the works, but moving slow. Bill Faherty also mentions that the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual calendar will be ready soon for distribution. Even though we have calendars left from last year, we were still able to make a profit
- 14) Approve Claims. **Motion by Carmen Muenich, seconded by Dennis Doughty, all present voting aye, to approve claims of \$39,632.21.**
- 15) Adjournment. **Motion by Dennis Doughty, seconded by Audrey Stowell, all present voting aye, to adjourn.**

Submitted by:

Audrey Stowell, Secretary