

PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, October 13, 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 September 8, 2009, Minutes: **Motion by Carmen Muenich, seconded by Heidi Hoekstra, all present voting aye, to approve minutes of the September 8, 2009, meeting.**

- 3) Personal Appearances: None. Bill Faherty did present correspondence regarding the Emerald Ash Bore from First Choice Tree Care, an Adopt an Animal brochure, and various thank you letters.

- 4) Communications:

- a. Youth Community Center with Skateboard Facility Proposal. Nancy Langaard-Grube gave a presentation concerning her interest in opening a Community Center for Kids in Chippewa Falls. She is looking at the Pine Tree Racket ball Facility for a location. She would like part of the center to include an indoor skateboarding park, and she would like the City's outdoor skate park equipment to be moved to this indoor facility. Discussion included year-round use of equipment, supervision of participants, City budget concerns, ownership of personal property, liability, donor concerns, initial intent of skateboard facility, potential fees to user, and possible seasonal use of equipment. **Motion by Carmen Muenich, seconded by Dale Berg, all present voting aye, with the understanding that there are still many concerns to be negotiated, to approve exploring the opportunity of possibly letting skateboard equipment be used in an indoor facility not owned by the City.**

- b. Chippewa Falls Youth Baseball – T/Ball Program. Wayne Franz's letter to Bill Faherty was distributed. CFYB is interested in incorporating the current Parks & Rec T-ball program into a part of their association. Joel Mayberry was present on behalf of the CFYB Board. This year, 75 kids were in the Parks & Rec T-ball program. Dick Hebert reports that the parents of the kids involved basically do the coaching and run the program. Staff time is involved in getting it organized and up and running and in field maintenance. McDonald's currently subsidizes the Parks & Rec program, so cost to participants is \$10.00. Discussion included time commitment, intensity of program, and desire to have an opportunity for t-ballers to be involved in a recreational vs. competitive program; field maintenance; needed improvements to Marshall Park; City budget concerns; use of fields; and likely increased cost to participants.

Dale Berg leaves at this time.

Dick Hebert stated that a pro of this proposal is that CFYB is focused on baseball, whereas Parks & Rec is not.

Motion by Carmen Muenich, to turn over Age 5 & 6 T-ball Program to CFYB to be run at Marshall Park, seconded by Heidi Hoekstra with stipulation that a field maintenance agreement be coordinated with Parks & Rec. Motion passed with Carmen Muenich, Heidi Hoekstra, and Audrey Stowell voting aye; Curt Stepanek and Beth Arneberg voting nay.

- c. Thank You letters. These were passed around earlier.
- 5) Discuss/consider Security Systems for Zoo & Parks: James Greenwold of Bureau of Technical Services expressed his willingness to assist the Park Board in the design process and helping us understand what it is we need to have to make it worth our while to put in a security system. He would also help us in getting a useful bid out and comparing bids that come in. Carmen asked if he would be willing to actually do the design work to be sent out for bids and suggested hiring him as a consultant for this purpose. Discussion included need v. cost; maintenance costs, possible reduction of liability insurance premiums; and priority areas. **Motion by Beth Arneberg, seconded by Carmen Muenich, all present voting aye, to table the decision on pursuing purchase of a security system until decision regarding skateboard park is made.**
- 6) Update on Current Projects:
 - a. Canine Leisure Area. Bill Faherty reports that committees have been set up for various responsibilities. A presentation will be made to the City Council because of licenses, etc.
 - b. Bobcat Exhibit Phase 2. Netting and windows going in this week. Painting still needs to be done in spring. Staff may be able to do this.
 - c. Purchase of Land at Casper Park. Bill Faherty reports that arrangements for an appraisal have been made. Once received, he will submit a grant for 50% funding. If grant not received, only cost will be for the appraisal.
 - d. Facility Regulations and Policies. No report.
 - e. Camping in Irving or Casper Park. Bill Faherty reports that it is essentially cost prohibitive to get current license because of bathroom and shower requirements. He will look into possibility of tent only camping. Bill has contacted SEH regarding requirements for rustic or primitive camping. With the development of the bike trails, there may be interest in having this available.
 - f. Procedures to remove Artifacts in Irvine Park. Bill Faherty reports that he has been contacted again regarding the gear-driven bike we have, which is quite rare. Curt Stepanek wants to keep it. Bill indicates we do have a policy in place to contact museums first for placement.
- 7) 2010 Budget. Bill would like us to review the Spring / Fall program for adjustments to program and facility rental fees and get back to him with our thoughts. Heidi Hoekstra mentions the group size needs to be addressed as well. Decisions need to be made by April.
- 8) Donation Fund Report. Bill Faherty distributed the Donation Report. He also reported that Gaylord Howard, who passed away last month, has left his estate to Irvine Park.
- 9) Discuss/consider Recreation Program report.
 - a. T-Ball Program for 2010. Discussed above.
- 10) Discuss/consider Personnel Report. Bill Faherty indicates that there are five members of Parks & Rec staff are eligible for the early retirement package. Decisions need to be made by November 19. Bill also reports that the Christmas Village Committee met and has asked a community organization to take over that endeavor in 2010, as it is too much for Parks & Rec staff. Some staff would still be required during set up and take down, but on a much more limited basis.

- 11) Discuss/consider Friends of Irvine Park Zoo Report. No report.
- 12) Discuss/consider Parks Maintenance Report.
 - a. Irvine Park. Chuck Cyr indicates staff is working in the bobcat area. They are in the process of closing down all facilities and starting work on Christmas Village.
 - b. Casper Park. Youth soccer as well as high school regionals are still taking place, but will be over by the end of the month. Lift station is being put in.
 - c. Neighborhood Parks. Parks & Rec has taken over grass cutting duties from the street department. Bill has nothing to report re selling any of the neighborhood parks at this time.
- 13) Discuss/Consider Board Member comments or concerns. None.
- 14) Approve Claims. **Motion by Carmen Muenich, seconded by Curt Stepanek, all present voting aye, to approve claims of \$30,849.97.**
- 15) Adjournment. **Motion by Heidi Hoekstra, seconded by Curt Stepanek, all present voting aye, to adjourn.**

Submitted by:

Audrey Stowell, Secretary