

PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, July 13, 2010
6:00 p.m.

- 1) Call to order by President Curt Stepanek.
Roll Call: Members Present: Curt Stepanek, Audrey Stowell, Carmen Muenich, Beth Arneberg, Dale Berg, Heidi Hoekstra, and Jane Lardahl.
Staff present: Dick Hebert and Bill Faherty.
- 2) Approval of June 8, 2010, Minutes: **Motion by Carmen Muenich, seconded by Heidi Hoekstra, all present voting aye, to approve minutes of the June 8, 2010, meeting.**
- 3) Personal Appearances: Pat Walker of Barnabas Christian Coffee House presented her group's desire to use the pavilion for a donation-based music event on Saturday, Sept. 4 from 11-7. Her concern was whether the live music would be allowed. There were questions and discussion regarding the music and event. There were no specific issues or problems with what she proposed. They will be filling out the special event application.
- 4) Election of Officers.
 - a. Secretary. Heidi Hoekstra nominated Audrey Stowell as secretary. Dale Berg seconded. Audrey accepted the nomination. Heidi Hoekstra moved and Beth Arnebert seconded for unanimous ballot casting Audrey Stowell as secretary. All present voted aye.
 - b. Vice President. Beth Arneberg nominated Dale Berg as vice president. Heidi Hoekstra seconded. Dale Berg accepted the nomination. Curt Stepanek moved for unanimous ballot casting Dale Berg as vice president. Heidi Hoekstra seconded. All present voted aye.
 - c. President. Dale Berg nominated Curt Stepanek as president, Carmen Muenich seconded. Curt Stepanek accepted the nomination. All present voted aye.
- 5) Communications. Bill indicated he had a letter from the Department of Agriculture regarding the suspension of our permit to move animals because of discrepancy. Bill will resolve with the Department. Discussion regarding thinning of the whitetail herd. Bill also received the first draft of the budget and will be trying to achieve a 0% increase in the operations budget. Hallie Optimists will be having a picnic in the park on August 28. Chippewa Valley Bible Church has youth volunteers available July 20 – 23. Bill will be having them work on the neighborhood parks. He also has community service hours available on July 21 & August 4. Bill reports that he has been contacted regarding stimulus money available for possibly putting up security cameras around the skate park.
- 6) Discuss/Consider purchase of shelter for Flag Hill. Bill has been contacted by a company that has a 24 x 45 shelter for sale. It was ordered, and then un-ordered, by someone else. They are willing to sell it for \$17,600; it normally

would cost \$25,100. Bill wondered if this was something we wanted to purchase with donation money and store until needed. Discussed that it's not really a necessity or priority right now, and while it may be a good price, it's not good timing.

- 7) Discuss/consider one way traffic in Irvine Park. Bill indicated that the council has referred this issue to the engineering department for traffic studies. Briefly discussed looking at one-way traffic around the loop starting at the main parking lot and up around the deer ending at the cannons. Bill also indicated that he had looked at the future plans done several years ago, which did include a plan for one-way traffic, but going the opposite direction. He will bring to the next meeting.
- 8) Update on Current Projects.
 - a. Gaylord Howard Estate. Bill has most of the paperwork on this completed.
 - b. Archie Remington Estate. No update.
 - c. Earl Scholl Estate. Stock is down.
 - d. Native Tree Trail. Bill indicated the trail is complete and is really nice. He encouraged everyone to check it out.
 - e. Irvine Park Band Shell. No update other than Bill reports many people have commented on how nice the cement work is.
- 9) Discuss/Consider Personnel Report. Bill briefly discussed the possible retirements and concern regarding personnel should they all come to fruition. Bill indicates the seasonals are doing a great job.
- 10) Discuss/Consider Recreation Report.
 - a. Outdoor Swimming Pool. Dick distributed the attendance report and indicates that so far this year, it's been going well. The changes in the guard schedules is helping with costs and working well. If a further increase in attendance is wanted, Dick recommends closing the fountain Monday – Thursday. He indicates there are approximately 50 kids in the fountain every, and he feels they may otherwise use the pool if the fountain were not available. He distributed the new promotional days/ideas to keep people coming to the pool in the late summer. Audrey brought up other ideas that could possible also increase attendance such as more activities in the pool, a playground, shade area, and longer evening hours. Bill said that the original plans called for a mini-golf course. This is something that could general revenue – perhaps ask business for hole sponsorship. Dick reported that they were excited about the promotional days, and there will be an article in the Herald regarding it on Wednesday.
 - b. Summer Activities. Dick distributed brochure and discussed Pure Water Days' events.
- 11) Discuss / Consider Friends of Irvine Park Zoo Report. No report. Still receiving money from brick sales. Curt indicates there were several that stopped at the Fair inquiring about bricks.
- 12) Discuss / Consider Parks Maintenance Report.

a. Irvine Park. Bill reports that staff is busy cutting grass and doing general maintenance. Dale inquired about a cover over Little Dinky. Donation money would be used for this project. After discussion, **motion by Carmen Muenick, seconded by Curt Stepanek, all present voting aye, to have Bill pursue bids for an outside contractor to provide a themed cover over Little Dinky.** This item should be on next month's agenda.

b. Casper Park. Bill reports the tournament went very smoothly, and there are tournaments scheduled every weekend. Concessions were not good, as people brought their own coolers in. Legion has helped clean up the baseball field. The sewer project by the house is now complete. He has not heard from the DNR on funding for the two lots.

c. Neighborhood Parks. Bill will be using volunteer groups to spruce up these parks.

- 13) Board Member comments or concerns. Audrey wondered if there was discussion of elimination of office staff hours. Bill indicated there has been. It is nice to have the coverage for vacations, etc. Bill handed out the budget and answered questions. Carmen questioned whether the bobcat pen is too small for the cougars. Bill indicated that for their age, it is certainly within the guidelines. Brief discussion regarding changing of various animals. Having sponsorship of meals for tigers also mentioned. Curt brought up having the potluck summer picnic for the August meeting. He hopes to have information regarding the covered bridge project available next meeting.
- 14) Approve Claims. **Motion by Heidi Hoekstra, seconded by Curt Stepanek, all present voting aye, to approve claims of \$40,365.64.**
- 15) Adjournment. **Motion by Dale Berg, seconded by Heidi Hoekstra, all present voting aye, to adjourn.**

Submitted by:

Audrey Stowell, Secretary