

PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, October 12, 2010  
6:00 p.m.

- 1) Call to order by President Curt Stepanek.  
Roll Call: Members Present: Curt Stepanek, Carmen Muenich, Audrey Stowell, Heidi Hoekstra, Beth Arneberg, Jane Lardahl, and Dale Berg.  
Staff present: Bill Faherty and Dick Hebert.
- 2) Approval of September 14, 2010, Minutes: **Motion by Carmen Muenich, seconded by Curt Stepanek, all present voting aye, to approve minutes of the September 14, 2010, meeting.**
- 3) Personal Appearances: None.
- 4) Community Foundation of Chippewa County – Gaylord Howard Estate. Bill Faherty reports that Gaylord Howard named the Irvine Trust Fund as beneficiary in his will. As funds cannot be deposited into the original Irvine Trust Fund, Bill Faherty proposes that a new fund named “Irvine Park Endowment Fund” be set up at the Community Foundation. Like the original trust fund, the principle of the new Fund would be preserved. Interest only would be available for improvements to Irvine Park if approved by the Grant Committee of the Foundation. This endowment fund will be an option for additional donations as well as the Howard funds, and Bill feels the community may be more receptive to donating to this fund instead of the current Parks & Rec fund. Bonnie Robinson, Heather Hunt, and David Raihle, Jr. were present from the Community Foundation and answered many questions. After discussion, **motion by Carmen Muenich, seconded by Beth Arneberg, all present voting aye, to initiate contract with Community Foundation of Chippewa County, Inc. for purpose of creating Irvine Park Endowment Fund.**

Dale Berg leaves at this time.

Agenda Item 9 c is discussed out of order.

- 9) Discuss/Consider Recreation Report
  - c. New Program – Martial Arts Self Defense Class. Dick Hebert distributed a description of the proposed Youth & Adult Northern Dragon Martial Arts class to run for two sessions of six weeks this winter. James Ledebuhr was involved in such a program in Minneapolis through community education and is interested in teaching a class here. It’s set up to be an introductory course. Families can take the class together. The cost to participants is low. However, if there is not enough participation to cover the cost, then the class won’t take place. Carmen questioned whether this competes directly with local studios and if this was something government should be involved in. Others expressed that the class may generate interest in pursuing martial arts further and is similar to most of our recreational programs. After discussion, **motion by Beth Arneberg, to**

**approve offering the Martial Arts Self Defense Class as proposed, seconded by Audrey Stowell. Carmen Muenich called for a roll call vote. Beth Arneberg, aye, Jane Lardahl, aye, Curt Stepanek, aye, Carmen Muenich, nay, Audrey Stowell, aye, Heidi Hoekstra, aye.**

- 5) Communications. None.
- 6) Discuss/Consider Special Event Applications.
  - a. Epilepsy Foundation – May 6, 2011. Bill presents the application received for this event. He states it's an event that has taken place for years without any problems. They estimate 500 people in attendance. In early May, that should not be a problem. **Motion by Heidi Hoekstra, seconded by Curt Stepanek, all present voting aye, to approve the special event application of the Epilepsy Foundation for their walk on May 6, 2011.**
- 7) Update on Current Projects.
  - a. Gaylord Howard Estate. Other than that already addressed above, Bill is still waiting for the estate to be closed.
  - b. Archie Remington Estate. No update.
  - c. Earl Scholl Estate. Recent increase in value.
  - d. Irvine Park Band Shell Renovation. The recent work is complete. Bill indicates it looks fantastic. The electrical work remains to be done. Bill has met with someone and commented that the light fixture may be difficult to replace. Curt suggested having one made. Carmen would like to see this project completed in EARLY spring. Bill indicates that wood chips need to be placed to keep mud from splashing on the sides and potentially some of the pine trees may need to be trimmed.
  - e. Little Dinky. Bill had some initial drawings of covers for Little Dinky. These are done similar to the shelter across the road from Little Dinky. Curt suggests two sides be added to the cover to provide more protection.
- 8) Discuss/Consider Personnel Report. Bill reports that Chuck Cyr will be retiring on December 20. He will be asking the personnel committee for permission to post that position.
- 9) Discuss/Consider Recreation Report.
  - a. Fall Activities. Dick presented the pool report. There was a \$21,881.64 budget deficit instead of the projected \$58,888, although the phone expense will continue at approximately \$100/month. It is great that the expenses were kept low. Softball leagues finished up last week.
  - b. Winter Activities. The brochure will be printed next Monday. Volleyball and basketball leagues will start the last week of October.
  - c. New Program – Martial Arts Self Defense Class. Discussed earlier.
- 10) Discuss / Consider Friends of Irvine Park Zoo Report. No report.

- 11) Discuss / Consider Parks Maintenance Report.
  - a. Irvine Park. Bill reports that the restrooms are being closed down one by one. The swimming pool is nearly closed. The ostrich and the bull elk have been picked up. Still have the issue of too many deer. Christmas Village was also discussed with regard to the closing of the park and turning off of lights. Using timers and volunteers for lights was discussed; obviously if the roads are icy, staff would need to come in to deal with that.
  - b. Casper Park. All of the nets are down and things will be wrapping up there soon.
  - c. Neighborhood Parks. All playground inspections are complete.
- 12) Board Member comments or concerns. Heidi wondered about feedback on the one-way travel plan through Irvine Park. This is still being considered and hasn't been implemented yet. Bill indicates that he's received both positive and negative comments about the earlier closing time of the gates. Beth asked about street sweeping in the park – specifically Ermatinger Drive. Bill indicated that is and/or would be done. Carmen questioned whether anything had been done about the north end of Irvine Park. Bill indicated that he was going to look at having that done by resolution. Curt also mentioned having some tree management done. Curt also commented that when Allen Park was reserved for the Tea Party gathering, there was a banner up all week. The banner should only be up during the time of the reservation.
- 13) Approve Claims. **Motion by Heidi Hoekstra, seconded by Curt Stepanek, all present voting aye, to approve claims of \$23,659.70.**
- 14) Adjournment. **Motion by Carmen Muenich, seconded by Heidi Hoekstra, all present voting aye, to adjourn.**

Submitted by:

Audrey Stowell, Secretary