

MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
Wednesday, December 7, 2016

1. **Roll Call**
2. **Approval of the November 1, 2016 Minutes**
3. **Amend current Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan**
4. **Approval 2017 Seasonal Pay Scale**
5. **Review survey questions for Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan**
6. **Director's report**
7. **Adjournment**

1. **Roll Call**

Present: Freckmann, Hall, Kirsch, Ald. McComb, McDonald, Ald. Oberstadt. Okonek, Sorenson

Excused: Glodosky, Ald. Slowinski, Smith,

Also Present: Director Tom Schrader, Alyssa Baker, Patrick Jambo, Susan Zach, Amy Wiza, Brian Oberstadt

2. **Approval of the November 1, 2016 Minutes**

Motion by Ald. McComb, seconded by Hall, to approve the November 1, 2016 minutes and place them on file.

Ayes all; Nays none; Motion carried.

3. **Amend current Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan**

Schrader explained that the group planning and fund raising for The Cultural Commons in Pfiffner Pioneer Park would like to apply for a Stewardship Grant from the WIDNR. In order to apply for the grant, this project or a similar project would need to be referenced in our Comprehensive Outdoor Park Plan. Our current plan doesn't reference such a project, so we would need to amend our current plan and add a reference of the project to the plan. We have in the past amended our plan to include projects that have come up after we approved the plan in order to apply and receive grant funds. He would recommend that we amend our current plan Section 7.2(O) Pfiffner/Pioneer Park, by adding #6 to state: Create a garden and education space within the park to serve as an interactive and dynamic educational experience for all people. This space should establish a natural point of beginning along the Wisconsin River, leading to a greater understanding of and connection to our community's past, present, and future multicultural heritage.

Freckman asked about the signage stating natural point.

Wiza/Zach both explained that this is the point along the river where the city started. The sign would work into it some information about the Menominee Indians and the first white settlers to the area.

Kirsch asked where Cultural Commons is actually located in the park.

Wiza responded just north of the lagoon.

Jambo asked how will it be funded and a completion date.

Wiza stated that the group has done a feasibility study and has started some of the fund raising. They are hoping the grant would play a major part in helping to fund the project. They don't really have a completion date yet, the project will be divided into three phases. Most of the project could be completed in the next three years.

Ald. Oberstadt said the project is in her district and thought it was a beautiful project for the park.

Motion by Sorensen, seconded by Ald. Oberstadt, to amend the current Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan to amend our current plan Section 7.2(O) Piffner/Pioneer Park, by adding #6 to state: Create a garden and education space within the park to serve as an interactive and dynamic educational experience for all people. This space should establish a natural point of beginning along the Wisconsin River, leading to a greater understanding of and connection to our community's past, present, and future multicultural heritage.

Ayes all; Nays none; Motion carried.

4. Adoption of 2017 Seasonal Pay Scale

Schrader stated that this item has been pulled from the agenda. The Finance Committee has recommended seasonal wages would be raised annually equal to the cost of living. Schrader did say that the Commission may want to look at this recommendation next year, in that the cost of living this year was .68%. So seasonal starting wages went up a nickel, \$9.25 to \$9.30. At this rate we will continue to fall behind other businesses as it relates to starting wages.

Sorenson asked if this low wage would cause a problem with hiring this year.

Schrader stated we will have to see.

5. Review survey questions for Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Schrader highlighted the changes recommended by Commission members to the survey since our last meeting.

Sorenson thought we could eliminate cricket and maybe add lacrosse in section 1 (4).

Ald. McComb thought we should add a third option under gender.

Ald. Oberstadt thought maybe we could add prefer not to answer.

Commissioners agreed to look into this question more at the next review of the survey.

Jambo asked how the survey would be distributed, especially among university students.

Schrader stated that in the past we randomly mailed the survey to about 30 people in each district in the city that had voted in recent elections. In addition to that we would use social media and public meetings to gather information. We would not be using telephone surveys because of the cost associated with it.

Sorenson thought we could contact UWSP relations and see if there was a way they could distribute the survey electronically to the students.

6. Director's report

Director Schrader reported:

- Started on making the outdoor skating rinks at Goerke, Iverson, Emerson, McKinley and possibly at Bannach
- Started hauling snow to Iverson for the sledding and toboggan runs
- In the process of hiring the seasonal staff for the Winter Sports Areas
- The Prime Water Anglers finished installing all the piers for this year in the lagoon. They will install the last one next summer
- Handed out copies of the Forester's year-end report

7. Adjournment

Motion by Ald. Oberstadt, seconded by Hall, to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Ayes all; Nays none; Motion carried.