

**MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2019**

1. **Roll Call**
2. **Approval of the November 7, 2018 Minutes**
3. **Starting the process of naming new Rails to Trail**
4. **Update on Zenoff Park Turf Project**
5. **Update on Willett Arena Project**
6. **Director's report**
7. **Adjournment**

1. **Roll Call**

Present: Freckmann, Glodosky, Hall, Ald. McComb, McDonald, Okonek, Smith, Sorenson
Excused: Kirsch, Ald. Oberstadt, Ald. Slowinski
Also Present: Director Tom Schrader, Brandi Makuski, Ald. Phillips, Steve McKay

2. **Approval of the November 7, 2018 Minutes**

Motion by Okonek, seconded by Hall, to approve the November 7, 2018 minutes and place them on file.

Ayes all; Nays none; Motion carried.

3. **Starting the process of naming new Rails to Trail**

Director Schrader gave some background information on the policy and procedure for naming public parks and facilities that has been used in the past. The Parks Department will advertise on the web the request for written proposals along with a thorough documentation giving the reasons for the selection of the proposed name. All recommendations would be reviewed by the Board of Park Commissioners and in turn a recommendation would be forwarded to the Common Council for approval. The granite has been placed on the trail but froze before the final grading and having the granite rolled. This will be done in spring and then the trail is ready to go. An official opening will be scheduled for some time in April along with the new Green Circle segment that changed and went through the old Whiting mill.

Ald. Phillips asked the Commissioners to look at parks that are not being used namely Slomann Park. Maybe it's time to sell it and put the property back on the tax roll. No one uses Slomann Park and the parks department still maintains it. Why would anyone use Slomann Park when they can go to Mead Park and KASH playground? Ald. Phillips suggested that the Slomann family be approached and asked if they would agree to swap their park name and use "Slomann" on the Rails to Trail so it would be the Slomann Trail. If this happened the Parks Commission wouldn't have the problem naming the trail and by putting Slomann Park back on the tax roll houses could be built there and bring in \$10,000.00 worth of taxes to the City. If the Park isn't being used why are we cutting the grass, maintaining the playground equipment because we don't want to lose any park land? There is absolutely nothing to lose with selling Slomann Park.

This item is not on the agenda and can't be discussed by the Commission. Ald. Phillips stated he brought it up now so the Commission could be in contact with the Slomann family before the process is started to name the Rails to Trail.

Smith **moved**, seconded by Glodosky to continue and move ahead with the naming of the new Rails to Trail.

Ayes all, nays none; motion carried.

4. Update on Zenoff Park Turf Project

Director Schrader stated the bids this time came in under budget. The project was rebid since the first bids came in over budget and were rejected. Construction will start August, 2019 with completion in fall or early spring of 2020. The Softball Association has raised about \$580,000.00 and the bids came in with contingency about \$540,000.00. Astro Turf was selected as low bid out of 4 turf surface vendors. H and H Civil Construction will do the construction work and they are the same company that did Goerke Field.

5. Update on Willett Arena Project

Director Schrader reported that Findorff got the low bid as the project contractor. They are the company that is also doing the new Sentry building and will be working with Minnesota Ice who will be doing the actual concrete work. This bid also came in under budget. Right now we're working on the boards and glass. It all needs to be removed. The quote received for the removal was \$22,000.00 so now we're trying to find a way to recycle the plastic and glass. Has met with Greg from Create Portage County and they may be interested in the plastic. If we don't find a market to sell the plastic we may let Create come in and remove the plastic for their own use. The glass is tempered and can't be cut. It's worth nothing. Can't be recycled so we're looking into ways to sell it or give it away so it won't cost us to dispose it.

6. Director's report

Director Schrader reported

- The City forester has solicited bids for tree work contracts and 2 were returned from local contractors
- The City forester has submitted an application for Tree City USA
- We have reached our goal of having our ash street trees down to 550. The only ash trees which are needed to be removed are those along Division Street North. Once these trees are infested, or when any potential redevelopment occurs, the trees will then be removed. We have about 250 ash trees in the parks which we will be working on next to remove and replace.
- The Willett sports opened on the weekend of December 15/16
- On January 17th a Community Conversation regarding the future of the Downtown and the Division Street corridor will be held at Mid-State Technical College from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. All are invited to attend.

7. Adjournment

Motion by Ald. McComb, seconded by McDonald, to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes all; Nays none; Motion carried, 6:51 p.m.