

**MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2010**

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of the January 6, 2010 Minutes
3. Consideration and Possible Action on making Stevens Point a Bird City Wisconsin city (Aldo Leopold Audubon Society)
4. Consideration and Possible Action on Request to Hold Special Event at Bandshell on August 21, 2010 (Point Dance Ensemble)
5. Consideration and Possible Action on Request to Hold Special Event at Bandshell on May 15, 2010 (UWSP 2010 Graduates)
6. Discussion on Comprehensive Outdoor Recreational Section 6 & 7
7. Director's Report
8. Adjournment

1. Roll Call

Present: Freckmann, Hall, McDonald, Okonek, Slowinski, West, Wiza

Excused: Bahling, Glodosky, Sorenson

Absent: O'Meara

Also

Present: Director Schrader, Peggy Rentz, Alderperson M. Stroik, Kent Hall, Charys Hess, Tamara Baker, John Munsin

2. Approval of the January 6, 2010 Minutes

Motion was made by Hall, seconded by McDonald to approve the January 6, 2010 minutes and place them on file.

Ayes all; Nays none; Motion carried.

3. Consideration and Possible Action on making Stevens Point a Bird City Wisconsin city (Aldo Leopold Audubon Society)

Kent Hall explained that Bird City Wisconsin is modeled after the Tree City USA program which the City has participated in for 29 years.

He said as his letter and information indicates the City already meets most of the criteria except for two areas. One is the "Cats Indoors" program and he distributed a brochure saying he spoke to the Humane Society and a local veterinarian who would be willing to put the brochures out to their clients. The second area is the City would be asked to designate the second Saturday in May as "International Migratory Bird Day" which would involve having the City draft and pass a proclamation to establish that.

Mr. Hall continued saying this would benefit the City by attracting tourists and being recognized in bird conservation. He said at this time the costs will be \$150 for a flag, signs and a plaque and \$170 for the "Cats Indoors" brochures. If the costs become a problem, the Audubon Society would ask to split costs. He thought perhaps the flag could fly along with the Tree City USA flag.

Discussion followed and clarifications were made that even though it is "International Migratory Bird Day", all species would be recognized, even those birds that stay all year around. It was also brought up that this is a new project supported by Toyota and the Audubon Society and is the first in the County, which could give Stevens Point the distinction of being the first Bird City Wisconsin.

Motion was made by Wiza, seconded by Slowinski to recommend to the Council to authorize moving forward to make Stevens Point a Bird City Wisconsin.

Ayes all; Nays none; Motion carried.

4. Consideration and Possible Action on Request to Hold Special Event at Bandshell on August 21, 2010 (Point Dance Ensemble)

Director Schrader said this is before the Board because it is a first time request for this event. If the event becomes a yearly event and there are no problems, it can be approved by staff the following year.

Charys Hess said this request is the result of a Community Collaboration grant that she received from the Wisconsin Arts Board. She said the grant will include various events involving school children and this will be their last event for the season, it will provide music and dancing for the enjoyment of the community.

Discussion followed and Hess was asked what grade levels were included and she said at this point 5th & 6th graders, she said she sent emails and took the first three respondents and she added hopefully in the future they can include others. She also was asked about alcoholic beverages and she said there will be no alcohol sold, the only possibility of selling anything would be musicians CD's and the City would get their percentage of the sales. The musicians are aware of this.

Motion was made by McDonald, seconded by Hall to recommend approval to Hold a Special Event at the Bandshell on August 21, 2010 as presented (Point Dance Ensemble)

Ayes all; Nays none; Motion carried.

5. Consideration and Possible Action on Request to Hold Special Event at Bandshell on May 15, 2010 (UWSP 2010 Graduates)

Tamara Baker spoke to the Board saying this was a group of 2010 graduates who wanted to hold a party for their families and friends and she said she would be happy to answer any questions.

- Questions and comments included that there would be a tent and Baker said that was correct, in case it rained.
- She was also asked if this is a UWSP organization and Baker said it was not, they were a group of graduating students.
- The method of distribution of alcoholic beverages was brought up along with how the distribution area would be kept separate, that this will go through council easier if they have a fenced area with only one entrance/exit and also perhaps a security person. Baker said they are not going to sell liquor or food, or charge for the band and that some of the parents volunteered to check ID's and make sure those receiving alcoholic beverages had on wrist bands. She said she would let the others know what is required.
- How they planned to shut the party down at 10 p.m. Baker said the intent was to stop the band and pack everything up prior to 10 p.m. to encourage everyone to leave and if they didn't they would take care of it, that those attending will be family and friends.
- How many students are involved and Baker said at this time 15.
- How is an event like this controlled and Director Schrader said we have had similar events through the years and that undercover police will be there at times throughout the day making sure that alcohol is not provided to those who should not be served. He added it is important to know that whoever signs the contract will be liable. Baker asked if only one person can sign, they were considering having a group sign. Director Schrader said he would check with the City Attorney.

Liz McDonald said the University is a wonderful part of our community and the students make many contributions, economically and others. She said she would like to see them use our park to celebrate their graduations and pointed out that many just go to a park and have a party without seeking any input from the City.

Motion was made by McDonald, seconded by Wiza to approve the event at the Bandshell on May 15, 2010 as presented by the UWSP 2010 Graduates with the stipulation that whoever will be responsible be at the Council meeting on February 15th and provide more details on the handling of alcohol distribution.

Ayes all; Nays none; Motion carried.

6. Discussion on Comprehensive Outdoor Recreational Section 6 & 7

Director Schrader said that Jeff Bahling couldn't make it to the meeting but he supported 3, 4 & 5.

Director Schrader said the input will be from the Commission, Staff and public. He referred to a handout that was compiled from a recent survey where people were asked to list what they thought were positives about our parks and where they thought improvements could be made. He said many of the requested improvements are tied in with additional costs or things that were changed or cut back due to the shrinking budget.

He asked the Board for their comments and any additions or deletions which included:

- Section 2.0 #1, change "establish" problems to "identify" problems.
- Section 2.0 #2, remove the "and" between properly and maintained.
- Section 6.1 #3, indicate that the city provides equal or more park benefits to the community.

- Section 6.1 #7, shorten the paragraph by having it read “which are enjoyed by residents” and eliminating the rest of the sentence.
- Section 6.1 #10, since this is tentatively to be constructed this spring and up and running the first part of June, this item could be removed. Naming the park will be at the Board of Public Works February meeting to publically talk about the naming. Wiza said he was asking support for the name “Point Dog Park” and that they contact the City Clerk.
- Section 7.2-under E #2, To be aware of “dark sky initiatives”, for those who want areas to enjoy the stars, etc.
- Section 7.2- Under O, does this include erosions, and Director Schrader said it does.
- Director Schrader said there should be a #5 in Section 7.2 under O, and that would be to upgrade the existing, outdated, small restrooms.

Director Schrader said if anyone thinks of anything else they can let him know and we will continue next month with recommendations on items 2 & 3 and 6 & 7.

7. Director’s Report

Director Schrader reported:

- The Skateboard Park Subcommittee said they are moving along, the initial plans cost more than anticipated and they are having the project revised to keep it under a certain amount. They may be at the March meeting with a plan.
- The Sculpture Park is shooting for a June 12th grand opening, they have five artists lined up and will be working with the schools for the opening.
- Iverson winter sports are back up after being closed down. At this point both of the toboggan runs, the sledding hills, and the skating rink should be open to the public on the weekend.
- Special Events met in December;
 - * The Civil War Encampment was approved for August 27-29 and they received \$1,000.
 - * Waupaca and Backa 60 mile bike tour was approved for August 14th and they received \$2,000.
 - * An aircraft owners group did not meet criteria and received no funding.
- There will be a meeting prior to Council on February 15 at 6:00 p.m. regarding Iverson to provide information on what we are doing and to seek public input and organize volunteer groups.
- The Bandshell/Pfiffner area is booked pretty heavily through the summer and into early fall so it is being utilized.

8. Adjournment

Motion was made by Wiza, seconded by Hall to adjourn the February 3, 2010 Board of Park Commissioners meeting at 7:10 P.M.

Ayes all; Nays none; Motion carried.