

City of Stevens Point Meeting Minutes

Board of Park Commissioners

Wednesday, January 7, 2009

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1. ROLL CALL

Present: Bahling, Brooks, Freckmann, Glodosky, Hall, McDonald, Sorenson, Trzebiatowski, Wiza

Excused: Okonek

Absent: Curtis

Also Present: Director Schrader, Peggy Rentz, Chris Wiza, Reid Rocheleau

2. APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 3, 2008 MINUTES

Motion was made by Wiza, seconded by Bahling to approve the December 3, 2008 minutes and place them on file.

Ayes all; Nays none; Motion carried.

3. UPDATE FROM LEASHLESS DOG EXERCISE AREA COMMITTEE

Wiza reported the Leashless Dog Exercise Area Committee had met several weeks ago and discussed the plans including approving the logo, permission to put up goal and progress signs, sending out mailers and setting up a website. Wiza said they have a list of registered dog owners and will target them and will be putting up additional donation cans at businesses. He added one donation can they already had up was stolen, probably containing several hundred dollars.

Reid Rocheleau expressed his anxiety to get this going and indicated he thought the fund raising should be encouraged while the topic was still hot. He handed out a list of donations so far and a list of items he thought the Park Board should consider and recommend to the City Council.

A brief discussion took place on following the procedure to get the approvals needed for signage and since this is not park land the decisions will have to go through Public Works and any other appropriate committees prior to the Council. Wiza said he would like recommendations from the Park Board in February such as size of signs, etc. Wiza added the present agenda item is to give an update from the Leashless Dog Exercise Area Committee and no recommendations from the Park Board will be made this evening.

Additional discussion took place on donations and that they must have enough money in place before the construction of the fence, if there are not enough donations, the present donors would get their money returned. President Glodosky said the Park Board has approved the project so the Leashless Dog Exercise Area Committee should raise the money and go with it. Discussion also included maintenance such as mowing and Director Schrader said the County mows theirs about once a month, and that will not be a problem for the Parks Department to mow the area.

Rocheleau questioned the layers of committees and said while this is not officially a park, people refer to it as a Dog Park. He indicated he would like the Park Board to be the one to make related recommendations to the Council and Director Schrader and Alderperson Wiza agreed the Park Board will make recommendations to the Council along with any other appropriate boards or committees. Rocheleau also asked about liability and Director Schrader said it wasn't a problem, he had already checked with the City's insurance.

4. UPDATE ON ENERGY CONSERVATION PROJECTS COMPLETED AT K.B. WILLETT ARENA

Director Schrader said there was a conference held in Stevens Point in December and Sorenson said it was the Governor's Conference on Climate Change sponsored by the Lt. Governor's office, it was a showcase on renewable energy and the Willett Arena was the first stop, the group was lead by Alderperson Amy Heart.

Director Schrader said Don Butkowski prepared an outline of what they have done at the arena over the years, he went over the items explaining the beneficial results of each item. He said the savings has been tremendous, the paybacks have all been met, some sooner than anticipated.

Sorenson asked what the reaction was from the summit and Director Schrader said they seemed impressed and our outlines were distributed, saying they include information that could be useful. He added we have been going through all our buildings and the Wisconsin Focus on Energy representative, Don Keck, has been extremely helpful in finding pertinent information and rebates.

Director Schrader said WPS representative Mike Resch said what we have done has resulted in a 50% reduction in energy usage over 10-years even though the cost of electricity and gas has increased as much as 100%.

Liz McDonald said she wanted to congratulate Director Schrader and his staff for the savings in energy and costs. The Board concurred.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Schrader reported:

- **Iverson Park did very well over the Christmas break making \$3,500 even though we lost several days due to the weather. Last weekend was also a large increase over the same weekend in 2007. He said we hope to have the second toboggan run up for next weekend.**
- **He referred to the 2008 Forestry Department Report saying Todd Ernster put together a great report. He said he thought Tree City USA for 26 years was pretty impressive, and he believed there were only four or five cities in Wisconsin that were up there with us in that category and they were major cities. He referred to what was done saying the Forester worked hard to save trees on Plover Street during construction and will be doing the same on 4th Avenue. The Forester will continue working on controlling the Emerald Ash Borer. Director Schrader asked Bob Freckmann if he had heard of any Emerald Ash Borer occurrences in Wisconsin other than the two reported last year and Freckmann said not so far and that we are fortunate that our tree species are diversified throughout the City.**
- **Director Schrader also referred to a letter from Golden Sands thanking the City for the community gardens on Franklin Street and 3rd Street North**

and that 75 pounds of surplus vegetables were donated to local food pantries. He said this is not only helpful to the Parks Department to not have to mow these areas but they are putting food in food pantries. He said there are other areas that might be considered for community gardens. Wiza said they were both a great success with no complaints and only a few minor recommendations for next year.

- **The Director reported he met with Mr. Strojny about the cash and pledges for the Skateboard Park and with the room tax contribution of \$110,000 and City contribution of \$10,000 they will have between \$263,000 and \$273,000 raised. They are working with the anonymous donor to see if pledges can be matched. He said the best case scenario would be to start construction in the fall of 2009, otherwise it could be the spring of 2010, but it will happen.**

- **Director Schrader said the Sentry Classic is this weekend at the Willett and he ended his report by saying the crews have been kept busy this winter with snow removal.**

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Hall, seconded by Trzebiatowski to adjourn the January 7, 2009 Board of Park Commissioners Meeting at 7:03 p.m.

Ayes all; Nays none; Motion carried.

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