

City of Stevens Point Meeting Minutes

Board of Park Commissioners

Wednesday, July 1, 2009

Present: Freckmann, Glodosky, Hall, McDonald, Slowinski, Sorenson, Wiza

Excused: Bahling, O'Meara, Okonek

Also Present: Director Schrader, Peggy Rentz, Chris Wiza, Hilary Landowski, Susan Eberhard

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2. Approval of the May 6, 2009 Minutes

Motion was made by Hall, seconded by McDonald to approve the May 6, 2009 minutes and place them on file.

Ayes all; Nays none; Motion carried.

3. Update on Leashless Dog Exercise Area

Susan Eberhard said the committee is ready for kick off; they are planning a July 18th walk to see the park. They will start at Pfiffner and continue to the site of the Leashless Dog Exercise Area. She said the Brewery is donating sodas and water for the walkers and the pets. She went on to say they have posters around the city, they have a brochure printed by Spectra Print as a donation, the website location is printed on the back. She said they are also selling T-shirts and bags, these will be available at the walk. She said they will have a table at Riverfront with brochures and information.

She added donations can be made at the Treasurer's office and the Companion Shop.

Wiza said Engineering and Streets will be putting up signs with the dog logo and the bone showing the progress of the donations, they will hopefully be up early in the week.

Director Schrader asked if he had a chance to look at the trail and Wiza said it was great.

McDonald asked if it can be used and Wiza said we can't open it until we have the money to pay for the fencing.

Freckmann asked if we have an estimate and Wiza said he felt it was still at around \$40,000, give or take. The price is fluctuating and since a quote is only good for about a month, he felt he would wait before he got another one.

4. Update on Skateboard Park

Director Schrader said he received an email from Jami Gebert saying they are working on a design with Rettler Corporation. They are working with New Line, which is a company that has built this type of park for cold weather areas. The email included that they are hosting a cook-out, car wash, bake sale and rummage sale at Emy J's on July 3rd from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

They are anticipating having the construction documents ready in late July and construction next spring.

The donations so far are at \$177,253.61 and added to that will be the \$100,000 room tax donation and \$10,000 from the city.

McDonald said they are moving ahead and have almost reached the \$300,000 needed.

Glodosky asked how long the construction would take and Director Schrader said probably less than two months.

Slowinski asked if New Line have done any projects in the area and Director Schrader said he thought they designed Mount Horeb but someone else built it. Hall said he could look at New Line's website.

5. Director's Report

Director Schrader reported:

- **There is a new entrance on Goerke Field, Security Fence donated some pipe and colored signboard. There will be six paintings on each side,** the paintings were done by students, elementary through high school, sponsored by Portage County Arts Alliance. These particular paintings reflect the student's perception of Goerke Park. The paintings will be changed periodically with different themes. He added Bill Schierl will have a plaque made for the gate with a removable insert that can be changed to explain the present theme of the paintings.
- **The pool opened to large crowds during the warm weather; 400-500 people a day. It has slowed down in recent days with the cool weather.**
- **Riverfront starts on Friday, runs through Sunday.**
- **The Sculpture Park has set their grand opening for June 12, 2010, they will start with six sculptures, they will call for entries on August 1st and Oct. 31 will be the deadline.**
- **Goerke Park was the site of the Eastbay SPARQ Football Camp and it was declared a success, about 360 kids signed up with an actual estimated 250 showing up, this often happens in free registration. He said next year Nike would like to bring it back through ESPN and invite athletes.**

Wiza said this used to be in Wausau but the improvements to the facility brought it to Stevens Point and Director Schrader said we had more participation because it is a better facility and the local coaches worked hard to get children to participate. He said he suggested a Friday night speaker for next year and they liked that suggestion. McDonald asked if this was just local children and Director Schrader said we had participants from all over the state, it is the only camp like this in the state.

- **Director Schrader said he received a thank you letter from Walk Wisconsin for our continued support.**

- **The City Forester, Todd Ernster reported:**

o Wal-Mart donated \$2,500 for tree planting and it was used for trees and shrubs in the area between the Central Company and the Pfiffner building

- o The Big Tree Contest was held with prizes donated from Shulfer's Landscaping, this is a contest we hope to build on each year.
- o Forestry Department is working with Streets and Engineering on various projects going on in the city and will be attending weekly construction meetings with them and other departments.
- o The volunteer help of putting down bark in downtown parking lots has been a great help to the department, it is time consuming and has freed them up to do other work.
- o Master Gardeners will hold their annual Garden Parade in July, some of the gardens will be city perennial beds that they have helped maintain. Director Schrader went on to say that it's outstanding how citizens groups such as those working on the Sculpture Park, the Leashless Dog Exercise Area, and the Skateboard Park have accomplished what they have. They didn't come to the city and say do it, they actually went out and made it happen and they deserve credit for their good works.

6. Adjournment

Motion was made by Hall, seconded by Wiza to adjourn the July 1, 2009 Board of Park Commissioners at 6:55 P.M.

Ayes all; Nays none; Motion carried.

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