

City of Stevens Point Meeting Minutes

Board of Park Commissioners

Wednesday, September 2, 2009

Present: Bahling, Freckmann, Glodosky, Hall, McDonald, O'Meara, Okonek, Slowinski, Wiza

Absent: Sorenson

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 July 1, 2009 Minutes

Motion was made by Hall, seconded by McDonald to approve the July 1, 2009 minutes and place them on file.

Ayes all; Nays none; Motion carried.

3. Discussion and Possible Action on 2010 Price Structure

Director Schrader said the Board would be voting on only the 2010 prices, he estimates through 2013 to give users an idea of what might be proposed.

Motion was made by Wiza, seconded by McDonald to approve the 2010 Price Structure.

O'Meara commented that the percentage of changes was 5% on some and 25% on others. His main concern was the increase on individual swimming session admission, which he felt would affect families more than increasing the boat slip fees. He also said that this is a very important recreational activity because it is healthy and can be life saving, it improves the quality of life and it is worth subsidizing to a greater degree than other programs.

Discussion followed on the health benefits of making swimming available to all residents by keeping the rates lower, especially with current job losses. It was questioned how previous increases affected the attendance and Director Schrader said in the past it hadn't made an impact and he added that those who visit the pool often can purchase an individual or family pass and after a few weeks they are swimming for free. He also said there are free swimming sessions every Saturday that are sponsored by local businesses. Additional discussion included how no rate increase or a smaller increase would impact the budget and Director Schrader said it would be minimal because the suggested increase wasn't that large.

Director Schrader pointed out that we don't increase the rate very often, the proposed rate would very likely stay the same at least through 2013. He said the fees need to increase to offset the subsidizing.

Amendment Number 1 to the original Motion was made by O'Meara, seconded by Glodosky to increase the 2010 rate schedule for individual swimming sessions for 0-5 years to \$2.25 and the 6 years and above to \$2.75.

President Freckmann called for a voice vote on Amendment Number 1.

Ayes - 8; Nays - 1 (Slowinski); Amendment to the motion carried.

Discussion began on the proposed boat slip increase of \$25 for both the covered and non-covered slips, and that compared to other slips they are less expensive.

Wiza said he thought we aren't charging enough compared to other boat slips and especially after improvements that were made last summer when the river was down, he asked how many people are on the waiting list and Director Schrader said there are 17.

Amendment Number 2 to the original Motion was made by Wiza, seconded by O'Meara to approve the increase of non-covered slips to \$525 and to increase the more coveted covered slips to \$125.

Charlie Woodward, slip renter, said he felt there is little cost to the city, the comparisons Wiza referred to are places where they provide services the City does not, such as electricity, water, etc. He said the City makes money on these slips.

Jane Burroughs, slip renter, said not all received improvements and she said just because we have boats doesn't mean we should pay more.

McDonald said she didn't think a \$25 increase over a season was unreasonable and supports the increase.

Other discussion covered that labor was volunteered by private clubs and organizations last summer during the draw down but the city paid for the materials and Director Schrader said it cost the City about \$5,000 to \$6,000. Discussion also included comparisons with other similar slips and Director Schrader said they are close or the same for the level of services. It was brought up that the City owns the land and the renters are using it as their own, which denies the general public use of those particular areas.

A discussion also covered if flat percentage rates would be fairer in the long run and that might be something to think about.

President Freckmann called for a voice vote on Amendment Number 2.

Ayes all; Nays none; Motion carried.

Director Schrader said football fees were stabilized because there is less maintenance with the new field, as far as Arena rental for exhibits, we can't compete with hotels and so forth that have all the amenities required for exhibits.

President Freckmann called for a voice vote on the Motion to approve the 2010 Price Structure with Amendment Number 1 to increase the 2010 rate schedule for individual swimming sessions for 0-5 years to \$2.25 and the 6 years and above to \$2.75, and Amendment Number 2 to approve the increase of non covered slips to \$525 and to increase the more coveted covered slips to \$125.

Ayes all; Nays none; Motion carried.

4. Update on Leashless Dog Exercise Area Dog Park Committee Memo

Hall said they have been working on fund raising and the Walk to the Park raised about \$2,000 and so far the total raised is \$10,650 and there is the donation of fencing from Sentry worth about \$1,800. When asked how much more they needed she said \$30,000. She said we may have a substantial donation coming in and the committee is working with the potential donor. She said that will be on the September 14th Board of Public Works agenda. They want to advance from fund raising to a planning phase, which will help in answering some of the questions of potential donors.

O'Meara suggested they compile a list of the types of questions they need answered when they present it to the board.

Director Schrader said they do not need the Park Board's permission to move to the planning phase, and since this is not parkland they will go the Board of Public Works with the plan for the park, he said he will continue to be the liaison between them and Public Works.

A discussion followed on the County's Dog Park providing water and that they had started with people bringing their own water for the dogs and that the County has found that supplying water was a bad idea, when dogs share a dish there is potential for spreading disease.

5. Director's Report

Director Schrader reported:

- **The Willett opens on September 12 at 1:00 p.m. with a community skate and special admission and skate rental of 50 cents.**
- **SPASH and Pacelli have their first games on Friday and Saturday.**
- **Roofing projects are completed in Iverson and Pfiffner will be completed soon.**
- **Jazz Fest begins on Friday with Justice Works kicking it off with a spaghetti feed on Friday and also Justice Works marathon is on the same weekend.**
- **The log is back on the entrance to Bukolt, it is a log from the park from a dead tree.**
- **The City Forester is working with 1st Choice Tree Service to prevent Emerald Ash Borer from infecting trees, the City will provide the insecticide and 1st Choice will provide treatment to 100 trees at no cost. Ash trees targeted for treatment are trees on Main & Clark Streets and College Avenue. This will be an annual program and it costs about \$25 a tree. The remaining City Ash trees will be treated by the Forestry Department personnel. A total of 200 trees are planned for treatment.**
- **He said the Forestry Department has received a grant to do a Tree Management Plan. Emerald Ash Borer preparedness and community Oak Wilt strategies will be reviewed.**
- **The crews have been working with the Street Department in lifting and cleaning grates downtown.**
- **Zenoff Park parking lot has been crack filled and seal coated.**

The Director asked if there were any questions and O'Meara said he had a problem with people nailing rummage sale signs to a boulevard tree and he was told there was no ordinance against that. Director Schrader said he thought that would be considered destruction to public property, that we also have problems with people sticking signs in the boulevard and damaging irrigation. Freckmann said the public needs to be educated.

Wiza said there is an upcoming fundraiser for the Sculpture Park, an event called Trivia-Unplugged where no electronic research is allowed. That will be held on September 26th and more information is available on the Portage County Arts Alliance website.

6. Adjournment

Motion was made by O'Meara, seconded by Hall to adjourn the September 2, 2009 Board of Park Commissioners meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Ayes all; Nays none; Motion carried.

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