

Meeting Minutes  
Board of Park Commissioners  
Wednesday, September 5, 2007  
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1. Roll Call

Present: Bahling, Freckmann, Glodosky, Hall, McDonald, Okonek, Sorenson, Trzebiatowski, Wiza  
Excused: Curtis  
Also Present: Director Schrader, Ald. Hart, Peggy Rentz

2. Approval of August 1, 2007 Minutes

Motion was made by Hall, seconded by Okonek to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2007 meeting and place them on file.

Director Schrader said at his suggestion the names of the two parks in the Village Green Subdivision were changed at the August Council meeting, the large park was changed from Village Green I to Village Green Park and the smaller park was changed from Village Green II to Village Green Natural Area.

President Glodosky called for a voice vote on the motion.

Ayes - all; Nays - none. Motion Carried.

3. Recommendation on 2008-09 Seasonal Employee Pay Rate Schedule

Director Schrader said the last time we adjusted the starting wage was 2002, we are trying to stay proportionally above minimum wage, and although we are a little behind right now we don't have the money to go higher. He referred to the Seasonal Employee pay rate schedule saying lifeguards are the most difficult to get at the current wage because they have to pay for their required training and already have a cost investment before they start.

Motion was made by Bahling, seconded by Freckmann to approve the recommended 2008-09 Seasonal Employee Pay Rate Schedule as presented.

Ayes - all; Nays - none. Motion Carried.

4. Discussion and Recommendation on formation of Dog Park Committee

Director Schrader said this was a request from Alderperson Wiza and the Mayor, we are asked to look into the possibility of a dog park. He referred to the material he handed out from the American Kennel Club, a Peninsula Humane Society and the City of Marshfield and said they are all quite similar in how they go about determining if a dog park is right for and needed in a community. An important first step is to work with a core group of committed dog owners to find out if there is a need and if the group will stay involved after the park is built.

He said Portage County has a dog park which is 40 acres and their Dog Park Committee helps with cleanup and so forth, they also charge a usage fee. He said there are many considerations such as maintenance and cleaning, it's more than just putting up a fence. He said we are at a point where we should form a committee to look into the feasibility and the members of this committee might include a local veterinarian, someone from the Humane Society, a Dog Club or Group, and citizens at large.

Bahling asked what requirements there are now for walking dogs and Director Schrader said dogs have to be on an eight foot leash and be cleaned up after.

Schrader said we are asking to form the committee and look into the need, if it is found that Stevens Point will benefit from a dog park, then the committee would go on to particulars such as location, size, embellishments, etc. and of course cost, including construction and maintenance of the park and of a parking lot.

A discussion took place on if many residents would use a City dog park if it is smaller than Portage County's, with fewer frills such as exercise and training areas, or would they continue to use Portage County's. Director Schrader said this is something a formation committee would have to look at, sizes of a dog park range anywhere from one acre to 200 acres, but five to six acres appears to be the minimum to make a quality park.

Alderperson Wiza said he asked for this to be on the agenda because of requests from the community and elected officials. We are looking at if we should pursue it and then explore options, we need to look at usage, logistics of maintenance, the amount of actual interest, will people continue to be active in helping out. People do go to Standing Rocks and it is quite a ways. This is just to see if it is worth pursuing for the City.

Director Schrader added that if the need for a dog park is determined, we will hold a public meeting.

Motion was made by McDonald, seconded by Trzebiatowski to form a committee to evaluate the need for a dog park in the City with a target size of 10 people and to seek members from the Humane Society, a local veterinarian, Alderpersons, Park Board members, and citizens at large.

Ayes - all; Nays - none. Motion Carried.

Park Board members interested in serving on the committee were Hall, Wiza, Sorenson, Okonek and Trzebiatowski

5. Director's Report

- Willett Arena opens for the season on Saturday
- Director Schrader said although he was unable to attend, he heard the Jazz Fest was successful and well attended and he was glad to hear

that as it was a whole new group managing the event.

- **Director Schrader said he met with a representative from Focus on Energy and they went through the Rec. Center, the Parker Building and the All Purpose lodge.** He said we have been doing much in the way of promoting energy efficiency all along and the representative was impressed, we still have more to do but we have a good start. The Mayor has asked him to put together a list of what we've done so we can show we are somewhere in the middle and have been doing this all along.

- **The preconstruction meeting has been held for the bathrooms at Bukolt and work should start soon.**

Sue Hall said the Audubon Society will be doing the clean up of Koziczkowski Park on Saturday September 22.

#### 6. Adjournment

Motion was made by McDonald, seconded by Okonek to adjourn the September 5, 2007 Park Board Meeting at 6:20 p.m.

Ayes - all; Nays - none. Motion Carried.

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