

Meeting Minutes

Board of Park Commissioners

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1. Roll Call

Present - Curtis, Hall, Moore, Freckmann, McDonald, Glodosky, Sevenich, Wiza

Absent Excused - Okonek

Absent Unexcused - Sorenson

Also Present - Roger Trzebiatowski, John Munson, Tom Schrader, Carole France

2. Approval of the January 4, 2006 Minutes

Motion was made by McDonald, seconded by Glodosky to approve the Minutes of the January 4, 2006 Meeting.

Ayes: all, Nays: none. Motion carried.

3. Request to Hold Special Event in Bukolt Park (Pro Tour Promotions: 2006 Great Lakes Watercross Tour)

Schrader explained that the Commissioners, had in their packets, a Special events application and a PowerPoint presentation on personal watercraft racing request. Schrader was contacted, last Fall by a representative from Pro Tour Promotions, that they would be interested in holding an event, at the Bukolt boat launch, on Saturday, July 22, 2006 from 9:30a.m. - 6:00p.m. They would do all the set up of the buoys, have the insurance, would not charge a fee and would be an alcohol free event. Schrader noted that the race would take place on the Wisconsin River and not the park. That the Wisconsin River, can be used by anyone for an event like this, as long as they have DNR approval for the buoy placement. There would be between 14 and 20 participants racing at one time in an area just in front of the boat launch. The area they need is approximately 1000' X 700'.

Curtis asked if they would need electricity and Schrader said they would have to have a generator. He also is very worried about the loud noise and how big the event could eventually become.

Wiza said that the DNR has jurisdiction over the river. He noted that they would be using 4 wheelers, at the landing, to transport the watercraft instead of pickup trucks and he questioned whether there would be bathrooms available. Schrader said the bathhouse would be open at the beach area within walking distance. Wiza also said that he would approve this event if they did not block channel. He was very much in favor of bringing another event to Stevens Point and said he has talked to some residents, in his ward, and they are excited about this event.

McDonald expressed her views of not supporting this request because of the extreme noise this would create in the park for other people, the Lodge being rented in Bukolt Park where they would have to put up with all the noise and the erosion to the shoreline. She feels this is not an appropriate activity for the park and we are so limited to weekends in the summer to enjoy a peaceful environment with all the events taking place in that park; we are giving up too many weekends.

She further stated that no one could get away from this kind of noise and no one would want to be in the park that day.

John Munson, a member of the Aldo Leopold Audubon Society, addressed the group with his concerns. He is very much against this Pro Sport group coming to our community for this event because of the noise factor and erosion to shoreline which he feels is a mess right now. An event like this will draw a huge group of people and will continue to grow in the upcoming years; is this the kind of activity we want in our Parks? The youth, who may see this, may want to invest in the jet skis which will put even more of these machines, on the river, to annoy those who object to this kind of noise. He feels we will be setting a precedent; perhaps, in the future, someone may want to have cycle races in Iverson Park. Is this the type of image we want to portray in our parks? He suggested they look into Lake DuBay as a better location and we should keep in mind that one weekend of this races is equal to 30 weekends of regular boat traffic as it relates to erosion of the shoreline.

Schrader explained that staff has been studying for 3 years the shoreline as it relates to possible erosion problems. Their findings so far have found very minimal erosion, with some very small pockets of erosion measured. Schrader stated that the major cause of erosion is the wind. He feels one day of watercraft races, is not going to make a difference. Also, closing a park or area in a park to host a special event has been approved in the past. This event will bring a lot of people to Stevens Point and is worth trying.

Sevenich did not approve of the noise and she felt ducks and other wildlife would be affected by this intrusion of their habitat. She felt the erosion was a serious issue and also feels that through the years, we have been losing a lot of the shoreline.

Alderman Trzebiatowski feels that they have improved on the noise factor with these machines and they are much quieter with most of the sound going in the water. He further stated that we have never had an event like this so how are we to know the noise level, erosion question, etc. and feels we should give them a try.

Freckmann also didn't like the noise issue and has concerns on the plant life and animal life that will be disturbed.

Glodosky does not feel the Bukolt boat launch is appropriate, agrees with the noise concerns and feels because of the concentration of sound, it is not an appropriate place to have this type of event.

Motion was made by McDonald, seconded by Curtis to deny the request to hold the 2006 Great Lakes Watercross Tour at the Bukolt Boat Launch.

Ayes: Curtis, Hall, Freckmann, McDonald, Glodosky, Sevenich

Nays: Moore, Wiza

Motion carried;

4. Update of KASH Playground

DNR Grant signed and returned. They are continue to work on fund raising and plan on bidding out the project on March 8 with Common Council approval in April. The ground breaking will take place in May and the grand opening on Labor Day weekend to coincide with Jazz Fest.

5. Director's Report

- Winter Sports area still has sledding; ice rinks done
- Willett Arena is hosting the UWSP Women's Hockey Tournament consolation game
- Ice Show April 1&2 with 174 participants
- Iverson Park, started tree trimming; received grant to remove oak trees with oak wilt in an effort to help stop the spread of this disease
- Parkdale Park, granite trail complete and will continue to work on overlooks of wetlands and construction of several boardwalks.

Glodosky reported on the skateboard committee. They will be sending a survey to schools to see what kind of interest there is in having a skateboard park in Stevens Point. They are unsure about the Plover skateboard park as it may be moving to Royal Woods where the Boys & Girls Club is located. The sport has grown and they will be reporting back once the survey is completed.

6. Adjournment

Motion was made by Curtis, seconded by Hall to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Ayes: all, Nays: none. Motion carried.

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