

Meeting Minutes

Board of Park Commissioners

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1. Roll Call

Present - Okonek, Glodosky, Freckmann, Molski, Curtis, Nealis, Phillips, Aldinger

Absent Excused - McDonald, West

Also Present - Elbert Rackow, Kent Hall, Bernice Sevenich, Lori Shifflet, Tom Schrader, Carole France

2. Approval of the March 5, 2003 Minutes

Motion was made by Phillips, seconded by Molski to approve the Minutes of the March 5, 2003 meeting.

Ayes: all, Nays: none. Motion carried.

3. Recommendation on 2003-2004 Soda Vending Contract in Parks

Schrader outlined a soda vending worksheet listing the Coke and Pepsi package. In reviewing the figures, it appears that the City will receive \$2000.00 more from Pepsi. (see attached)

Okonek questioned the \$1,600.00 fee under Coke and Schrader said that was a donation figure.

Motion was made by Molski, seconded by Freckmann to award the vending contract to Pepsi for 2003-2004.

Ayes: all, Nays: none. Motion carried.

4. Presentation on Geese/Duck Concerns in Parks (Alderson Seiser)

Alderson Seiser was unable to be at meeting.

Kent Hall gave a short review of the potential problems the Giant Canadian Geese (one of the 11 species of Canadian geese) can cause in Parks, Golf courses, etc.

As of this date, the Board has had no complaints or concerns but Mr. Hall wanted us to be aware of the possibilities as there is a small migratory range with Giant Canadians. That a lot are now staying in Wisconsin over winter. They have been found nesting at the McDill Pond and have been seen in Mead Park.

They can pose the following problems:

- **Over-grazing**
- **Waste accumulation**
- **Disease in birds**
- **Noise**
- **Traffic interference**
- **Attack on young children**

He suggested that if they become a problem, several things could be done to discourage them using a park. That could include planting vegetation along the banks, stop feeding the ducks and geese, disturbing/destroying the eggs, having the birds and or young harvested and used as a food commodity.

Molski said that the geese were behind Edgewater Manor about five years ago but they have disappeared.

Freckmann stated that this Giant Canadian is more of an urban goose, that may be the problem.

Phillips asked where at McDill have they been nesting, and Mr. Hall said on the north side of the railroad tracks.

Rackow said he attended at meetings where if they discussed problem geese. This community caught the geese in their molting period and harvested them. They reported it cost them approximately \$28.00/bird to process.

The Board thanked Mr. Hall for his presentation, and we will address this issue, in the future, if there is a problem.

5. Amend Current Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Kent Hall, representing the Audubon Society, will be applying for Stewardship Grant funds, to purchase the Erickson property, on Della Street. In the application process, points are awarded for how the project fits into adopted outdoor recreation plans. Our current plan does address acquiring land along the Plover River corridor, in several places in the plan. However, some areas are specifically addressed, while other areas are addressed in a more abstract way.

Schrader stated that after talking to our DNR Community Services Specialist, she recommends that we amend our current plan to better identify land purchases along the Plover River. She recommends that we amend our current plan to say, "Recommend that the city look at acquiring land, adjacent to the Plover River, as it becomes available, for recreation purposes."

Mr. Hall stated that the application needs to be in by May 1st. He feels that this is a very important piece of land for the birds, many different species of warblers have been seen there and it has become a stopping point for them to feed. The cost of property is \$340,000 and money would come from the \$170,000 grant, 25% from the city and \$85,000 from the Audubon Society (property worth \$65,000 donated from Erickson part of

the \$85,000).

Phillips felt that we really need to update entire plan and Schrader said that we will be doing that in the fall along with the Smart Growth committee.

Rackow stated that the developers and neighbors are very receptive to this project and very much interested in its preservation.

Nealis was very much in favor of channeling our dollars for shoreline acreage.

Glodosky wants the area to be preserved for generations to come.

Motion was made by Phillips, seconded by Molski to Amend the Current Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan to state: The city look at acquiring land, adjacent to the Plover River, as it becomes available, for recreation purposes.

Ayes: all, Nays: none. Motion carried.

6. Request to Have Band at Bukolt Lodge (St. Michael's Hospital Company Picnic

A letter, from Sue Shulfer, was presented to the Board requesting that we grant a special exception to our policy regarding music in the lodges. They have used Bukolt for the past several years and have had a band. They feel the location is ideal, it is a family oriented picnic and they have never had any complaints about noise or any disturbances from neighbors. They would like to have "Smokey Express" perform at this year's picnic, in August, shutting down at 10:00 p.m.

Lori Shifflet, representing St. Michael's, came to the meeting to answer any questions.

She stated that they would like to keep the picnic in this community and they like the park setting. They did not wish to look outside the area as it would be too far to drive. It is a family oriented picnic, music is not too loud and they have never had any complaints. She also felt that there were not many homes in that area.

Aldinger was in favor of the request as long as there has not been any complaints.

Molski agreed since there have been no disturbances reported

Glodosky felt that one size does not fit all and Bukolt could be used for music if it remains inside the building with Park Board approval.

Freckmann said he would object to extremely loud music such as Riverfront Rendezvous.

Okonek worried that we may be setting a precedent but Schrader said the requests would have to be brought before the Park Board for approval.

Phillips thought we could allow this at Bukolt because of the buffer area in that park.

Curtis asked if there was an ordinance to restrict noise and yes the City has one if they are disturbing the peace.

Nealis felt that people living near a park should expect noise and activity.

Motion was made by Aldinger, seconded by Nealis to allow a Band at Bukolt lodge for St. Michael's picnic.

Ayes: all, Nays: none. Motion carried.

7. Director's Report

Saturday, May 17th. event at Bandshell "Support our Troops". Parade from Rainbow Falls to Bandshell, noon - 1:30 pm gathering in park with speeches. Music from 2:00-4:30 pm; no alcohol.

Summer Rec program registration for residents starts April 21-May 2nd. Everyone May 3rd.

Upcoming events working with UWSP - Lacrosse Game tonight at Goerke, April 12-13 Ultimate Frisbee Tournament 8-10 teams at Goerke and Softball Tournament 6-8 teams at Zenoff.

Easter Egg Hunt, April 19th 10:30a.m. ages 0-8

Next month start on Hwy. 10 reconstruction on Main Street with some tree removal but very minimal.

Redesign pool and re-bid in May.

Schrader acknowledged Neale Nealis as he completes his term as an alderperson serving on the Park Board. We thank him for his service and dedication.

8. Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the Commissioners, meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

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