

Meeting Minutes

Board of Park Commissioners Minutes

October 1, 2003 Index of these Minutes:

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2. Approval of the September 3, 2003 Minutes
3. Discussion on Draft of Update Comprehensive Outdoor Plan
4. Review of 2004-2007 Prices Structure
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1. Roll Call

Present - Glodosky, Sevenich, Freckmann, Phillips, Moore, Sorenson, McDonald, Aldinger, Finn, Curtis

Absent Excused - Okonek

Also Present - Mary Blavat, Jane Burroughs, Jo Seiser, Randy Stroik, Alice Crosunt, Tom Schrader, Carole Francel

2. Approval of the September 3, 2003 Minutes

Motion was made by McDonald, seconded by Phillips to approve the Minutes of the September 3, 2003 Meeting.

Ayes: all, Nays: none. Motion carried.

3. Discussion on Draft of Update Comprehensive Outdoor Plan

Tonight's discussion was on Section 6.1 General Comments and Section 7.1 General Comments. The following discussions, changes were made.

Section 6.1 General Comments

See attachment for final recommendations.

#1. Phillips questioned by what standards are we considered not having enough park land and Freckmann felt we are all about park space and it is a good bargaining chip. Aldinger questioned us being below standards and Finn thought we should elaborate more on #1 such as percentage of population, etc. and more clarification.

Phillips feels that our parks are not overcrowded and we have adequate space except on eastside of town. Freckmann felt that our parks are not measured by how many people use them but whether they are accessible for people to walk to them, etc. Glodosky likes to see open space for people to enjoy and wants to make sure our park system grows. Finn said we should not forget the renters in our community as they also need a place to go and should be considered on the eastside of town. Jane Burroughs felt that the statement didn't answer anything and should be more clear.

#2. Phillips feels that we provide more than we should for people not living in the city such as Iverson Park as an example, which is in Park Ridge.

#3. McDonald felt that the word ample should be struck as she didn't feel it necessary.

#4. Curtis questioned what the University offers for city residents and Schrader said Schmeackle Reserve, Ball diamonds, Soccer fields, etc.

#5. Remains as stated

#6. Freckmann said that the State of Wisconsin has tremendous opportunities with so much undeveloped areas and Seiser would like to see a statement on water and shore habitat included. Phillips felt that river amenities covers that but McDonald also felt it should be spelled out better preserving what we do have. All agreed with the following statement, to be added, submitted by Seiser. Water and shore habitat, along the river edge, is important for plant and animal diversity, aesthetics and migration.

#7. Moore questioned if we need more attention placed on some of the activities, Glodosky was very happy with statement and Seiser thought we could add disc golf and skateboarding. McDonald thought maybe we could just add silent sports and passive recreation activities and take out popular wellness.

#8. Schrader said that they are working on some history of the parks to be implemented on a plaque in the lodges etc. so people would have some history of the building before it was turned into a lodge. Sevenich said they are doing that also on the downtown restoration.

#9. Remains as stated

#10. Randy Stroik felt we should add #10 to include all population and special needs people to enjoy our parks as well with the same opportunities.

Section 7.1 General Comments

#1. Remains as stated

#2. McDonald said that this should be deleted because the idea has come and gone.

#3. Remains as stated

#4. Schrader said the word considered should be changed to continued.

#5. Glodosky felt that the lowland area of the landfill should be left as a wetland area and wildlife habitat.

#6. McDonald said to strike this as the Pfiffner Building is being used as a lodge.

#7. Sorenson felt that we should use the word continue instead of enhance and Schrader suggested also adding other units of government.

#8. Seiser asked if there have been many accidents on the Wisconsin River and Schrader said none that he's aware of. Recommended that this

sentence be struck.

#9. Strike this statement as warming house is utilized.

#10. Finn felt that it was very important to develop a neighborhood park downtown south of Clark Street and West of Division as there is just no place for children to play.

#11. Remain as stated

#12. Seiser asked how much land is still available southeast of Morton Park and Schrader said there is one more house to buy.

#13. Remain as stated

#14. Remain as stated

#15. Strike; already done

#16. Remain as stated

#17. Remain as stated

#18. Schrader said to add "work with school district" on Emerson site as a possible park.

#19. Seiser wanted to add #19. to explore having a dog park where people can run their dogs. All were in favor of this but Moore.

#20. Schrader recommended adding bike path info.

4. Review of 2004-2007 Prices Structure

Schrader explained that we will not take any action on the fees tonight. That the Commission along with our users will have a chance to review the proposed changes for a month. That the Commission at its next meeting will approve the fees.

Phillips wondered if the Commission could get a copy of last years fees. He thought we raised most fees last year.

Moore wanted more of an explanation on what is nature camp and where did we come up with the amount for the non-resident fee. Schrader explained that this is a very popular program, at Iverson Park, with about 15 in a class and they explore all facets of nature. The non-resident fee was calculated according to how much City residents pay for these programs in their taxes. We try to keep the cost down so we have attendance in our programs.

Freckmann noted a typo error for Kiddie Korner's 2005 should read \$38.00 and felt that the playground fee should remain \$5.00 for all the proposed years.

5. Director's Report

- Lodge info now on Website
- Replacing steps in Iverson Park
- Park lodges and restrooms close October 12th.
- Pool replaster bid opening October 12th

Curtis reported that K.A.S.H. will be fund raising soon and that the project is moving along very well.

Schrader asked that the November meeting be held on Tuesday, November 4th as he will be at a Conference on Wednesday, November 5th out of town. The Commission agreed to move the meeting to Tuesday. Schrader will get material out early, for those who can't make the meeting, for comments.

6. Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the Commissioners, Motion was made by Sevenich, seconded by McDonald to adjourn at 8:10p.m.

Attachment:

SECTION 6.0 PROBLEMS, TRENDS, NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The objective of this section is to list the various problems, trends and long term goals for each City park. If the opportunity arises to implement a long term goal during the next five years, the goal should be implemented.

SECTION 6.1 GENERAL COMMENTS

1. The City of Stevens Point does not have an adequate supply of land to meet park and open space needs for the 1996 2004 - 2015 growth period.
2. The larger Stevens Point - Portage County area has an abundance of environmental assets and diverse open spaces which greatly facilitate the recreation and open space needs of Stevens Point residents, thereby easing the burden on City government to solely satisfy such needs.
3. Stevens Point residents have access to ample parks, recreation and open spaces in addition to City provided facilities. Such facilities are provided by the Portage County Parks Department and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The recreational costs and responsibilities of City government are reduced by County and State recreational programs.
4. The Stevens Point school system and the University contribute a wide range of outdoor recreation, open space and other leisure time facilities. The magnitude of these opportunities in relation to the size of the community is a distinct advantage in adding to the quality of life for local residents.
5. The private sector contributes significant open space and recreational facilities which are available to the general public.

6. The City of Stevens Point is located at the merging point of the Wisconsin and Plover Rivers. These environmental corridors are a natural resource which offers special assets to the park system, associated with river amenities and opportunities for future quality park development. Water and shoreline habitat, along the river edge, is important for plant and animal diversity, aesthetics and migration.
7. There is a need to continue to give greater attention to several recreational pursuits which have become typical functions of the Stevens Point Parks and Recreation Department. Such recreational activities include bicycling and bicycle trails, boating, jogging, golfing, hiking, fishing, disc golf, skateboarding, and increasingly popular wellness type activities passive recreational activities.
8. The City of Stevens Point should take advantage of unique opportunities, such as the Green Circle Trail, McGlachlin Park, Veterans Park and Pfiffner/Pioneer Park, to focus on the historical and cultural aspects of the community, as they relate to the current and future parks throughout the city.
9. The City should obtain ownership or ownership rights to any lands within the City that the Green Circle Trail currently uses, through either an easement or purchase.
10. Explore the possibility of developing a dog park.
11. Park system should work to develop and maintain a parks and recreational system that will serve all populations and needs.

SECTION 7.0 1996 - 2000 IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Parks Improvement Program deals with general recommendations for improving the quality of recreational experiences and specific proposals concerning individual park Master Plans and improvements. Approval of this Improvement Program by the City of Stevens Point Common Council indicates a desire on the part of the community to carry out the Program. Approval, however, does not commit the existing or future Parks Commission or Common Council to implement the Program exactly as approved. Subsequent amendments may be necessary to the Improvement Program, which is intended to represent City policy and be a guiding document for project development for the period 1996 - 2000 2004 -2009.

SECTION 7.1 GENERAL COMMENTS

1. Lands between the City's wellfield and Iverson Park should be acquired for development as part of the Green Circle Trail.
2. The feasibility of a family amusement center should be determined.
3. The Kulas, Friday and Rachick properties, which are adjacent to Bukolt Park, should be acquired if they become available.
4. The feasibility of Utilizing of the City's wellfield property for recreation purposes should be considered continued as a recreational opportunity.
5. The lowland area of the landfill should be developed left as a wetland park area and wildlife habitat.
6. A long term use for the Pfiffner building should be developed.
7. The City, County Park Department, other governmental agencies and Stevens Point Public School System should enhance continue cooperation in planning parks, open spaces and recreation facilities and programs.
8. The feasibility of a drawdown of the Wisconsin River should be considered. This would provide an opportunity to remove stumps, thereby providing safer boating and skiing conditions and increased water access for the community.
9. Continue to maintain and improve the ski trail warming house adjacent to STH 66.
10. Develop a park downtown neighborhood park, south of Clark Street, west of Division St. and east of the Wisconsin River.
11. Develop a park in the Riverview/Whiting Avenue area, between the Northwood's multiple family development and the Wisconsin River, to address the recreational needs of this new segment of Stevens Point's population.
12. Acquire land southeast of Morton Park if it becomes available.
13. Support the future expansion of Schmeckle Reserve.
14. Develop a Community Park east of the Interstate 39 beltline.
15. Provide for suitable park facilities in the following areas: STH 66, Torun Road and Wojcik Memorial Drive.
16. Develop a trail system along Country Club Road/Hoover to connect the existing HWY. 10 bike trail adjacent to Iverson Park to the established Hoover Road bike trail in the Village of Plover.
17. The city should look at acquiring land, adjacent to the Plover River, as it becomes available, for recreation purposes.
18. Work with School District on developing a park on the former Emerson School site.
19. Support current and any future Bike/Ped Plans as adopted by Common Council.

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