

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 18, 2018

6:00 PM

Stoughton Fire Department Training Room



Present: Alderpersons: Phil Caravello, Denise Duranczyk, Regina Hirsch, Nicole Wiessinger, and
Parks & Recreation Director Dan Glynn

Guests: Pat Groom

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:28 pm.

2. Approval of the Minutes from August 21, 2018

Motion to approve the minutes as presented by Duranczyk and seconded by Wiessinger. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Communications

Pickleball Court Construction Update

Hirsch shared her concern about there still being a drainage issue. Groom shared that there was fabric over the drain and it drained properly after the fabric was removed. Glynn shared that the painting should be scheduled soon.

Whitewater Park Update

Glynn shared that we haven't received any communication from the DNR regarding the Stewardship Fund grant. The Steering Committees meetings have started with the second meeting centered around the dam and lake levels. Hirsch shared that John Reimer from Dane County and Rob Davis from the DNR were in attendance. Hirsch shared that the Steering Committee is working on a decision to see if dam removal is in the best interest of the whitewater park. There may be some safety reasons to get rid of the dam. The next step would be to have a study to determine if dam removal and dam design would affect water levels. Hirsch shared that she was surprised about the time and cost involved with operating the dam. Duranczyk shared that there should be a formula for splitting any potential revenue between park projects and the City's general fund. The committee agreed with her.

Yahara River Trail Extension

Kegonsa Afterschool Program

Glynn shared the progress of the afterschool program at Kegonsa School. There are some financial concerns with the program since 82% of the children needed a reduced fee. Glynn shared that he has been working with the Mayor and the Finance Director to find alternative funding sources.

Bike Route Sign Installation

Caravello shared that around 30 signs have been installed. He shared that poles will be needed to finish the project since there are no street signs on a few roads. He estimated about a dozen poles would be needed. The plan of action to move forward was to have locations mapped for the poles and get the utilities located in those areas. The committee agreed to use Park Development funds to purchase the 12 poles.

Old Business

4. Friends of Stoughton Parks Formation (Discussion)

Glynn shared that he watched a webinar on creating a parks foundation. A follow-up phone call with the Executive Director with National Association Park Foundation was helpful. He gave advice on how to move forward which was to identify 30 potential members and send them a letter. The committee agreed to help by sending Glynn a list of community members they believe who would be interested. Duranczyk shared that there may be potential for fundraising by having

a membership fee to the friends of Stoughton parks. This is backed up by the CORP survey which indicated that many people were in favor of paying more for parks and recreational services.

5. Park and Open Space Plan (Discussion)

Duranczyk shared that she would like to see the survey results and see if the goals correlate to the survey results. Hirsch shared that she would like to go over a revised draft at the next committee meeting. Groom shared that the plan identified a lot of accessibility issues and the costs involved to get the parks compliant will be significant.

6. Nordic Ridge Mini Park (Discussion)

Glynn shared that he got the Nordic Ridge plat and that there is a lot designated for a mini park. Glynn shared that he was unaware of the history behind it. Duraczyk told the committee that the thought behind it was the location of the lot is an area of the development that is the densest. Duraczyk also shared that it could be moved if the location is not optimal. Hirsch shared that a better location may be near the apartments.

7. Safe Routes to School Maps (Discussion)

Hirsch shared to look into an app for this that children could use. Caravello shared that he developed the maps by riding his bike around the city and mapped out routes he felt were the safest and connected major points of interest like schools. Glynn shared that this was the recommendation on how to do it by the Safe Routes to School literature he read.

8. Park Ordinance (Discussion)

Hirsch shared that the committee will know more information because an updated draft of the open space plan will be updated. Duranczyk shared that factors such as park classification will determine amenities within the park and how the layout should be.

9. Future Agenda Items

Yahara River Trail
Park & Open Space Plan
Pickleball Court
Whitewater Park
Park Friends Group Formation
Purchase of Bike Route Sign Poles

Adjournment

Motion made by Wiessinger and seconded by Caravello at 9:18 pm. Motion carried unanimously.