

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
May 10, 2016
City Council Chambers

A. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Woodstock was called to order by Chairman Mike McCleary at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 in the Council Chamber at City Hall.

B. ROLL CALL:

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Bruce Farris, Peter Riis, and Chairman Mike McCleary.

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Chris Neuhart and Vice-Chair Steve Erwin.

STAFF PRESENT: Recreation Department Program Coordinator Alan Dunker, Parks & Facilities Superintendent Ernie Nelson, and Chief Deputy Clerk Jane Howie.

OTHERS PRESENT: Tess Devinger, Nick Gulli, Martin Halilaj, and Patrick McGrath

C. FLOOR DISCUSSION:

1. Public Comments: None.

B. Farris said someone contacted him wanting more benches on the recreation path in Emricson Park. E. Nelson said the Parks Division is in the process of ordering a new park bench for the Rec path.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by B. Farris, second by P. Riis to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2016 meeting as presented. Ayes: Bruce Farris, Peter Riis, and Chairman Mike McCleary. Nays: None. Absentees: Chris Neuhart and Vice-Chair Steve Erwin. Abstentions: None. Motion passed.

E. TRANSMITTALS: The following items have been transmitted to the Commission for information and there is no discussion expected or action recommended

1. Recreation Department Report for April 2016.

M. McCleary asked about the epoxy floors that were recently done at the Rec Center. A. Dunker said epoxy floors were put in the Men's & Women's lockers room and the deck of the indoor pool. A second coat is needed because it's difficult to keep the floors clean; there are mineral deposits that are difficult to remove. It appears that only one coat of epoxy was originally put on the floor. B. Farris said the floor needs to be roughened up for the material to stick.

P. Riis asked about missing subsidy money. Said teams are going to Crystal Lake because they like the astro-turf better than the Woodstock fields. Long range plan, we might want to think about an alternative use for a field that has lights on it. Woodstock could talk to user groups and come up with a low-cost conversion to get a football or soccer team out there. Perhaps convert

field to another sport. Some teams are looking for space; maybe we could convert at low-cost and have the field available as a practice field.

2. Parks Division Report for April 2016.

Parks & Facilities Report – **February** – City Manager’s Office was not previously insulated. Parks Division employees insulated the ceiling this past winter.

March – did you have two water heaters go out at Public Works, or just one? E. Nelson said one water heater went out and had to be replaced. E. Nelson said modification shave been made to the backstop at Field “A”. Limestone just arrived; the department will be getting this installed. The arched backstop was removed; this will be repurposed to another field. E. Nelson, D. Zinnen and J. Van Landuyt met with user-groups to find out their wishes. P. Riis asked if Parks Division re-cut lines, which shortened the outfield slightly; they added 12 feet to the in-field. There’s a barrier that exists now that wasn’t there before. E. Nelson said the original Baseball Tomorrow Grant included a backstop similar to the one on Dream Field so they looked at the possibility of getting an arched backstop. It was later determined that the arched backstop was not user friendly, as it took the catcher out of the game. User groups said that wouldn’t use that park. So, to increase the play, the backstop was removed and a straight backstop has been added. P. Riis said there wasn’t enough clearance overhead. The area behind will have bleachers and supply boxes, which will be added once the area is dry.

April – two sections that Parks built for Donato Conservation – E. Nelson said there are approx. 15 more sections to be built. They will be installed in the near future. The transition between the paths is being looked at for the transition.

All Ash trees have been cut down, except for some in the park sites. Some residents have injected their Ash trees in an effort to save the trees. Those remaining are infected, approx. 25, which would need to be removed in the future. The stumps have been ground; Parks is in the process of restoring the rights-of-way.

The Parks Division was able to get out on Dream Field the first week of March, 2 ton of surface was added, crews re-built the pitcher’s mound and re-built the warning track. B. Farris asked if anyone in the community can use the Dream Field. E. Nelson said yes they can. Sometimes the high school practices on the field. P. Riis measured for nets at Bates. E. Nelson said volunteers from Woodstock Girls Softball League and employees from Geske removed some of the grass in the in-fields. WGSL is looking for limestone to do the warning tracks and dugouts. P. Riis asked about scoreboards. Did they raise enough money to put two scoreboards in? E. Nelson will follow up on this and report back to the Commission.

M. McCleary asked A. Dunker about the boat feature at Water Works. J. Van Landuyt said the boat will not be replaced before the summer season. Perhaps that will occur later this fall. They don’t want to shut down the pool for this replacement. Several items have been replaced.

F. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Bike Path Presentation by Woodstock High School Engineering Class

Four members from Woodstock High School's Engineering Design and Development Bike Path Group shared their Final Presentation to the Commission and City staff.

After the presentation, several questions were asked:

P. Riis asked about eco-friendly, low-cost solar lighting. The students have been unable to get in contact with the salesman from Solar One. P. Riis asked if the group look at the bridge design. The group reviewed the bridge on Rakow Road in Crystal Lake. The current program provides for a flat bridge, via Russell King, Engineer. Their current costs include the engineer and labor. AASHTO book indicated where the path should be vs. bike lane. The path would not go through any marshy area in conservation areas. M. McCleary asked if the cost of the bridge is too much, could the group still construct the path / lane without the bridge? The group answered that is possible to construct the path without the bridge but it's unsafe and not suggested. M. McCleary asked is staff or public has any questions. None. End of presentation.

G. NEW BUSINESS: None.

H. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

1. **Tentative agenda items identified by Administration:** Chapter 3.

B. Farris asked about the Belcher property purchase. J. Van Landuyt said this didn't go to Council. The City was going to offer what the property is worth. They couldn't come to an agreement as the cost was too high.

2. **Requested by Commission:** Any member may suggest an item to be considered by the Commission at a future meeting, but must be approved by a majority of the Commission to be included as a future agenda item.

I. ADJOURN:

Motion by B. Farris, second by P. Riis to adjourn the Regular Parks & Recreation Commission meeting on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at 7:35 PM. Ayes: Bruce Farris, Peter Riis, and Chairman Mike McCleary. Nays: None. Absentees: Chris Neuhart and Vice-Chair Steve Erwin. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Howie
Chief Deputy Clerk