

PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, April 12, 2016

1. Call to order by Beth Arneberg at 6:00 p.m.
Roll Call: Members Present: Dale Berg, Beth Arneberg, Nate Seckora, Carmen Muenich, Rob Kiefer, Heidi Hoekstra and Audrey Stowell.
Staff present: Dick Hebert.
2. Approval of March 8, 2016, Minutes: **Motion by Carmen Muenich/Heidi Hoekstra to approve March 8, 2016, minutes. Motion carried.**
3. Personal Appearances By Citizens. None.
4. Discuss / Consider Special Event Applications: Dick Hebert presents application by Valley Vineyard Church for their sponsored Party In The Park on June 25. This event goes from 11-3. There are no issues. They have paid the application fee and do provide insurance. Dick recommends approval with past practice. **Motion by Dale Berg/Heidi Hoekstra to approve the event application as presented. Motion carried.**
5. Discuss/Consider:
 - a. Discuss Erickson Park Improvement Project.
 - Feasibility Study.
 - Archaeological Study

Ron Bakken advises that the Rod & Gun Club will again be stocking trout in Duncan Creek this year. He then presented the Feasibility Study dated March 29 by Ayres Associates. A pedestrian bridge connecting Irvine Park & Erickson Park is being considered. Two options are presented – the bridge being placed either to the east or to the west of the island. The bridge to the west of the island has a longer span and is, therefore, more expensive. Fish Chippewa! is recommending the bridge to the east of the island. This revision would increase the cost of the project to \$1.5 million; however, it opens up grant possibilities. As much as \$750,000 could be awarded in grants. Currently, the group has raised approximately \$450,000. Dick indicates federal grants require that an archaeological study be prepared. This is being prepared by the Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center in La Crosse. **Motion by Beth Arneberg/Rob Kiefer to approve proceeding with grant applications for the project. Motion carried.**
 - b. Discuss Park Roads. Dick Hebert discussed the idea of building a parking lot in the area across from the bison shelter. It is flat and is where the wood chips are currently dumped. This lot would provide additional parking for Irvine Park and could be used in lieu of a turn-around to help with traffic flow and access past the zoo during winter months. It could also be used as a trailhead for future trails and provide access for the proposed pedestrian bridge. Dick Hebert envisions a gate past the lot toward Kell's Corner and also blocking access to Bear Den Road by the bridge. Bob Sworski

indicates that the money designated for the design of the round-about has not yet been used and can be used for the design of the parking lot.

c. Irvine Park Welcome Center / Small Animal / Aviary Building.

- Discuss Bids for Security. Dick Hebert presents information regarding the security systems. He has met with various individuals to discuss current and future City buildings with security and whether there are advantages to having consistency in those systems. He is recommending the CanTec system, which multiple vendors can sell and maintain, etc., so we would not be committed to one vendor. Concerns about technology upgrades and out-dated equipment were raised. After discussion, **motion by Rob Kiefer/Beth Arneberg to accept the bid of Access Security to install an access control and burglar alarm system at the welcome center for the cost of \$35,119 with a \$10,000 in-kind donation, reducing the total to \$25,119.00. Motion carried with one dissent.**
- Discuss Construction Schedule. Bob Sworski is present and indicates the building is 85% complete. It is going well and looks great. There is an issue in that the tube steel beams are 5/16" thickness instead of 5/8" thickness as the calculations had required. This does need to be fixed. Bob Sworski presented two ways to resolve. The first is to pull the precast planks off and replace the tube steel. The second is to provide intermediate support halfway across the beam. It will be fixed at no cost to the City. A special Park Board meeting will be set up via email once all information is obtained.

d. Director's Report. Dick Hebert reports that Phil Johnson will plan to attend the May meeting to discuss signage. Dick Hebert also reports that he has been contacted by the Voyagers regarding painting the outside of the cat exhibit. Dick Hebert also reports that the fiber connectivity to maintenance is on hold until it is decided if Dove wants to proceed due to increased price. Dick reports that he was contacted by an individual wishing to paint the graffiti on the building at Erickson Park. The Board has no objection but would like Dick to indicate in writing to the individual that the building is only temporarily there as it will be tore down when the Erickson Park project begins.

6. Approve Claims. Claims reviewed. **Motion by Rob Kiefer/Dale Berg to approve claims of \$397,200.98. Motion carried.**

7. Adjournment. **Motion by Rob Kiefer/Dale Berg to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. Motion carried.**

Submitted by:

Audrey Stowell, Secretary