

PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, January 8, 2013

1. Call to order by Curt Stepanek at 6:01 p.m.
Roll Call: Members Present: Jane Lardahl, Audrey Stowell, Beth Arneberg, Curt Stepanek, Heidi Hoekstra, Dale Berg, and Carmen Muenich.
Staff present: Dick Hebert, Megan Robarge, and Kevin Sweeney.
2. Approval of December 11, 2013, Minutes: **Motion by Carmen Muenich, seconded by Heidi Hoekstra, all present voting aye, to approve the December 11, 2013, minutes.**
3. Personal Appearances By Citizens. None.
4. Discuss / Consider Special Event Applications: None.
5. Discuss / Consider:
 - a. CBS Squared, Inc. Design Presentation. Bob Sworski presented revisions to the proposed floor plan, site plan, elevation and sections. He reviewed each, discussed using common structures for uniformity and to contain costs. The back side of the structure will be pretty utilitarian. Curt Stepanek expressed preference for horizontal v. vertical windows, discussed pre-cast vs. concrete block. Discussed reviewing artifacts and coming up with ideas of how we would want those displayed. Beth Arneberg suggested removing windows from back wall to gain more wall space. Heidi asked if posts similar to those at Main Pavilion were still in the plans. Bob indicated they can be. Also discussed ventilation issues and air flow, especially in 1st exhibit. Bob will review that and be putting together sizing and cost estimates for next visit.
 - b. Personnel.
 - i. Parks Foreperson Position. Dick Hebert indicated he could not support the Park Board's recommendation at the Personnel Committee meeting without further discussion. The Personnel Committee sent it back to the Park Board. Dick had prepared remarks which were read and indicated staff was not in support of the working foreman being a salaried non-union position. Kevin Sweeney expressed his concern that making a salaried non-union position would create a divide between what is currently a cohesive group. He did not feel the position provided enough incentive while providing an opportunity to be taken advantage of in terms of hours worked. Dale Berg expressed his concern that Dick did not support the Park Board's recommendation and that he provided the Personnel Committee with his personal opinion. Curt Stepanek pointed out that we are an advisory board; Jane Lardahl added that Dick is the director and can make decisions concerning the department as he sees best. Dick indicates that in the past the Park Board has not been involved in these types of decisions. Carmen Muenich indicated he didn't think the Board typically should be involved but that this was reviewed

because of the indication that there was a discipline issue and the suggestion that the timing provided an opportunity to review the structure of the position and recommend any appropriate changes. Discussion included that the position's working responsibilities will not change, 2011's paid overtime for that position was about one hour per week, paying overtime vs. comp. time, inability of union employees to discipline each other, possibility of creating division between current employees, and non-union supervisor doing work that previously could only be done by union employees. **Motion by Carmen Muenich to have the open position of working foreman a salaried, non-union position. This was seconded by Heidi Hoekstra. Audrey Stowell, Dale Berg, Carmen Muenich, Beth Arneberg, Heidi Hoekstra, and Jane Lardahl voted aye to approve motion, Curt Stepanek opposed. Motion carried.**

- c. Recreation Report. Megan Robarge reports that youth swimming and martial arts have started. Adult rec leagues are still taking place. There will be a lifeguard training during Spring break, which should be well attended.
 - d. Parks Report. Dick Hebert reports the concentration has been on taking down lights and displays at Christmas Village.
 - e. Zoo Report. Dick Hebert reports that Jen London has an intern from UW – Stevens Point for three weeks in January. The internship will finish up with three weeks in July. Jane suggested interns have the opportunity to work in all areas of the zoo to give them well-rounded education. Heidi Hoekstra asked whether interns could be used to help develop education items, and Dick indicated they could.
 - f. Director Report. Dick Hebert reviewed Christmas Village donations and the increase in revenues since having volunteer in the Park collecting donations. Thanks are expressed to the Herald for keeping the Christmas Village in the news, to Jane for all her hours in collecting donations and coordinating volunteers, and to the employees for all their work. Dick indicates that he will have his review soon and shared a list of current and completed projects. Jane would like the pool bathhouse to be added to the list. She indicates that the lower restrooms will likely be funded and a directive for the pool bathhouse would be for the Board/Director to determine how much can be raised through the community and then submit that proposal back to the council for possible matching. Brief discussion regarding having two capital projects, the zoo building and bathhouse, going on at the same time and possibly exploring some sort of community forum to determine which should take priority.
6. Approve Claims. **Motion by Carmen Muenich, seconded by Heidi Hoekstra, all present voting aye, to approve claims of \$24,071.41.**
 7. Board Member comments or concerns. Jane suggests Dick have Xcel determine electricity costs of Christmas Village and having those expenses as well as any other easily identifiable costs of the Village paid from the donations.

8. Adjournment. **Motion by Dale Berg, seconded by Heidi Hoekstra, all present voting aye, to adjourn at 8:29 p.m.**

Submitted by:

Audrey Stowell, Secretary