

PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, October 10, 2017

1. Call to order by Beth Arneberg at 6:00 p.m.
Roll Call: Members Present: Carmen Muenich, Beth Arneberg, Audrey Stowell, Rob Kiefer, Dale Berg, Nate Seckora and Heidi Hoekstra.
Staff present: Dick Hebert and Josh Kriesel.
2. Approval of September 12, 2017, Minutes: **Motion by Muenich/Hoekstra to approve September 12, 2017, minutes. Motion carried.**
3. Personal Appearances By Citizens. None.
4. Discuss / Consider Special Event Applications: None.
5. Discuss/Consider:
 - a. Discuss Historical Society Irvine Park Book and Welcome Center Timeline Idea. Beth Arneberg has been in contact with the authors of the book Lake Wissota, The Dam Story. They would like to do a similar book regarding Irvine Park and are willing to donate their time to assist with the timeline idea for the Welcome Center. The book will be a fundraiser for the Historical Society. Beth indicated that the timeline would be a history of the entire park system and would include donations as well as fun facts. The timeline design and content would be approved by the Board. Carmen would like to receive updates as the project proceeds. **Motion by Kiefer/Seckora to give support to Historical Society for book and the Welcome Center timeline with periodic updates to be provided to the Board. Motion carried.**
 - b. Discuss Additional Community Garden Site. Dick Hebert distributed the community garden proposal by Joseph Malual, Ph.D., of the Chippewa County UW-Extension. Discussed possible locations of land on south side by Herald Telegram (Thaddeus Pound Park), Frenchtown Park, and in the flats. Discussed interest in providing additional gardens, but there was hesitancy to remove recreational options from these areas. Need for fence and water were discussed. Also discussed desire to see projected participation rate.
 - c. Discuss Emerald Ash Borer Response Plan. Dick Hebert indicates the outreach portion of the grant for the Emerald Ash Borer is almost finished up. He presented the flyer that has been put together for the public. There are 1,202 ash trees along street rights-of-way and in Irvine and Marshall Parks threatened by EAB. Of those, 651 meet the diameter recommended for saving. There are two ways to treat: drenching and injection. Drenching is \$1.00/inch twice a year. Dick estimates it would cost the City \$11,000 per year to treat the 651 trees by drenching. Injection is \$9.00/inch every two years. Dick estimates it would be around \$100,000 to treat via injection. Dick is recommending 10-12 trees in the Parks that are quality trees that he would like the City to save. It is up to the homeowner to decide if they want

to treat their private trees. Dick recommends that it also be left up to the homeowner to treat at their expense their boulevard ash trees if desired. If not desired, then the City would remove and replace boulevard trees at the City's expense. Discussed the need to provide contractor information for the public and also somehow tagging the trees on the boulevard that are being treated by the homeowner so they aren't accidentally removed. Dick indicates that there will be an Open House regarding EAB on Tuesday, November 7, at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall. There is also a lot of good information at www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov. **Motion by Hoekstra/Muenich to recommend to the City Council that the 10-12 trees in the parks identified by Dick Hebert be treated and that homeowners have the option to treat trees on their boulevard at their expense. Motion carried.**

- d. Discuss 2017 Thorpe Foundation Funding Request. Discussed 2017 funding request from the Thorpe Foundation that will be distributed in May 2018. Discussed that next year, the funding request will be for the Flag Hill shelter and bathrooms. **Motion by Arneberg/Berg to request \$100,000 from Thorpe Foundation to complete their pledge for the Welcome Center. Motion carried.** Dick will prepare letter request.
 - e. Recreation Report. Josh Kriesel reports that the Pickle Ball Tournament went well, raising \$1,000 that primarily will pay for the portable toilet. Run for the Lights registration is underway. Basketball and volleyball season will be starting soon. The same number of teams registered for basketball but less for volleyball teams this year than last. The pool report isn't ready yet, but Josh indicates he's just purchased a wheelchair that goes into the water.
 - f. Director Report. Dick Hebert reports that Christmas Village is ahead of schedule as there have been many volunteers. Staff will start working on the Village on November 6. Dick will ask Jayson Smith to give an update of the Riverfront park project at the November or December meeting.
6. Approve Claims. Claims reviewed. **Motion by Seckora/Hoekstra to approve claims of \$30,763.47. Motion carried.**
 7. Park Board Members' Concerns or Comments. Discussed history students coming in spring 2019, Flag Hill project schedule, and items yet to complete at the Welcome Center.
 8. Adjournment. **Motion by Muenich/Kiefer to adjourn at 7:09 p.m. Motion carried.**

Submitted by:

Audrey Stowell, Secretary