

PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, April 9, 2013

1. Call to order by Curt Stepanek at 6:02 p.m.
Roll Call: Members Present: Audrey Stowell, Jane Lardahl, Beth Arneberg, Curt Stepanek, Heidi Hoekstra, Dale Berg and Carmen Muenich.
Staff present: Dick Hebert, Megan Robarge.
2. Approval of March 12, 2013, Minutes: **Motion by Carmen Muenich, seconded by Heidi Hoekstra, all present voting aye, to approve the March 12, 2013, minutes.**
3. Personal Appearances By Citizens. Dick Price of the City of Chippewa Falls and Colleen Connell of Chippewa County appear to ask that we consider having bag stations available for dog (and other animal) waste pick-up. Mr. Price will donate \$50.00 toward the project. Discussion and general agreement that it may help with owners picking up after their pets at minimal expense. Dick will get prices and talk to staff about locations.
4. Discuss / Consider Special Event Applications: Dick indicated six events have renewed their applications for events in 2013, without significant changes from prior years.
5. Discuss / Consider:
 - a. CBS Squared, Inc. Zoo Design Presentation. Bob Sworski presents options for the looks of the outside of the welcome center. Discussed preferences for entrances, roof options, outside concession window, vestibule doorways, and placement of restrooms. Also discussed matching colors and stoneware to Pavilion and other Park facilities. Bob will massage the plans and forward for comments.
 - b. Discuss the RFP's for the Outdoor Pool Bathhouse. Dick has received proposals for architectural and engineering services for the repair, renovation or replacement of the pool. After discussion with various entities, etc., he feels that because of current codes, replacement of the pool would be too costly. He recommends hiring SEH to design and be project manager for the replacement of the roof, which is the immediate need. There was suggestion and discussion regarding contacting local truss companies to inquire about design/engineering services they might be able to provide. After discussion, **motion by Carmen Muenich, seconded by Beth Arneberg, to hire SEH to design and serve as project manager for construction of a new truss roof on the pool and to provide prices to evaluate the entire pool facility identifying and prioritizing future pool projects. Motion passed.**
 - c. Zoo Improvements. Dick provided summary of donation accounts. He also presented a bid by Bohl & Proulx to install automatic waterers in the cougar & tiger exhibits as well as in the bear hibernation area. These would be paid for from the Irvine Park Zoo donation account. **Motion by Dale Berg, seconded by Heidi Hoekstra, to approve the bid by Bohl & Proulx to install automatic waterers. Motion passed.**

- d. Issue with Horses in Irvine Park. Discussion regarding frequency of horses in the park and whether there is a current problem. No action taken. The Board will readdress if needed.
 - e. Director Report. Dick reports that Jen has been working with the Snout Tavern on their annual fundraiser, which will benefit the zoo this year. Discussion regarding placement of a memorial bench on the Bear Den Road. Dick also provided a comparison of costs of grass-cutting by employees and contracting this function out. Dick also recommends that we include our recommendation for the north entrance to be undeveloped in our 5-Year Park Plan. Curt would like the area to be clearly defined.
 - f. Recreation Report. Megan reports that swimming lessons have started and participation is up. Soccer was postponed, and there are 221 participants, which is down. Registration for adult rec leagues is currently taking place. She reports that Facebook is reaching approximately 700 persons per day.
 - g. Casper Park Report. Not much happening right now because of the weather conditions; scheduled games to date have been postponed.
 - h. Parks Report. Snow removal and tree trimming is being done. Kell's Corner is being worked on, and the trees where the road is going have been taken down. Otherwise, waiting for it to warm up.
 - i. Zoo Report. Removal of the female cougar is likely but will be replaced with new animals. They are still working on the platform in the cougar cage. Dick reports that there were lots of applicants for the petting zoo/internship. The Zoo associates from various communities have had their first meeting and that went very well.
6. Approve Claims. **Motion by Dale Berg, seconded by Carmen Muenich, to approve claims of \$15,507.44. Motion passed.**
7. Board Member comments or concerns. Jane commented that she was at the tourism meeting and would find it helpful to have a timeline for the various projects being done. Dick will provide when he can. He indicates an evaluation for lead paint and asbestos needs to be done on the restrooms but otherwise hoping for fall construction. Carmen asks for clarification as to what is meant by putting policy related comments or concerns on the agenda. Curt states that if it is something requiring discussion, it could be on the agenda, then Dick can be more prepared, and it can be a more beneficial discussion.
8. Adjournment. **Motion by Carmen Muenich, seconded by Heidi Hoekstra, to adjourn at 8:11 p.m. Motion passed.**

Submitted by:

Audrey Stowell, Secretary