

PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, April 12, 2012  
6:00 p.m.

1. Call to order by Dale Berg.

Roll Call: Members Present: Jane Lardahl, Heidi Hoekstra, Dale Berg, Audrey Stowell, and Carmen Muenich. Absent: Curt Stepanek and Beth Arneberg.

Staff present: Dick Hebert, Jennifer London, and Megan Robarge.

2. Approval of Tuesday, March 13, 2012, Minutes: **Motion by Audrey Stowell, seconded by Heidi Hoekstra, all present voting aye, to approve minutes of March 13, 2012, minutes.**

3. Personal Appearances By Citizens. None.

4. Discuss/Consider Special Event Applications. None.

5. Discuss / Consider:

- a. Opportunity for new park land. Jayson Smith indicates there may be funds available through a municipal flood control grant to acquire a property between Canal Street and the Chippewa River. A condition of the grant is that the land would not be developed.

Beth Arneberg arrives at this time.

The valuation of the property is \$58,600. There are opportunities for river access. The completed bike trail from Menomonie to Cornell will go right past the property, so there may be opportunities with that as well. The grant is a 70/30 local match, so we would need to come up with funds of somewhere in the area of \$21,000-\$23,000. Dick will begin seeking donation funds for this purpose. **Motion by Carmen Muenich, seconded by Dale Berg, to authorize Jayson Smith to amend the municipal flood control grant to include the presented property and to have Dick Hebert proceed with obtaining local match. After discussion, motion amended by Carmen Muenich, seconded by Dale Berg, to include authorization for an appraisal to be completed with funds from the donation fund. All present voted aye.**

Beth takes over as Vice President.

- b. Music in Irvine Park. Steve Szydel indicates that he has been working to raise funds to offset the cost of providing music in the park. They are short about \$200.00. **Motion by Dale Berg, seconded by Audrey Stowell, to pay up to \$200 from donation fund for the Music in the Park program. Motion passed with five yeses and one no.**
- c. Previous Presentations outlining costs to design new buildings in Irvine Park Zoo. After discussion, **motion by Dale Berg, seconded by Beth Arneberg, all present voting aye, to accept CBS Squared, Inc.'s proposal not to exceed \$109,335.00 as presented and \$2,550.00 for evaluation of existing structures.**

- d. Issues with Dogs in Irvine Park. Discussion regarding leashing and clean-up after dogs in the park. Discussed using fines as a deterrent.
  - e. Director Report. Dick reports that the Elks may be providing funding through a scholarship for the reduced swimming passes. He also discusses using gardens that collect rainwater that runs off of roofs of the pavilion and on the native tree trail. The Country Today will be running a piece on Irvine Park in this Saturday's edition. We Are Wisconsin has reserved the main pavilion for a one-hour rally next Tuesday. Depending upon attendees, this may turn into a special event. The City will be advertising the sale of its 2001 Mercedes Benz black Roadster. Bids will be opened on May 8.
  - f. Recreation Report. Megan Robarge reports that the soccer season has started. There are 270 participants. Swimming lessons also started with 59 participants. The fee for swimming lessons will be reduced for the next session. Megan will make note of that in the brochure. Gymnastics has about 16 participants and will start this week.
  - g. Parks Report. Dick reports that Casper is very busy with high school baseball and softball games. New batting cages are in at Gannon. The Predators helped with set-up of wind screens, batting cages, etc. He reports that he is advertising for a petting zoo person. All of the roads are now open. The Bear Den Road will be open on weekends only. The awning in the bear cage needs to be completed by Themescapes. Various groups will be doing clean-up projects around the Park in the coming month. Esser Glass has contacted an outside company to come in and evaluate the glass issue in the bear den.
6. Approve Claims. **Motion by Dale Berg, seconded by Carmen Muenich, all present voting aye, to approve claims of \$25,376.57.**
7. Board Member comments or concerns. Contracting out of lawn mowing is discussed. Heidi Hoekstra leaves at this time.  
Dick will send out the information on the park ordinance concerning the north end of the park.
8. Adjournment. **Motion by Beth Arneberg, seconded by Carmen Muenich, all present voting aye, to adjourn.**

Submitted by:

Audrey Stowell, Secretary