

PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

6:00 p.m.

- 1) Call to order by President Curt Stepanek.
- 2) Roll Call: Members Present: Curt Stepanek, Audrey Stowell, Dale Berg, and Bob Hoekstra. Absent: Brian Flynn, Tony Kovach, and Lisa Bjork,
Staff present: Bill Faherty and Dick Hebert.
- 3) Approval of April 10, 2007, Minutes: Motion by Bob Hoekstra, seconded by Dale Berg, all present voting aye, to approve minutes of the April 10, 2007, meeting.
- 4) Personal Appearances by Citizens. None.
- 5) Planning:
 - a. New Artifact/Gift Shop Building In Irvine Park. No new information.
 - b. Animal Pets in City Public Parks. Bill Faherty says this problem seems to be improving. Bob Hoekstra thought unleashed animals was a citywide problem not exclusive to the parks. He suggested the police dept. could address the issue with an emphasis on animals in the parks.
- 6) Decisions:
 - a. Approve Logging at Adams Park. Bill Faherty indicated that Adams Park could be logged when the land owned by Chippewa Springs is logged. The properties are next to each other. Audrey Stowell and Bill visited Adams Park and thought it would be appropriate for a sledding hill. As long as the logging was being done, Bill suggested reviewing the previously drawn-up site plans and having a portion cleared that could be used for sledding. Motion by Dale Berg, seconded by Curt Stepanek, all present voting aye, to approve the logging at Adams Park.
 - b. Approve Casper Park Open Shelter at Leinenkugel's Softball Complex. The Department sent out letters asking for financial support. Because the response was extremely minimal, Bill Faherty called some of the intended recipients and discovered they did not receive the letter. It was noted that there are other projects in the community for which money is being sought. Bill provided a \$131,900 total cost comprised of material - \$106,900, installation - \$15,000, and cement - \$10,000. As there are no funds at this time to proceed, no action necessary.
- 7) Information:
 - a. Committee Reports:
 1. Friends of Irvine Park Zoo. No report. Bill Faherty indicated that the bricks are still coming in.
 2. Irvine Park Annual Celebration July 6, 7, & 8 Weekend. Dale Berg indicates there is not much to report. He needs to talk with Tony Kovach. Dale will be soliciting businesses for donations next week. Dick Hebert suggested asking major sponsors to commit to being an annual sponsor. Rock 'n Roll To Go submitted a quote for the rides at a net cost of \$5,000. We will be providing staffing for the rides.
 - b. Staff Reports

1. Recreation Programming Report. Dick Hebert passed out the summer recreation program brochure. The Chippewa Herald did a nice job with this. Because of our lack of funds, they got additional advertisers. There is one mistake in that the prices of the summer pool passes for residents and non-residents are mixed up. Adult softball started on Sunday.
2. Irvine Park Zoo Updates. Cougar exhibit is on schedule. No other updates.
3. Park Projects. Bill Faherty reported that there have been several groups working in the Park. They painted the outside of the walls at the cougar house, replenished sand in the playgrounds, cleaned the schoolhouse inside and out, etc. Staff is also looking at getting some shelters up.
4. Personnel Updates. Bill Faherty reported that the work is getting done, but it is not a smooth process. Staff needs to do a better job of prioritizing and doing the jobs that need to be done (such as cleaning the bathrooms) instead of those they would rather do. There will be five full-time seasonable people hired. Two for Irvine; three for Casper. Dick Hebert is still hiring lifeguards.
5. On-Line Registration Program. The registration program went live on April 28, 2007. It is going quite well. Fewer problems than anticipated.

c. Donations.

1. Bill Faherty reported that Rutledge Charities has donated \$20,000 for the playground equipment and \$6,000 for a new pool feature to be used at zero depth for young children. This will be put installed in the fall. The concession stand at Casper Park is open and bringing in revenue.

- 6) Approve Claims. Motion by Dale Berg, seconded by Audrey Stowell, all present voting aye, to approve claims of \$47,612.56.

Bob Hoekstra left at this time.

- d. Board Member comments or concerns. Curt Stepanek questioned whether Ermatinger Drive was open. Bill Faherty said typically it is not regularly open until around Memorial Day, although it may be open once in a while for sweeping by the street department or for some other reason. Bill Faherty also reported that the staff has discontinued cleaning the skateboard park. It is hoped that the users of the park will use the dumpster that has been provided to keep the area clean. Audrey Stowell had been questioned about what appeared to be playground equipment in the woods seen from one of the trails in Irvine Park. Bill indicated that it is indeed the junk pile for old scrap.

- 7) Adjournment. Motion by Curt Stepanek, seconded by Audrey Stowell, all present voting aye, to adjourn at 6:55 p.m.

Submitted by:

Audrey Stowell, Secretary