

PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, June 8, 2010  
6:00 p.m.

- 1) Call to order by President Curt Stepanek.

Roll Call: Members Present: Curt Stepanek, Audrey Stowell, Carmen Muenich, Beth Arneberg, Dale Berg, and Jane Lardahl. Absent: Heidi Hoekstra.  
Staff present: Dick Hebert and Bill Faherty.

- 2) Approval of May 11, 2010, Minutes: **Motion by Carmen Muenich, seconded by Curt Stepanek, all present voting aye, to approve minutes of the May 11, 2010, meeting.**

- 3) Personal Appearances: None.

- 4) Communications. Bill passed out various thank you cards that he's received from groups visiting the park. He also wants us to note that the Chippewa County Health Department will now be handling the licensing of the concession stands. Discussion regarding the group that would like to do music in the park on Sunday afternoons. They would set up a schedule and bring in various groups to perform in the band shell. They would pass the hat and sell CD's.

Heidi Hoekstra arrives at this time.

This falls under the special event guidelines, so they should complete an application. Discussion regarding the benefits of this and waiving the application fee.

- 5) Update on Current Projects.

- a. Gaylord Howard Estate. Bill wanted to thank Heidi for all the help she gave in doing the inventory. Bill also received the form for the annuity and will be filling that out.
- b. Archie Remington Estate. Nothing new.
- c. Earl Scholl Estate. Market is down, so stock is probably down.
- d. Native Tree Trail. Bill passed around pictures of the new bridge; the trail is completed up to this point. It is looking great. Bill is looking at parking issues and has asked the Street Department to saw cut an area. Tours will be given at the upcoming Community Foundation's Wine & Dine.
- e. Irvine Park Band Shell. Bill reports that the flag pole is up. The sod took and looks great. Bill indicates some touch-ups and repair needs to be done on the band shell, including the lighting and landscaping. The ceiling needs to be secured. Heidi discussed keeping it true to the era and as close to the original design and look as possible. Discussed contacting the Historical Society and having an architect come to and look at it. Carmen suggested we make this a priority for this summer. Discussed finding old pictures to use as a guide for landscaping and otherwise. Bill indicates there are funds available for repairs through the Irvine Park Donations fund. After discussion,

**motion by Carmen Muenich, seconded by Dale Berg, all present voting aye, to have Bill contact the State Historical Society and have an architect come to evaluate the band shell for restoration and then take a 2-stage approach of repairing as needed and then restoration.**

- 6) Discuss/Consider Personnel Report. Bill reports that all seasonal are on hand and working this week. Some overtime has been required of the trained staff. Bill reports that there are four seasonal at Casper, two at the Zoo, and three doing maintenance at Irvine Park. Bill also briefly discussed the possible retirements that may occur at the end of the year.

Dale Berg leaves at this time.

- 7) Discuss/Consider Recreation Report.
- a. Outdoor Swimming Pool. Dick reports that Megan Robarge is the pool manager. In an attempt decrease costs, the guard schedules will be staggered this year. Also, the pool will be open until 7:00 p.m. during the weeks when there are no swimming lessons. They will be trying new events such as a movie night at the pool to try to increase attendance. Dick reports that people do like having carry-ins.
  - b. Summer Activities. Swimming and tennis lessons, etc., will be starting next week.
- 8) Discuss / Consider Friends of Irvine Park Zoo Report. The Friends haven't met yet.
- 9) Discuss / Consider Parks Maintenance Report.
- a. Irvine Park. An elk calf was born. There are also two baby buffalo. Bill reports that the cougars and tigers will be switching areas. One of the pot-belly pigs has died.
  - b. Casper Park. Leagues are starting; tournaments are scheduled just about every weekend. The fields are being used for practice on Wednesday nights by other groups. We will open the concession stand during this time. Briefly discussed beer licensing.
  - c. Neighborhood Parks. Bill indicates that the tennis courts at Buchanan are in rough shape. Weeds will be taken care of and hopefully then some crack-filling can be done. There's no money to redo the courts now. The Marshall courts are slippery and need to be color coated. Beth reports that the weed-killing there was much appreciated. Bill indicates that Alexander McBean Park is in great need of updating. This was looked at a couple of years ago, but it was never really completed. It is in rough shape, and he will be looking at options there.
- 10) Board Member comments or concerns. Audrey has heard comments about the graffiti under the bridge on the native tree trail – believes it's the same Beth discussed. Bill will look into it. Curt indicates that he would like to resurrect the covered bridge project, given we have money coming in from different estates at this time. He will be getting information together on that for review and would like it placed on the July agenda. Bill reports that we received a \$500.00 donation from the Chi Hi Softball team from their recent weekend tournament; we also made money at the concession stand. Bill reports that the author from Emily at the Zoo and volunteers for the dog park and Christmas

Village will be at the Parks booth at the Fair this year. Bill has been approached about going to a one-way traffic system due to concerns about the number of people in Irvine Park. Brief discussion regarding pros and cons. This would need to be looked at closer before any change is made. Dick reports that there were over 300 people through the schoolhouse the first weekend – discussed getting a better donation box set up there. Election of officers will be held at the July meeting.

- 11) Approve Claims. **Motion by Heidi Hoekstra, seconded by Curt Stepanek, all present voting aye, to approve claims of \$37,998.66.**
- 12) Adjournment. **Motion by Beth Arneberg, seconded by Heidi Hoekstra, all present voting aye, to adjourn.**

Submitted by:

Audrey Stowell, Secretary