

CITY OF MANITOWOC
PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, November 6, 2013 at 6:00 pm
City Hall-Planning/Engineering Conference Room

Members: Jason Sladky – Chairman, Dave Soeldner – Vice Chairman, Al Schema, Tyler Martell

Staff: Mayor Nickels, Chad Scheinoha, Denise Larson, Karen Dorow

Guests: Dennis Hardy - Golden K representative and a few high school students for academic purposes

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairman Sladky.

Approval of Minutes

Ald. Soeldner made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 7, 2013 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Ald. Martell and approved unanimously.

Information on Emma Radandt playground equipment

D. Larson reviewed the plan for the donation of playground equipment for Emma Radandt Park, which will be purchased from GameTime. The Golden K spearheaded the effort to raise the funds. C. Scheinoha indicated the equipment will be placed where the comprehensive plan had suggested the equipment go. There is a possibility that the equipment will be delivered in spring; however, a contract will need to be prepared for the Common Council.

Discussion & possible action regarding trimming of trees on private & public property by utility contractors

C. Scheinoha spoke about possible tree trimming guidelines. These will be reviewed with the Municipal Tree Commission at their November 12th meeting.

Discussion & possible action on Lincoln Park campsites

The Mayor spoke about the proposed campsites, eight of which are already built in. The Mayor informed the committee that he had requested the Finance Committee move \$50,000 for the campsites to the zoo water issue and keep only \$25,000 for a shelter and the campsites.

Ald. Sladky liked the idea, especially for local families, who could camp a few minutes away from home and be close in case they needed something, it rained, or someone got scared. Ald. Martell expressed concern that Lincoln Park may not be the right park for camping. Ald. Soeldner liked the idea but was concerned about the budget as a whole. Adding campsites in parks when money is tight would be one of the first things he would cut. Ald. Schema is undecided. His major concern is smoke from the campfires, and the fact that it is a high-use park already. He questioned whether Silver Creek Park wasn't a better option. The Mayor said that

Lincoln Park has more traffic and the police do regular checks there, so the safety level is high. Ald. Schema said that the north side of Lincoln Park might be a good option. Ald. Sladky said that camping is a nice family activity and would be a neat opportunity. The campsites in Lincoln Park would provide a trial run, and the park is closely monitored. Speed bumps could be used in summertime. Ald. Martell thought the campsites were a good idea, but that there was not enough money in the budget to fill all of the requests, and other things were more important.

Ald. Schema suggested that even if there were no campsites, then at least the open air shelter should be moved. Approximately \$12,500 would be needed to move the shelter. Ald. Schema questioned if the neighboring residents and businesses were aware of the plan.

Ald. Sladky made a motion to spend \$12,500 to develop campsites at Lincoln Park. Ald. Schema seconded it for purposes of discussion. Ald. Soeldner said that he did not want to vote yes at the Park & Rec Committee and then vote no later when it came to the budget. He suggested making them part of the long-term vision. A policy and ordinance for the campsites would need to be created. Ald. Schema said he didn't feel comfortable adding more new attractions at this time with plans for the Aquatic Center, Miracle Field, and Emma Radandt Park already in the works. He felt it was better to hold off for now and make a plan for the future. Ald. Sladky said that some things could be done to improve the area for little money, such as using a bus wheel or manhole casting for a fire pit or making the campsites an Adopt-A-Park clean up area. A vote was held on the earlier motion with one yes (Ald. Sladky) and three nays (Ald. Schema, Soeldner, & Martell), so the motion to spend \$12,500 to develop the campsites failed.

Discussion & possible action on guidelines for sculptures along the Mariners Trail

C. Scheinoha, Operations Co-Team Leader, discussed the proposed guidelines for any new sculptures along the Mariners Trail which he received from Judy Corrado of the Friends of the Mariners Trail (FOMT). Ald. Soeldner does not want to give total control over the sculptures to the Friends group. He values the group but still feels that approval should come through the City. C. Scheinoha suggested that the FOMT could review the sculpture using these guidelines and then submit the plans to the City for final approval.

Discussion on proposed park rules for all parks

C. Scheinoha indicated that the Discover Eastern Wisconsin Disc Golf group would welcome dogs in Silver Creek Park. It was suggested that a comparison be done with other cities and their acceptance of dogs in the parks. Ald. Sladky said that he won't support having dogs there.

C. Scheinoha said that he met with Attorney McDaniels about the rules in the parks. He said that if there are no signs, the Police Department cannot enforce the rules. Most parks would have a general rules sign, but others, such as the beaches and Camp Vits, would have their own rules. Minor ordinance changes would need to be made. C. Scheinoha would like to move forward with the process with possibly installing signs in spring or summer next year. Ald. Sladky indicated they should move forward with the signs but to bring the committee a sample of the wording ahead of time.

Discussion & possible action on Manitowoc Family Aquatic Center policies, such as fee structure and dates/hours of operation

D. Larson gave a summary of the 2013 season for the MFAC, as well as other community pools. She recommends going back to one session from noon to 7 p.m. Ald. Soeldner stated that he doesn't advocate raising fees, because attendance will drop. He would like to see some part of the center kept open the last two weeks in August. D. Larson said that the attendance typically drops off at the beginning of August, and the center is usually closed by August 24th or 25th. It is difficult to only close down parts of it.

Ald. Sladky suggested that the shine has worn off or perhaps there is a marketing issue. Ald. Schema suggested moving one or two special events to that area, such as Showtime, to draw people. Ald. Sladky said the new baseball fields at Citizen Park will draw people. He suggested that the center could be marketed better. One idea would be to offer activities for families along with the family pass. Chamber advertising draws a lot of tourists to visit the MFAC. The Friends group does have some ideas of things to add to bring more people in. Ald. Sladky said that teens think the center is boring, because the area is geared toward younger children. D. Larson stated that they are offering teen/tween nights to draw them in.

Ald. Soeldner left at 6:58 p.m.

There was continued discussion of ideas on how to enhance the MFAC and increase attendance, such as:

- Having a game room,
- Working with the Rollaire Skate Center to come up with a joint pass,
- Enhancing the Special Needs Splash event,
- Meeting with the middle schools or sending a survey out to kids to get their ideas or reactions to ideas,
- Teaming up with the school district to have part of a summer program at the MFAC since it is close to Jackson school,
- Offering an outing to the MFAC as part of a camp experience,
- Reaching out to the Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts,
- Handing out coupons at the St. Patrick's Day parade, or
- Having some sort of countdown to the opening of the pool.

Ald. Sladky made a motion for the MFAC to have one continuous session from noon to 7 p.m. in 2014. Ald. Schema seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. D. Larson will meet with Amy Fricke and the Friends group to brainstorm new programming, marketing and attraction ideas.

Discussion & possible action regarding special event fee and waiver requests

No discussion.

Discussion & possible action regarding committee & council vision for the Lincoln Park Zoo

No discussion.

Discussion & possible action on request (13-582) from Manitowoc Professional Police Association for waiver of fees for rental of the Lincoln Park Fieldhouse on December 13 & 14, 2013

Approved at November 4th Council meeting.

Discussion & possible action on request (13-583) from John Mahnke for Mariners Trail Permit for Treatment Trail 2014 event on June 17, 2014

Approved at November 4th Council meeting.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ald. Schema and seconded by Ald. Martell at 7:12 p.m. The motion carried.

KD/smsr