

NEW BERLIN PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, March 9, 2009

Please note: Minutes are unofficial until approved by the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission at their next regularly scheduled meeting.

CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL; DECLARATION OF QUORUM:

The regular meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission was called to order by Chairman Bill Christel at 6:31 p.m. in the Common Council Chambers at New Berlin City Hall.

Present: Commissioners; Bill Christel, Rick Kocchi, Vern Radtke, Darrell Standish, Allison Thompson, Geno Wichowski, and Council Representative Bill Moore.

Also Present: David Grebe, Catholic Memorial Honor Society President; Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry Mark Schroeder; and Administrative Coordinator Cheryl Bowers.

Excused: Chuck Bedwell and Michelle Della

PUBLIC NOTICE:

This meeting was noticed on March 5, 2009 in accordance with Open Meetings law.

MINUTES:

Motion by Commissioner Kocchi, seconded by Commissioner Radtke to approve the minutes of the regular Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission Meeting of February 9, 2009. Motion carried with Alderman Moore voting present.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Communication from David Grebe regarding Disc Golf Tournament at Valley View Park. This item will be discussed under the Director's report.

BILLS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS:

The Commission reviewed the February 2009 Expenditure Detail in the amount of \$17,902.59. They also reviewed the copies of the February Revenues and Expenditures. After a brief discussion, motion by Commissioner Kocchi, seconded by Commissioner Standish to approve these financial documents. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Council Representative – No Report

Recreation Program Committee – No Report

Parks and Facilities Committee – No Report

Planning Committee – No Report

Golf Course Committee – No Report

CHAIRMAN/PLAN COMMISSION REPORT: No Report

UPDATES AND CONCERNS:

Update on Park & Open Space Plan - The Plan Committee last met on February 3rd to review and discuss the revised parkland service area maps, and continue development of the 5-year action plan. The committee generated a list of short term (1-5 years), and long term plan recommendations on 1) Improvements to Existing Parks, 2) Park Expansion, 3) New Park Development, and 4) New Park Acquisition. This information was sent to PDI in early February for review/comment. It is anticipated the Plan Committee will meet in the next 2 weeks to continue work on this project. Staff has asked PDI for an update on the overall progress of this project, including a review of the project timeline.

Update on Tree City USA Award for 2008 - The department was recently notified the City will be receiving the Tree City Award for 2008 from the National Arbor Day Foundation. This is the 7th consecutive year the City has received this award. Mr. Schroeder thanked Parks and Forestry Supervisor Dave Jeske and his staff for this achievement.

Update on New Berlin Hills Golf Course Lease Agreement with Crown Golf Properties, LP - On February 10th, the Common Council unanimously approved the recommendation of the Golf Course Committee and Parks, Recreation & Forestry Commission to approve the second extension and amendment to lease agreement with Crown Golf Properties, LP, which renews the lease for one additional five-year period, which would commence on the 1st day of January 2010, and end on the 31st day of December 2014. Mr. Schroeder commented on the successful 14 year relationship between Crown Golf Properties, LP and the City.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Section 35 Revised Conceptual Site Layout Plan – Review and Recommendation on Parkland & Recreational Facilities - At the February meeting, it was the consensus of the Parks, Recreation, & Forestry Commission to recommend to the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee to incorporate in the future planning of Section 35 a multi-use neighborhood park design including linear parkways that provide for future connecting trails incorporating the following items.

- City should preserve, protect, and promote passive use (trails) of the C-1 and C-2 Conservancy Areas.
- A Neighborhood Park should be located in the central portion of Section 35 to best serve all residential development. The park site should include a minimum of 15 acres of developable land for active uses such as soccer, baseball/softball, basketball etc.
- This developable land should be contiguous to the centrally located conservancy areas to provide residents with the opportunity for both active and passive recreational activities.
- Linear parkways which preserve open space, and provide connectivity within this area should be developed. The linear parkways and neighborhood park should be integrated with the Tess Corners Water Resource Storage Basin to take advantage of this water resource.
- A pathway system should be developed within the linear parkways to provide the neighborhood and community with safe access to school, park, and residential development, and enjoyment of the natural environment.

It was also the consensus that Section 35 is not one of the committee's first choices for future development of a youth sports complex of approximately 50 acres.

The Commission received the correspondence sent to both City staff and PDI. A meeting was held on February 17th with the Department of Community Development staff and PDI to review the various planning elements including land use, utilities, transportation/traffic, storm water, parks & open space etc. The Commission also received a copy of the revised conceptual plan which eliminates land for the potential youth sports complex, but incorporates a 15 acre neighborhood park adjacent to and integrated with the water resource basin. At the February 25th Steering Committee Meeting, discussion was tabled on the revised plan to allow for the committee to conduct a site visit of this area. The tour is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 25th. Discussion at the 2/25 steering committee meeting did

not include formal review and comment on the park and open space facilities.

In reviewing the revised concept plan, with the neighborhood park's new location along Sunny Slope Road, the Commission expressed concern on safe pedestrian access to the park site. The Commission had concerns with access to the park, and how trails would connect to the park from the south portion of the development (south of water resource area). It was a recommendation to relocate the neighborhood park site to the SW to be more centrally located within the Section 35 residential development, and stress the importance of connectivity via the pedestrian trail system. The Commission also questioned what would be the proposed new use of the land once labeled "possible youth sports complex."

Motion by Alderman Moore to refer Section 35 Revised Conceptual Site Layout Plan to the Plan Committee for review and recommendation on Parkland & Recreational Facilities and to report to the full Commission at a future date. Seconded by Commissioner Wichowski and carried unanimously.

Malone Park Splash Pad Project - Staff was contacted in January by the New Berlin Junior Woman's Club to express interest in making a donation toward a "permanent type" project for the parks system. Staff prepared information on potential project ideas, and met with club subcommittee members to discuss everything from park amenities such as benches and free standing play equipment, to modular playground systems to a splash pad (water playground). The general membership also had a chance to review and discuss these ideas, and have decided that their first choice for a community fundraising project would be the splash pad for Malone Park. The Commission received a copy of two such projects completed recently in Middleton and Wautoma.

Staff has recommended to the club that the first step is to make a formal presentation to the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission to discuss the park location and any site opportunities/constraints, project design considerations, budget, maintenance, etc. Mr. Schroeder indicated the Commission would first need to review and recommend the site location, and very likely approve conducting a feasibility study to analyze the design and engineering needed for this type of project. This item is on the agenda as a communication, and to get the Commission's initial thoughts on this project. Mr. Schroeder recommended a formal presentation at a future Commission meeting to review this project in greater detail. Depending on the outcome of that meeting, Mr. Schroeder recommended this item be sent to the Park Facilities Committee.

Chairman Christel and Commissioner Kocchi both thanked the Junior Woman's Club for their insight to enhance the quality of life in New Berlin. Motion by Alderman Moore to refer the Malone Park Splash Pad Project to the Parks and Facilities Committee for review and to report to the full Commission. Seconded by Commissioner Kocchi and carried unanimously.

Valley View Park Disc Golf Tournament – Review and Recommendation on Use of Facility for Event including Fee Waiver Request - Resident David Grebe and Terry Miller of the Disc Golf Association are interested in holding a disc golf tournament fundraiser on April 18, 2009. The fund raiser would be in conjunction with Catholic Memorial High School's Honor Society's efforts to fundraise for the nonprofit group "Invisible Children" that benefits the children in civil war torn Uganda. This item is on the agenda as the request is to close the course to the public from 2PM to 7 PM, and that the facility use fee be waived.

The Commissioners thanked the group for enhancing the life of others. Motion by Commissioner Kocchi to approve the use of the Valley View Park Disc Golf Course for the exclusive use of "Invisible Children" fundraiser on April 18, 2009 from 2 PM to 7 PM and to waive the \$325 fee for this event. Seconded by Commissioner Radtke. Motion carries with Commissioner Standish voting no.

2008 Annual Report – Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department – The Commission received a copy of the

department annual report for 2008. Mr. Schroeder thanked Administrative Coordinator Cheryl Bowers for putting the report together. It was a successful year for the department starting with the January Grand Opening of the Community Center, renovation of the park restrooms including two new restrooms, and conducting a survey for the Park & Open Space Plan. Recreation Supervisor Jon Stolz and Program Specialist Tanya Tridle did an outstanding job organizing and coordinating programs to improve the quality of life in New Berlin at great prices along with sponsorships for some programs. Recreation revenues have increased from 2007 to 2008. The department was able to work with the NBAA and serve 2,600 children in their programs. New Berlin Hills Golf Course had a successful year in spite of weather concerns, and the Malone Park Concession Stand Managed by Cheryl Bowers also had a successful year in spite of the hurting economy.

Chairman Christel thanked the department for all of their hard work in the Parks, Recreation, and Golf Course areas to enhance the quality of life for the residents of New Berlin. Commissioner Radtke thanked the department for their work with the New Berlin Senior Citizen's Club. The Club is enjoying their new home at the New Berlin Community Center.

NEXT MEETING: April 13, 2009

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Commissioner Wichowski, seconded by Commissioner Thompson to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Bowers for
Allison R. Thompson, Secretary
Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission

ART/cb