

NEW BERLIN PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, October 13, 2008

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 6:33 p.m. in the Common Council Chambers at New Berlin City Hall.

Present: Commissioners; Bill Christel, Chuck Bedwell, Michelle Della, Rick Kocchi, Vern Radtke, Darrell Standish, Allison Thompson, and Council Representative Bill Moore.

Also Present: Eagle Scout David Grebe; Terry Miller, Disc Golf Association; Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry Mark Schroeder; and Administrative Coordinator Cheryl Bowers.

PUBLIC NOTICE:

This meeting was noticed on October 10, 2008 in accordance with Open Meetings law.

Chairman Christel expressed sympathy on behalf of the Commission to the Gihring Family and asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Commissioner Paul Gihring.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Mr. Schroeder introduced Eagle Scout David Grebe to the Commission. Mr. Grebe worked over 300 hours to upgrade the disc golf course at Valley View Park. With assistance from monetary donations from the Disc Golf Association, Mr. Grebe was able to install 9 concrete tee pads, create an alternative hole location, and work on a new bridge. Mr. Grebe reported that New Berlin True Value, Elliott's Ace Hardware, along with Nature's Nook donated materials and 50 volunteers consisting of scouts, friends and members of the Disc Golf Association helped with the labor. Terry Miller of the Disc Golf Association commented that Mr. Grebe did a great job and it was exciting to see such great community involvement. Chairman Christel presented a recognition plaque to Eagle Scout David Grebe for his outstanding contribution to the New Berlin park system.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Chairman Christel expressed the great loss the City will experience with the passing of Paul Gihring. Mr. Gihring served on the Commission for many years and was the Commission's representative to the Plan Commission. He also was a member of the Alternative Transportation Committee. Mr. Gihring volunteered many hours to the City in order to promote the use of the great outdoors in New Berlin. Mr. Schroeder asked if the Commission would like to honor Paul Gihring with a Memorial Tree or naming a trail in his behalf. Mr. Schroeder will contact the Plan Commission and the Alternate Transportation Committee of the Commission's plans since Paul Gihring also served on their committee/commission. Consensus by the Commission to move forward with the Memorial Tree and work with the Gihring family on the location and type of tree. Mr. Schroeder will also review the Commission's naming policy regarding the trail dedication.

The floor was open for nominations for Vice Chairman of the Commission. Commissioner Kocchi was nominated by Commissioner Radtke and seconded by Commissioner Standish. Commissioner Kocchi expressed it would be a privilege to serve. Motion by Commissioner Radtke to close the floor for nominations and seconded by Commissioner Standish. Motion by Commissioner Radtke and seconded by Commissioner Standish to elect Commissioner Kocchi as Vice Chairman of the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

PLAN COMMISSION MEMBER APPOINTMENT

The next Plan Commission Meeting is scheduled for November 3rd. Chairman Christel stated that he would like to volunteer as the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission representative to the Plan Commission. Paul Gihring stepped in as the representative from the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission when Chairman Christel had work commitments and was unable to devote the necessary hours required to serve on the Plan Commission. Chairman Christel is now able to volunteer those extra hours needed to serve. Commissioner Moore recommended that Chairman Christel serve on the Plan Commission.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Sub-committee Appointments - The Sub-committees only meet when additional research is needed on a project or concern. Committee Appointments – Chairman Christel made the following appointments to the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission Committees:

- New Berlin Hills Golf Course Committee – Chuck Bedwell
- Parks and Facilities Committee – Chuck Bedwell, Vern Radtke*, and Rick Kocchi
- Plan Commission Representative – Bill Christel
- Plan Committee – Bill Christel, Darrell Standish, and Bill Moore*
- Recreation Committee – Michelle Della, Darrell Standish*, and Allison Thompson

(*) indicates chairman

MINUTES:

Motion by Commissioner Kocchi, seconded by Commissioner Radtke to approve the minutes of the regular Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission Meeting of September 22, 2008. Motion carried with Commissioner Standish voting present.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Communication was received from Dave Totten, President of the New Berlin Historical Society, regarding the City Park & Open Space Plan. The Historical Society would like the Park and Open Space Plan to incorporate a recommendation to transfer the old Fire Station #3 to the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department to become a part of Historic Park. Merits of this transfer include: the building has historic value, will provide needed space for Historical Society archives and activities, and is located adjacent to Historic Park. Consensus to refer this item to the Parks and Facilities Committee.

Communication was received from Mary Hiebl, President of the New Berlin Land Conservancy regarding October meeting presentation. The New Berlin Land Conservancy invited the Commission to an informational meeting presented by Secretary Rod Nilsestuen of the State Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer protection to be held on October 23rd at 7 PM in the New Berlin Library Community Room. The topics of the presentations will include present and proposed legislation related to large landowners being encouraged to set aside their land as open space; financial incentives and stewardship measures to preserve open space; define the Wisconsin Farm Preservation Act; and Smart Growth planning pertaining to land use issues.

BILLS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS:

The Commission reviewed the September 2008 Expenditure Detail in the amount of \$31,386.03. They also reviewed the copies of the September Revenues and Expenditures. After a brief discussion, motion by Commissioner Kocchi, seconded by Commissioner Thompson 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'S REPORT:

Chairman Christel expressed the great loss felt by the Commission with the passing of Paul Gihring. Best wishes were sent to the Gihring Family.

PLAN COMMISSION MEMBER REPORT: No Report

UPDATES AND CONCERNS:

Update on Park & Open Space Plan -The next step in the process is for PDI to meet with the Park Plan Committee to review the recommendations that are contained in the current Park & Open Space Plan, discuss potential obstacles that have precluded their implementation, as well as to begin discussion on the short and long term recommendations for expanding/improving the parks system. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for the week of October 20th or 27th.

Update on New Berlin Hills Water Supply System Evaluation -The Commission reviewed the draft Irrigation System Supply Evaluation at the September meeting. Since that time, Ruckert Mielke has completed additional research on the irrigation pond, and prepared a prioritized project phasing plan for the recommended option. Staff is currently reviewing this information which will be presented to the Commission at an upcoming meeting.

Update on Quarry Park – The Commission received a copy of the Requested Action Statement and Addendum to the Lease Agreement which will go before the Common Council for approval on October 14th. Staff has met with Johnson Sand & Gravel to begin development of the park trail system map which is referenced in the agreement.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

2009 Parks, Recreation & Forestry Budget - The Committee of the Whole met on October 7th to review the 2009 Operating Budget. At the meeting, the Council restored funding for printing and mailing of the City Newsletter (\$15,200), as well as \$20,000 for the NBAA programs. The Council also approved the \$19,187 for the 4th of July celebration. The department operating budget now stands at \$1,659,614, an increase of \$21,678, or 1.3% over the 2008 Budget of \$1,637,936. The Council will continue review of both the operating and CIP Budgets on October 14th.

Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association (WPRA) Legislative Key Contact Program – The Commission received information on the new WPRA Legislative Key Contact Program. This key contact person would help advocate for public policies to benefit the community as well as park and recreation agencies throughout the State. Consensus of the Commission to make the contact person Chairman Bill Christel.

NEXT MEETING: November 10, 2008

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Commissioner Kocchi, seconded by Commissioner Radtke to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

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

ART/cb