

HARTFORD PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Wednesday, August 1, 2018

5:30 PM – Recreation Center – Conference Room

Present: Todd Rusniak, Karen Buhle, Jeff Troeller, Scott Helms

Excused: Amy Hoffmann, Joe Fulop, Mark Kohnhorst

1. President Rusniak called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM; "This is an open meeting under 19.81 to 19.98 of the Wisconsin State Statutes".
2. Approval of Minutes – **MOTION BY** Troeller seconded by Buhle to approve the July minutes.
MOTION CARRIED
3. Informational Monthly Staff Reports – Not included in packet.
4. Communication and Correspondence – None
5. Appearances / Public Comments – John Akemann, 728 West Rogers Street, Hartford, spoke to the Commission regarding the Mill Pond Restoration Project. He believes the Mill Pond should be eliminated and instead allow the Rubicon River to be in its more natural river state. He stated the Mill Pond is not conducive for a healthy fish habitat as there is no weed growth, no oxygenation, the steep walls are not favorable for fish, and the bottom has no gravel, rocks or sand. Instead, according to Mr. Akemann, having a series of three small ponds that drop in levels so the river flow is gravity feed, will increase the wildlife in that area including birds, frogs, turtles and fish. Overtime, he foresees the dam removed allowing even a greater gradient flow of water which will also allow fish to travel upstream.

Commissioners asked Mr. Akemann if he had any cost associated with eliminating the pond and creating these three smaller, river feed ponds. Mr. Akemann did not. Commissioners also asked if Mr. Akemann knew of anyone else had done anything similar. Mr. Ackerman stated the closest thing he found was in West Bend with the Woolen Mills in West Bend about 30 years ago. He states the area there, including the fishing, is much better there now that the Wollen Mill dam was removed.

6. Old Business – None
7. New Business

ADMINISTRATION

Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan –

CENTENNIAL PARK – An updated concept plan that incorporated the Commission's suggestions from the last meeting was shared. Based on the discussion as well as seeing the site on the park tour, the Commission now favors the building to be located on the west end as there are fewer issues with electric power line poles and pole tie downs. The commission would like the City Engineer and MSA to consider in the wall restoration project to reduce the size of the Millpond in the NE corner (boat launch area). In doing this perhaps the silt materials that are scheduled to be removed from the pond could be used to extend the shoreline in that area and create more green space. The service drives and walkways will likely need adjustments as there remains power poles that would interfere.

REQUEST FOR ANY ADDITIONAL INPUT ON CHAPTER #5, PARK RECOMMENDATIONS - None

Fall Activity Guide - Distribution date is August 21st.

Discussion and Consideration of Recreation Center Discount Memberships for Hartford Apartment Housing – Executive Summary – A developer for a new proposed apartment complex inquired about the possibility in receiving a membership discount to their tenants. The developer is considering adding a small fitness room, however would eliminate that from the design should an agreement be made with our facility. Currently, the City offers Corporate Memberships with a buy in option in which members / employees of the business/organization get 10% off a membership. This type of model could be considered should the Commission wish to pursue discounts to rental units. However, staff would need time to explore options and present a proposal if there was interest by the Commission. Staff would like the Commission to consider how the City may need to open this type of discount to all apartment complexes, duplexes, and perhaps even condo associations or sub division associations. And while membership growth is desirable, the capacity at the Recreation Center has capacity limitations.

After a brief discussion, and limited time before this new apartment complex needs a decision, the Commission did not believe they were ready to move in a direction to offer this type of discount.

MOTION BY Helms, seconded by Troeller to deny the development of a Rental Property Membership Program.

MOTION CARRIED

RECREATION PROGRAMS / ACTIVITIES

Youth End of Summer Camp – This indoor camp, with many outdoor field trips, will be held at the Rec Center August 6-17. There are still a few openings.

ADULT / YOUTH SPORT

Youthball Report – Season has wrapped up. Next Monday, a picture with Uptown Chevrolet, one of our biggest youthball sponsors, and some of our T-Ball athletes will be taken with a mock donation check. Uptown, in financial donations and equipment has donate up to \$1,100.

Jr. High Flag Football League – This 5th – 6th grade league will play all their games in Oconomowoc at 5:30 on a weeknight. More players are needed before we can move forward.

Youth Flag Football – Fall Flag football for kids ages 6-10 will start at the end of August. Registrations are due by August 22.

AQUATICS

Signicast Aquatic Center - None

Veterans Memorial Aquatic Center –

REDUCED LATE SEASON PASS SALES – With the Vets Pool at its half way point for the summer, pass sales have been discounted. Family passes are \$30 off and Individual are \$10. Current revenue from pass sales is \$34,000. This is down from last year's sales of \$41,000. The Director noted that last summer's early June was hot, which is a big factor in pushing pass sales. Day admission revenue are up this year from last, around \$15,000 more.

PARKS OPERATIONS

Parks Tour – The Commission had planned to take their annual park tour, however, due to a number of Commissioners unable to attend this meeting, those in attendance only toured Centennial Park to consider the design plan provided by MSA.

OTHER REPORTS /COMMISSION REQUESTS

Scott Helms asked the if the Parks and Recreation Commission coaches could take better care of the City's softball/baseball fields at Lincoln Athletic Fields as the High School invested a lot of money into those fields, particularly the infields. Staff will do what they can, but commented on the difficulty of finding volunteer coaches to run practices and be at games, much less direct them to do field maintenance after a game. The Director said he can try to add additional labor expenses to the Parks budget to help with fields. However, budgets have already been turned in to the City Administrator and the Director is unsure if he will be allowed to amend what he has already submitted. Also, finding someone to work evenings to hand drag fields at 10 PM, when games finish, likely will be difficult. The Director noted that the City has plans to put up to \$30,000 to improve Independence Park including new bleachers, shade over dug outs and new infield mix. Given the higher level of maintenance with the field mixture the High School put in at Lincoln, the City may go with something that is still of quality, but will not require such diligent maintenance.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY Troeller, seconded by Helms to adjourn at 7:48 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

Submitted by Mike Hermann and Sara Cummings

"Persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations for attendance at the meeting should contact the City Clerk at least one (1) business day prior to the meeting." Members of the Common Council may attend the above meeting. Pursuant to State ex rel. Badke v. Greendale Village Board, 173 Wis. 2d 553, 494 N.W. 2d 408 (1993) such attendance may be considered a meeting of the Common Council may attend the meeting without violating the open meeting law."