

HARTFORD PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Wednesday, October 5, 2016
6:30 PM - City Hall – Council Chambers

Present: Jeff Troeller, Joe Kohler, Todd Rusniak, Dave Ziemer, Amy Hoffmann, Mark Kohnhorst, Scott Helms

1. President Troeller called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM; "This is an open meeting under 19.81 to 19.98 of the Wisconsin State Statutes".
2. Approval of Minutes
MOTION by Kohler seconded by Kohnhorst to approve the September monthly minutes.
MOTION CARRIED
3. Informational Monthly Staff Reports – Reviewed
4. Communication and Correspondence – None
5. Appearances / Public Comments – None
6. Old Business - None
7. New Business

ADMINISTRATION

Discussion and Consideration to Provide a Portion of Sawyer Park for Relocation of a Home – Executive Summary-
A request was presented to City Administrator from Jan Hatch, 30 Mill Street, Hartford, asking that the City consider approving the relocation of her home to a portion of Sawyer Park. In addition to a written request, Mrs. Hatch appeared at the meeting.

The Director outlined the following information concerning the request. A letter was submitted by Mrs. Hatch and included a map of the park with the general area in the south west portion of the park circled for placement of her home. Regarding this area of the park, the Director indicated the request would conflict with the planned placement of the memorial flags and storage structure request by the VFW. Additionally, there is a service drive in that area that is used by park maintenance staff and the Veteran organizations for access into the park during the Memorial Day services. Although the storage shed is not shown on any current park plan, the approximate location requested by the VFW was at the end of the existing maintenance service drive. Also being considered for this park site is a walkway to extend from the proposed new central walk path and heading south to the service drive. The parks playground area will also be impacted by this request as well as two large mature park trees.

Therefore, in staff's review of this request, relocation of Mrs. Hatch's home to this site will impact the park plans that were agreed upon for the park with the VFW and the existing maintenance driveway and playground.

Mrs. Hatch explained to the Commission she is looking to relocate her home as she was notified that her property would be needed for additional parking for the redevelopment of the downtown area and most specifically for the planned hotel on the corner of Hy 60 and Mill Street. Since 2008, per her letter, she was laid off at her place of employment and although she managed to escape bankruptcy, her credit rating took a hit and she can not secure a new mortgage and thus must keep the mortgage she has now. She looked for comparable homes/lots and concluded that to get something comparable, she'd have to take her home with her. She felt the location at

Sawyer Park was the best site within the City as the size was very similar to her current lot, her Victorian home would fit the style of homes in that area and it is the same Rd2 zoning.

The Commission questioned the ease and cost of moving a house. Commissioner Ziemer wondered if Mrs. Hatch would have to have a deed change which could affect her mortgage. He also commented there would be a cost to the City for moving utility lines and such to move a house. Commissioner Rusniak asked Mrs. Hatch if she researched what would be the fair market value of the Sawyer Park Lot. Mrs. Hatch responded that her research estimated it at \$27,000-\$32,000.

Mrs. Hatch stated she did not realize there was an active park plan for Sawyer Park. In review of what she has learned is slated for that park, she believes a better location for any memorial developments would be in Bernd Park by the Fire Department as it has parking. She heard there will be a memorial placed there (as a side note, the memorial being placed there is a protective service memorial not veterans). Finally, and without clear understanding of a storage shed requested, she indicated if the structure was to become a museum, it would work better by the Fire Department.

The Commission as a whole sympathized with Mrs. Hatch and Alderperson Kohler stated that it was a thoughtful process the City Council went through as the downtown re-development plan was put together, knowing it could have a negative impact on some.

MOTION BY Rusniak, seconded by Kohler to continue with the Sawyer Park development plan as previously approved without the addition of allowing a residential home to be relocated on the site.

MOTION CARRIED

WPS Silver & Fit (Senior Exercise) Alternative Option Under Review – Informational Report – The Director informed the Commission that a new Senior Exercise program, similar to the Silver Sneakers we already participate in, is being considered – Silver Fit. Staff has had discussions with Silver Fit staff and will be reviewing the contract. Similar to Silver Sneakers, it will reimburse the facility up to 10 visits per month for each visit by a Silver Fit member at \$3.25/visit. We have been told by Silver Fit that the WPS supplemental insurance will be dropping Silver Sneakers and instead joining Silver Fit. According to Silver Fit, we currently have 45 active members that carry the WPS insurance.

Discussion on November Meeting Date and WPRC Conference – Due to staff attending the WPRC conference the first week of November, the Director asked if the Commission would be able to re-schedule the November meeting to November 9. Commission agreed.

RECREATION PROGRAMS / ACTIVITIES

The Director mentioned these upcoming activities:

- Community Halloween Events – Hoopla and Magic Show, October 26
- Daddy/Daughter Night, Ages 4-10, Friday, November 11
- Family Gym Times, Tuesday & Thursday 5:30-6:45, Saturday 1-2, Starts October 25
- After School Youth Program, Tues & Thurs- Rec Gym/Activities/Pool, Wed Library, First Day Oct. 4

ADULT / YOUTH SPORT

- Adult Volleyball Winter League – League play Starts October 31. Co-Ed on Monday & Wednesday
- Mens Pick Up Basketball, Thursday 7-9:30, Starts October 27
- Drop In Soccer, Saturday 2-4 PM, Starts October 29
- Youth Basketball, Ages 4-6 & 6-8, Saturdays, Session I Starts October 22

AQUATICS

Special Theme Swims – Treasure Hunt, Friday October 7 & November 11 – lifeguards drop coins into the pool. Some will be valid for a prize!

Adult Semi-Private Swim Lessons (New), Wednesday, Starts October 12

VMAC Punch List Status – Over 200 items are on the punch list and are being worked on. The pool closing procedures have started and include draining, winterizing, anti-freezing drains in bathhouse, chemical building, concessions. It is a long, intensive process. Due to the time it will take to completely close the pool down, staff is considering contracting for this service. In years past, we would have a contractor close Veterans Pool. Most recently, maintenance staff has been doing the work. However, it may be time to contract out most of the work needed to close and winterize the pool due to the amount of time it will take our staff to complete the process.

PARKS OPERATIONS

Park Project Report – The Commission received a copy of the report. The Director highlighted the removal of the spider climber and mushroom climbers at Woodlawn Park as during CVMIC's playground safety review, they recommended removal.

Hartford Leadership Class – This year's Chamber Hartford Leadership Class has chosen for their class project decorative lighting along the Mill Pond path from Main Street to the Library.

Mill Pond Path Northside – Temporary Closed – The bulkhead wall along the north side of the Pond has always had spots of failure / caving. Over the years, staff has attempted to shore up those areas. However, until the wall is completely replaced like the south side, which is not scheduled until past 2020, these bulk head failures will continue. The latest failure along one area has also damaged the asphalt walking path. Staff has fenced this area off and has diverted the path around the fenced off area.

OTHER REPORTS /COMMISSION REQUEST

None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY Ziemer seconded by Hoffmann to adjourn at 7:35 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

Submitted by,

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."