

HARTFORD PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Wednesday, November 9

6:30 PM – City Hall Council Chambers

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

Excused: Joe Kohler

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 Ziemer seconded by Hoffmann to approve last month's Minutes.
MOTION CARRIED
3. Informational Monthly Staff Reports – Reviewed.
4. Communication and Correspondence – The Director received a thank you from the Hartford Union High School French Department for giving a tour of the Recreation Center to the visiting French students; some of whom got to play Pickleball during the visit.

Lincoln Elementary School also sent a thank you for the donation the Department gave for their Fun Run.

5. Appearances / Public Comments – None
6. Old Business – None
7. New Business

ADMINISTRATION

Winter Spring Activity Guide – This will be distributed on November 29.

RECREATION PROGRAMS / ACTIVITIES

Upcoming Programs Mentioned:

Winter Fun Day, December 10, 9am-1pm, Ages 6-12

Tots Care Christmas Special, December 10, 9am-1pm, Ages 3-5

Community Choir Concerts, Saturday, Dec. 3 7:30 PM Holy Hill, Sunday Dec. 4 3 PM Schauer Center

ADULT / YOUTH SPORT

Upcoming Adult/Youth Sport Programs Mentioned:

Adult Volleyball Winter League – Monday night has 7 A League Teams and 6 B League Teams. Wednesday night has 8 teams, all of which requested A league. League play began on October 31.

Junior Basketball, Ages 8-11, Starts December 3

Winter Fun Run, Saturday, December 3, 8am – 3 Mile or 1 Mile.

AQUATICS

Thanksgiving Special Open Swim – Only \$1 on Friday, November 25th from 6:30-8:30 PM.

PARKS OPERATIONS

Parks Project Report –The Director mentioned the following:

- Installation of an electronic scoreboard at Independence Park on the West Diamond. The Scoreboard was donated by 7-Up a while back with hopes the Department could get volunteers to install it. Unfortunately, this did not happen. However, a donation from the Werely Family, in memory of Gregg Werely, was able to cover the cost of installation. A sign will be mounted on the scoreboard recognizing this donation.
- The small section of the bike path on the north side of Mill Pond, that had to be re-routed due to bulkhead failure, has been asphalted.
- Willowbrook Park old playground has been removed and the area excavated for the new equipment and poured in place surface. Installation of that new equipment has begun.
- Assistance to the Volunteers to Beautify Hartford as they continue work on the riverbank project.
- Bernd Park Footbridge was put out to bid. Custom Manufacturing had the single bid at \$47,700. This is the same design by the same company as the bridge by Rotary Park. The project is going to the Council for approval. Custom Manufacturing believes they could do the base work in December with bridge installation in January.

Portable Ice Rink Discussion – The 2016 budget includes \$12,000 to purchase a portable ice rink. The City used to flood an area north of the skate park, west of Veterans Pool. This area can no longer be flooded due to the expansion of Veterans Memorial Aquatic Center.

The Director would like to order a portable rink kit yet this year and set it up before the frost sets. He asked for the Commission's input on size of the rink and location to place the rink.

The Director would not consider placing the rink at Veterans Park this year as the area still has landscaping that needs to be completed. Should the Commission wish to have a rink back at this location in the future, the City would need to get permission from Lincoln School. This location also no longer has a light fixture to shine on the rink.

In researching the City parks, Staff believes Westside, Independence, and Willowbrook Park are viable options to have a portable ice rink. These parks have parking access, a large flat surface (the rink will NOT be placed on any maintained athletic field), potential for use of a shelter at Willowbrook and Independence Parks. Lights require more research but Willowbrook has the best options and lights and are easily accessible route for water to be brought to the area.

The Director believes Willowbrook is a good site as it is highly visible being located right off of Hy 60.

The Nice Rink product offers a NHL full size rink at 88 x 200 and has a cost of just over \$11,000. This is likely bigger than what the City needs. The next size down is a 64 x 140 and then 52 x 120. NiceRink company provides many options for rink sizes to fit the spaces available.

Commissioner Ziemer asked the pricing of two smaller sizes. The 64 x 140 is \$7,194 and the 52 x 120 is \$5,482. Based on the dimensions that were measured at Willowbrook, the 88 x 200 should fit.

Commissioner Rusniak said the trend in youth hockey leagues is for younger kids to play on smaller rinks. He questioned if there was space to put two small rinks to facilitate a smaller hockey game but have an area for those

that just want to ice skate. The Director agreed that having two separate rinks is a good idea as having both hockey and recreational skaters on one rink is not always a good mix. The Director said that there are smaller rinks sizes - 24 x 52 for \$2,200 and a 32 x 80 \$3,200. Rusniak thought two 52 x 120 was a good size and the price is still less than the cost of the largest rink. Rusniak said having two rinks the same size also has the benefit should one liner have issues, you still can use the other liner for the same staked out area. Ziemer commented that with two rinks, you could have ice rinks located in two different parks.

The Director likes the idea of two rinks however he stated that he would like to purchase just one at this time, to see how well it works. He would ask the City Administrator to carry forward the remaining funds into next year to purchase a second kit.

Commissioner Helms questioned if Willowbrook offered lighting. The Director said that there is a lamp on the outside of the shelter and either extending that lamp higher and/or adding an additional flood lamp should light the rink nicely. Kohnhorst asked if the parking lot and road in Willowbrook is plowed. The Director said that the DPW staff does not normally plow that road, but it would be easy enough to do. The Director also added that since no bathroom buildings are heated in the City parks, a portable restroom would be needed or no restroom provided. Helms confirmed that the only shelter with fireplace was at Independence.

The Director also commented that future park developments could make Willowbrook more of a 'winter' destination park. There have been talks about extending the holiday lights that the Chamber Leadership Class started this year near the library, along the Mill Pond pathway to Willowbrook Park. In addition, there has been inquiries about the possibility of making the Willowbrook shelter into a Santa House.

At this point, the Director will plan on ordering one rink at approximately 52 x 120, asking for the remaining money to be carried forward to 2017 so a second similar sized rink could be purchased next year. The rink would be installed at Willowbrook Park.

Approval to Purchase Commercial Riding Mower – Executive Summary – The 2016 Parks CIP budget includes \$21,100 for a new riding mower to replace the 1998 Toro Commercial mower. The bid specifications included that the mower be a current production year, 24 hp, 60-62 inch front rear discharge deck, extra set of blades, spare filter, and mulch blades/deck kit. Three models were considered including the Toro Groundsmaster 3280, John Deere 1550 and Jacobson Turfcut. The lowest bid was the 2017 John Deere 1550 series mower at \$18,641.75 from Mid-State Equipment.

Besides having park staff review and test each model, the Director did talk with maintenance at the High School as they use a similar John Deere model as the 1550 as well as with Waukesha County Park staff. All gave favorable reviews of this line of John Deere equipment. This was reassuring to the Director as we have had issues with John Deere mowers in the past. However, those mowers were from a larger model line. The Waukesha County Supervisor said they also had issues with John Deere's larger line of equipment but has a fleet of the model we are considering and haven't had issues with this 1550 series.

MOTION BY Troeller seconded by Hoffmann to approve the purchase of the 2017 John Deere 1550 series mower at a price not to exceed \$18,641.75 from Mid-State Equipment.

MOTION CARRIED

OTHER REPORTS /COMMISSION REQUESTS

Commissioner Rusniak cautioned staff on using metal hockey goals on the new ice rink. The metal, on warm, sunny days, can become warm, melting the ice below it and then when it gets colder, the goal will freeze to the ice. He recommends covering the metal base in a thicker PVC pipe.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY Ziemer seconded by Rusniak to adjourn at 7:17 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."