

HARTFORD PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

6:30 PM – City Hall Council Chambers

Present: Todd Rusniak, Karin Buhle, Mark Kohnhorst, Jeff Turchi, Todd Bultman

Excused: Scott Helms, Amy Hoffmann

1. President Rusniak 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 – Commissioner Bultman asked that the record show Jeff Turchi was excused from the February Commission Meeting. The minutes show him as being present.

MOTION BY Kohnhorst, seconded by Buhle to approve the February minutes with the amendment.

MOTION CARRIED

3. Informational Monthly Staff Reports – Reviewed.
4. Communication and Correspondence – The Director received a donation of \$500 from Hartford Lions Club to be used for our Middle School Summer Splash event held in early June.
5. Appearances / Public Comments –

Hunter Iding presented his proposal for his Eagle Scout, an in-ground checkerboard game to be placed at Woodlawn Park. It would have a gravel base and be flush with the ground made with concrete pavers. His original plan would be to provide checker pieces for the board, but should fundraising efforts allow, he'd also consider providing chess pieces. His goal is to have this installed by early June. The Director indicated that the likely location for this would be north of the large shelter, in the general direction of the horseshoe pits. The pieces could be rented from the office or the pieces could be left in the large shelter for rental groups to use.

Although we have picnic tables that have table top checker boards from a former Eagle Scout project, this larger playing board allows for more group participation. Hunter explained how having this larger game out in the open, the players converse more, observers offer suggestions and become involved in the game, especially younger players helping other younger players beat adults. Hunter said it was a more involved experience than just sitting at a table playing.

The pavers are 16" so the entire board will be about 11 feet in length. Checker game pieces are 10" in diameter and 6" tall. The game pieces are stackable. The chess pieces range in size. Typically about 12"-18" tall. While more eye catching, they can be harder to store.

Aldersperson Turchi wondered if there was consideration to put it closer to downtown to give it more exposure. The Director didn't immediately think of that, as storage of the playing pieces can be a concern. He did consider outside the library where the equipment could be kept at their circulation desk. If the Commission didn't want it in the park, more time would be needed to consider other locations and the logistics of storing equipment. The Director did ask Commission and Staff if there was a different park that they felt it would get better use. Aquatic/Fitness Supervisor believed Woodlawn Park with the day camp and overall traffic is a good location. He did mention Independence Park ball diamonds as another location as it could be something for people to do between ball games. President Rusniak mentioned that it might be a great addition to Centennial Park when that is re-developed. Program

Supervisor Aldon Kaye thought by having it at Woodlawn it would get a lot of use with our Playground Program.

The Director asked that Hunter include a bench in his fundraising plans as he believes that would be important to have. He also asked that Hunter carefully consider the installation of the pavers to be sure grass and weeds do not come through and make it unattractive. He asked Hunter to do thorough research on weed barriers or grout material used between the pavers.

Hunter asked if the Commission was in favor of the chess pieces. Questions on where to store the equipment came up again. The Director said the equipment could be kept in the large shelter with instructions to the renter on how to use and store the equipment. We can also have a rental set at the Recreation Center as a second option. Keeping the pieces at the shelter will take up storage space, but the Director believes it could be accommodated.

6. Old Business - None

7. New Business

ADMINISTRATION

Consideration to Approve Hunter Iding, Boy Scout Eagle Project Proposal for Park Checkerboard – Executive Summary – Hunter had met with the Director to discuss possible Eagle Scout projects in the park including additions to the dog park, a split rail fence designating the border of Eastwood Nature Park, and a small gazebo at Bernd Park. Hunter considered those projects but decided upon an in-ground checkerboard for Woodlawn Park.

During Hunter’s presentation at the beginning of the meeting, the Commission was able to learn more about the project and was able to ask Hunter questions and get clarification.

MOTION BY Kohnhorst, seconded by Bultman, to approve the Eagle Scout Project as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

RECREATION PROGRAMS / ACTIVITIES

Spring Break Open Gyms, M/W/F, 11-3, T/Th 3:30-6:00

No School Fun Day, Monday, March 9, gym program from 1:30-3:00. Multiple team games played. Ages 6-11.

ADULT / YOUTH SPORT

Youthball Registration - Over 200 youth currently enrolled. Two days left to register. Team sponsors are needed. Would like sponsors to contact staff by March 13.

Spring Volleyball League - 8 teams for this Monday night Co-Ed League that begins next week.

Alumni and Friends Basketball Tournament – Annual tournament will be held on Saturday, April 11. Register by March 27.

AQUATICS

Veterans Memorial Aquatic Center –

Derby Duck Race – The Hartford Lioness asked if we would consider holding a rubber duck race in the lazy river either with them or allow them to rent VMAC for this fundraising event. The Director discussed our current rental policies for private rentals with the Lioness. However, since this is not a swimming event, it requires

different consideration than a ‘normal’ private rental. Initial discussion with the Lioness also included doing this during an open swim. Staff also discussed with the Lioness doing a partnership, sharing the profits. A state raffle license is needed, which the Lioness does have.

The Director was looking for the Commission’s general opinion and if they would prefer a partnership with the Lioness or a facility rental. From our 1996 Duck Pluck fundraiser, we have about 600 ducks remaining. In 1996 we sold them for about \$5 a duck. If sold for \$10 a duck today, it has a potential of raising \$6,000. There would be overhead cost and prize cost to consider. In addition, our capacity of the pool is just around 1200. So we would have to limit each duck purchaser to only two people in attendance at the race.

Commissioners loved the idea and told the staff to figure out the details. President Rusniak suggested doing it at night and have a wine tasting event in conjunction with the race. Staff will continue working with the Lioness to formulate an event.

Signicast Aquatic Center

Special Swims

- March Madness, Saturday, March 14, 1-3:45 – Pool Basketball Games
- St. Patrick’s Day Swim, Tuesday, March 17, 3:30-5:15 PM – Coins dropped in the pool. Some are worth prizes.
- Spring Break Swims, March 23 & 25 2:00-4:00 PM

PARKS OPERATIONS

Parks Project Report –

Serenity Subdivision Parkland Area EAB Tree Cutting. Over 125 trees were taken down.
Snow Removal

Aldersperson Turchi asked if the Homestead Park equipment could be moved from the 2024 CIP Budget to 2021 CIP Budget. The Director will note that for the upcoming budget planning this year.

OTHER REPORTS /COMMISSION REQUESTS

The Director had an opportunity to tour the Burke Playground Company in Fond du Lac. It concluded with playground design presentation by their staff and how to incorporate their equipment into an inclusive play atmosphere. It was a very informative tour.

Commissioner Bultman praised the Daddy Daughter program he recently attended with his two daughters. They all had a great time and he commented that it was well run.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY Bultman, seconded by Buhle to adjourn at 7:15 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."