



FOX CROSSING PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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PARK COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

April 10, 2024

Park Commissioners Present: Jim Beson, Jordyn Kurer, Chris McCoy, Steve Otto, Suneer Patel, Kathy Sylvester, Jean Wollerman

Staff Present: Director Amanda Geiser

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The Commission meeting was held at the Municipal Complex, 2000 Municipal Dr., Neenah, and was called to order by Commissioner Beson at 6:00PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and roll call was taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND DISCUSSION OF EXPENDITURES

The Park Commission dispenses with the reading of, and adopts, the March 13, 2024, regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Sylvester motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Otto. Commissioner Patel abstains. Motion carried.

PUBLIC FORUM

- None

DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION

A. Butte Des Morts Park Kayak Launch: Director Geiser spoke of the Butte des Morts Park kayak dock/launch that was part of this year's budget. It was staff's intention to have the Park Commission approve bids on an ADA accessible dock/launch at this month's meeting. However, after meeting with a dock representative, it was determined that it would be difficult to meet ADA slope requirements at this location. This is due to the slope of the shoreline, and the awkward placement of piping that extends out to the water, along with a limited shoreline area. Installation would be quite difficult, more extensive engineering work would be needed, and costs would be higher than originally anticipated. It was then discussed that the new kayak rental station at Fritse Park has been extremely popular on social media. It has yet to be determined if the excitement online will translate into excitement at the park, but Director Geiser asked if we should consider putting the assessable dock/launch at Fritse Park instead. Currently Fritse Park has a quiet water launch, but it is not ADA accessible. Commissioner McCoy said it made sense to consider the alternate location. Commissioner Beson said after looking at the area, he felt there are fewer interesting physical features on the eastern shore opposed to the western shore with the wildlife areas to explore. He noted we could explore possibly placing a fishing dock in the future. He favors Fritse Park based on cost and overall interest. Commissioner Patel feels we should ask the board to consider allowing us to use the funds at Fritse Park. Commissioner Otto note Friste Park has better parking and would be able to accommodate more users. The overall consensus from the commissioners was to consider seeking approval to use the funds to install a launch at Fritse Park.

REPORTS

- A. Park Report: Accepted as written.
B. Recreation Report: Accepted as written.
C. Director Report: Accepted as given.
D. Commission Reports:
• Commissioner Beson: No report.

- **Commissioner Otto:** Mentioned he recently attended a program at the Menasha library regarding the influence of the Irish settlers in our community. Irish families were given land in the area between Irish Road and Clayton Avenue. He indicated it was a good presentation.
- **Commissioner Kurer:** Stated she went to Woodland Prairie Park recently and noticed on the pump track there is a pipe on the ramp that seems to be sticking out and moved.
- **Commissioner McCoy:** No report.
- **Commissioner Patel:** No report.
- **Commissioner Sylvester:** No report.
- **Commissioner Wollerman:** No report.

OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Jacobson Prairie Subdivision:** *Commissioner Patel made a motion to recommend that the Planning Commission accept fees in lieu of land for the proposed Jacobsen Prairie Subdivision. Commissioner Sylvester seconded the motion.*

Director Geiser reviewed the proposed area in which a developer is hoping to build the Jacobsen Prairie Subdivision. The new subdivision would be located west of Irish Road and north of Jacobsen Road. Director Geiser explained that with any new residential development, the Park Commission makes a recommendation to the Village's Planning Commission as to whether or not the Village should request new park land in the development area or request fees in lieu of new parkland. Based on the close proximity to O'Hauser Park and minimal pedestrian/bicycle barriers, staff's recommendation would be for the Park Commission to request fees in lieu of land for the development.

The motion was put to a vote and all were in favor, motion carried unanimously.

- B. Financial Assistance Request:** *Commissioner Patel made a motion to approve the Financial Assistance Request as submitted. Commissioner Kurer seconded the motion.*

Director Geiser reviewed the application in which assistance was requested for one spring program and one summer program. Our standard policy has been to approve 50% of the program fees and in this case the total would be \$31 worth of assistance.

The motion was put to a vote and all were in favor, motion carried unanimously.

- C. O'Hauser Beginner Course Fee:** *Commissioner McCoy made a motion to make the beginner disc golf course at O'Hauser Park a free-to-play course. Commissioner Otto seconded.*

Director Geiser indicated the new beginner course at O'Hauser Park is nearing completion. Due to the course being a beginner course and with notable differences from the existing 18-hole course, staff feels it would be beneficial to make the beginner course a free-to-play course rather than having users pay-to-play like they currently have to at the existing course. This new beginner course is geared towards the novice player with fewer obstacles, temporary rubber tee pads and shorter fairways. John Terlap feels the new course is segregated enough, that with clear signage it shouldn't be a problem to have a fee for the main course and not charge for the new course. Staff also spoke to Chief Blashka and he indicated it would not be an issue if we had separate rules for the two courses.

Commissioner Beson noted that many players will most likely begin playing at the easier/beginner course and will eventually move on to the more difficult course and become paying users.

The motion was put to a vote and all were in favor, motion carried unanimously.

- D. Appleton Little League Dug Out Renovation:** *Motion by Commissioner Patel to approve Appleton Little League's request to update the Palisades Park dugouts so long as the aforementioned conditions are met. Commissioner Sylvester seconded.*

Director Geiser reviewed a request made by Appleton Little League to raise the height of the dugouts at Palisades Park. There is a local masonry contractor that is willing to perform the work at a reduced rate. The club was hoping to have the work completed in May however it was noted there are still parts of a 2021 concession stand improvement project that have not been completed. Director Geiser indicated that once that project is officially complete, staff would be willing to recommend approval of the proposed project so long as certain conditions were met. Conditions noted include:

- Complete, and receive approval from Fox Crossing staff, on any remaining work from the 2021 concession stand project prior to starting the proposed dugout project.
- Provide proof of insurance naming the Village of Fox Crossing as an additional insured on the contractor's policy prior to starting the proposed dugout project.
- Incur all project related expenses. Fox Crossing will not be making a financial contribution to this project. The only exception being, Fox Crossing would be willing to purchase the paint needed to update the dugouts (with the painting work to be completed by ALL).
- If there is any structural or turf damage that occurs when completing the project, restoration work must be completed by Appleton Little League and/or their contractor.

The motion was put to a vote and all were in favor, motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Otto motioned, seconded by Commissioner Sylvester, to adjourn the Park Commission meeting at 7:03PM. Motion carried unanimously.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2024, at the Municipal Complex, 2000 Municipal Drive, Neenah, at 6:00PM.

Sincerely,



Jim Beson

Chairperson - Village of Fox Crossing Park Commission

