

CITY OF MANITOWOC
PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Monday, February 3, 2014 at 5:00 pm
City Hall - East Hearing Room

Members: Jason Sladky – Chairman, Dave Soeldner, Tyler Martell, Mike Howe

Staff: Dan Koski, Chad Scheinoha, Denise Larson, Jim Muenzenmeyer

Guests: Ald. Eric Sitkiewitz, Ald. McMeans, Ald. Hennessey, Randy Heinzen, Tony Fodden, Amy Fricke-Weigel ~ Friends of the Aquatic Center, Wade Marks ~ The NEW OM

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Chairman Sladky.

Approval of Minutes

Ald. Soeldner made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 6, 2013 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Ald. Howe. The motion carried.

Discussion & possible action regarding concession stand arrangement with the Manitowoc Youth Baseball Association and field maintenance at Citizen Park

There was a discussion of a proposed new concession stand at Citizen Park. The MYBA would like to take care of their four fields and concession stand and keep all of the revenue from the concession stand sales. The concession stand, however, would compete with the one at the Aquatic Center. The group would also like to keep some equipment in a parking stall area inside of the Citizen Park Recreation Center. The City would be responsible for taking care of the garbage and diamond lights. Ald. Soeldner made a motion to approve the site plan as presented. It was seconded by Ald. Howe. The motion carried.

Discussion & possible action regarding Friends of the Manitowoc Family Aquatic Center requests for improvements, including a proposal for a mini golf course at Citizen Park

Amy Fricke-Weigel said that last year the Friends group paid for a study to determine the feasibility of a 360 degree slide, and they found out that it was not going to be a good fit. The goal of the group was to keep families and kids in the area of the Aquatic Center and create capital improvements there. They hired a company to do a conceptual design for an 18-hole mini-golf course, which would be located near the MFAC concession stand in order to utilize a worker there. The Friends would pay for everything, including security cameras, up front, and then hand it off to the City to maintain. The course would be lit and could be open before and after the MFAC season.

The course would be as maintenance-free as possible. There will be little grass to cut and many of the features would be landscaping items. One person should be able to run it when it is open, unless it is very busy. Daily maintenance will include blowing off debris and leaves. Year-end maintenance would include using a pump to blow out water features.

If approved, construction could begin at the end of May or June and would take eight weeks to complete. Amy suggested doing two tournaments a year where those funds could be used for course maintenance/improvements. J. Muenzenmeyer will compile a rough estimate of the maintenance costs with approximate hours of usage. Ald. McMeans would like to see the replacement cost and schedule for features in this new facility. Ald. Martell believes that it is a great feature to be added for teenagers or adults who do not have children. The course will work nicely with the new diamonds as well. The committee will meet again in two weeks after more information has been gathered.

Discussion & possible action on guidelines for sculptures along the Mariners Trail

Two lines were added indicating that the Friends of the Mariners Trail do not govern the land use rights along the trail and the City has the final determination on the sculptures. A motion was made by Ald. Soeldner to approve the plan. It was seconded, and the motion carried.

Discussion & possible action on proposed trail additions at Camp Vits Park

Wade Marks did a recap of the activities at Camp Vits in 2013 and handed out information with pictures of the volunteer activities, riders, and trail. In 2014, the group would like to plant cedar trees near the entrance of the park to give the neighbors privacy and define where the border of the park is located and complete a beautification program to fix existing user erosion. To-date, the trail is two miles long and 18-24" wide. The single track keeps it minimally invasive. They would like to add to the trail to bring it down near the river as they have had several requests to go there, and there is currently no safe way to get there without trespassing on a neighbor's property. The addition to the trail will also open up the area for hikers and bird watchers and may give people the opportunity to do some fishing there as well. The area is a wetland area, but as long as there is not a lot of fill or root cutting, etc. in the area, which may create an erosion issue, then a permit is not needed.

The Parks forestry staff will be checking the trail in spring for different species of vegetation that may come out. After this inventory of what is on the trail, the committee will address the request to add to the trail. The group's request will be kept on file until the inspection is complete. D. Koski will check into potential DNR grants for bulk restrooms for the area.

Discussion & possible action on request from the Event Coordinator of the Franciscan Center for a donation from the Manitowoc Family Aquatic Center for their Starlit Gala in spring to benefit their Music Education & Performance Center and on a request from the President of Saints Mary & Michael Home & School Association for a donation from the Manitowoc Family Aquatic Center for their raffle/auction at their annual Winterfest event on February 22, 2014 which helps to support their school

Ald. Soeldner made a motion to deny these requests. It was seconded by Ald. Howe. Motion carried.

Discussion & possible action on proposed 2014 meeting schedule for the Parks & Recreation Committee

The Committee decided to change the meeting time to 5:15 p.m. going forward.

Discussion & possible action on changes to the Street Tree Planting Policy

The Municipal Tree Commission recommended some changes to the policy, including moving ash trees to the list of trees that are not recommended for planting in the terrace. A motion was made by Ald. Soeldner to approve the changes. It was seconded by Ald. Howe. Motion carried.

Discussion & possible action regarding programming and marketing ideas for the Manitowoc Family Aquatic Center

D. Larson met with the Friends group, and they are planning two special needs days. The back to the summer preview will be Sunday, June 1st which will include special giveaways. Adult swim lessons will be offered again after several years. There will be several Tuesdays where there will adult-only hours.

Discussion & possible action regarding special event fee and waiver requests

No discussion

Discussion & possible action regarding committee & council vision for the Lincoln Park Zoo

No discussion

Discussion & possible action regarding request to pay for upgrades to the birds of prey exhibit from donation tube monies

No discussion

Discussion & possible action regarding Aquatic Center operations and planning

No discussion

Discussion & possible action regarding the current agreement with the Friends of the Aquatic Center

No discussion

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ald. Howe and seconded by Ald. Soeldner at 6:10 p.m. The motion carried.

DL/smsr