

CITY OF MENASHA
Parks and Recreation Board
Koslo Park
September 21, 2021
MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chr. Dick Sturm at 6:00pm.

B. ROLL CALL/EXCUSED ABSENCES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chr. Dick Sturm, Brian Adesso, Rachael Dowling, Ald. Ted Grade, Tom Marshall, Lisa Hopwood, Tim Hale

OTHERS PRESENT: PRD Megan Sackett, DDMO Thad Brown, Residents Cindy Strong (374 Winnebago Ct.), Peter Pfundtner (374 Winnebago Ct.) and Melissa Ray (346 Winnebago Ave.), Alderperson Rebecca Nichols (402 Elm St.)

C. PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE

Pfundtner expressed his concerns about vandalism occurring in Smith Park. Strong noted her concern about the vandalism, particularly to the trees and encourages people to call the police should they see something. Ray noted an uptick in mischievous behavior and would like to see a reduced amount of vandalism at Smith Park. Ray noted she spoke with Director Sackett on how to curb the vandalism. Ray also noted appreciation for the grounds crew at the park.

Deputy Director Brown outlined the different incidents that happened at Smith Park noting that most were small incidents with minimal clean up or damage.

D. MINUTES TO APPROVE

1. **Minutes of the August 10, 2021 Park Board Meeting:** Moved by Ald. T. Grade, seconded by L. Hopwood to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2021 Park Board meeting. Motion carried.

E. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

1. **Additional Flag at Isle of Valor:** The VFW Nicolet Post 2126 submitted a letter requesting permission to place a flag in honor of the Space Force (now recognized as a branch of the military) at the Isle of Valor. No cost will be incurred by the City. Discussion ensued with Hopwood expressing concerns about what they represent and how it aligns with other branches of the military that are represented at the Isle of Valor. T. Grade moved to grant permission to place a flag in honor of Space Force, seconded by T. Marshall. Motion carried 6-1 with L. Hopwood voting nay. Director Sackett noted she would bring additional information back to the Board to address L. Hopwood's questions.
2. **Removal of Ash Trees in Resthaven Cemetery:** Deputy Director Brown indicated City Arborist Alex Hartzheim has identified twenty-four ash trees within Resthaven Cemetery. Of those 24 trees, 10 have been deemed hazardous and will need to come down. Another 4 are not dangerous, but they are not healthy. Brown noted it would be easier to remove all at the same time and replant new ones later. Staff requested input from the Board on the four trees that are showing signs of being unhealthy and seeking approval to remove. Chairman Sturm noted the removal follows the EAB Management plan. After discussion, L. Hopwood moved to remove all fourteen (14) unhealthy ash trees at Resthaven Cemetery, seconded by T. Marshall. Motion carried.

F. REPORT OF DEPARTMENT HEAD / STAFF

1. **Park, Pool and Forestry Report**

DDMO Brown reported on the following projects:

- Jefferson Park Shorewall: 460 feet of shorewall concrete has been poured at Jefferson Park, will continue with another 400 feet and try to get Peanut Island. Stone has been removed and black dirt has been in placed where the old trail was removed.
- Trail sealing is about 75% complete (Manitowoc to Midway, Oneida to Barker Farm Park, Trestle to Broad/Abby to Fox)
- Vandalism: Smith Park – the fire extinguisher was discharged; however, there was no evidence of any fire started in bathroom. The restroom doors are now being locked earlier at 8-8:30pm and nothing has happened for 2-3 weeks; Hart Park had a few drawings under the shelter, and Jefferson had a soap dispenser ripped from the wall and toilet paper strewn about. Sackett talked about social media challenge that is encouraging youth to vandalize.
- Barker Basketball Court: Concrete is in. Will be bringing in black dirt and seed at Barker Farm to fill in around the basketball court.
- Koslo Park: Will wait to do the Koslo Park drain tile as it is less invasive to the field to wait until the ground has firmed up some. Replaced cracked concrete at shelter and will be working on the fascia boards at the shelter.

2. **Department Report**

PRD Sackett reported on the following:

- The Jefferson Park playground survey will launch by the end of the week to get initial feedback from community. It will be active through October 8.
- The N-M Sewerage Commission has approached the department regarding future growth and a land swap opportunity at Shepard Park.
- Lawson Canal: Staff is waiting to hear if we will be a grant recipient of the Stewardship Grant which is a major funding source for this project. Discussions are active in the meantime to continue next steps including engineering and design and future grant applications.
- The Koslo Park Hall of Fame board has been installed! The Twins are thankful for our willingness to recognize, and the MACs have reached out asking about placing people from their organization on the board.
- The Racine St. Bridge will close September 27 to vehicles, but will remain open to navigation through October.
- Menasha has completed a Bike Friendly City application. We have been invested in the biking infrastructure since 2015 and we would like to spotlight those investments.
- The Recreation guide which will include Fall and Winter programming has come out after a printer delay. Have seen good registration thus far. Spring/Summer guide will come out early spring.
- Hometown Halloween Event will be held on October 28 (is now a Parks and Rec event after having been part of the Farm Fresh Market)
- Last year the Pumpkin Hunt changed format due to Covid, but we are holding onto that format since it gets people out to visit more of the parks.
- Held the final Brews on 'Bago beer garden on September 9 and a wrap-up committee meeting will be held in the coming weeks.
- Fundraiser with Papa Johns: What started out as a partnership with Papa John's (pizza) for the Grunski Runski, has evolved to our department being the recipient of their fundraising efforts. When patrons order from Papa John's and mention the promo code "Park20", we will receive 20% of those sales to put toward the new playground equipment at Jefferson Park.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY MATTER LISTED ON THE AGENDA

Alderson R. Nichols reiterated her concerns about vandalism at Smith Park and thanked staff for keeping the lines of communication open regarding the recurring vandalism. Nichols also brought up accessibility at Curtis Reed Square during the Farm Fresh Market that was noted in the Committee on Aging minutes. Nichols also noted she would like to see the Jefferson Park playground be a premier place that is inclusive for all ages and abilities.

Board Chair D. Sturm asked that the Lawson Canal progress be placed on the agenda for the October meeting. He also mentioned that there was discussion last year regarding the boat launch at Jefferson Park. Staff will check with Corey on where we are at with engineering a re-route of the Jefferson road and separately look into grant money.

B. Adesso inquired about the Appleton water line through the Conservancy. Staff was notified that the bids were opened but the project will not move forward at this time.

T. Grade asked what came of the football league that was supposed to be utilizing Clovis Grove athletic fields this fall. PRD Sackett responded that they cancelled due to low enrollment, but may try again for a spring session.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by L. Hopwood, seconded by T. Hale to adjourn at 6:54pm. Motion carried.