

A meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was held on Thursday, February 19, 2009 at 6:30 pm at the Municipal Service Center, 925 S. Sixth Street, De Pere. Members present: Citizen Members: Sue Schinkten, Bill Volpano and Rod Kowalczyk. Absent, George Brown. Also present: Alderpersons Van Vonderen, Donovan, Boyd, Director Marty Kosobucki.

1. Minutes of Board of Park Commissioners meeting. (Attachment)  
Marty Kosobucki asked that Item #2 be amended to remove "the minutes". James Boyd moved to approve the minutes for January 15, 2009 with amendment; motion seconded by Mike Donovan. Motion passed.
2. Minutes of Commission on Aging (Attachment)  
Sue Schinkten moved to approve the minutes; motion seconded by Rod Kowalczyk. Motion passed.

3. General discussion related to Dog Park (Attachment)  
Don Melichar provided a written plan and map, which were followed in a Power Point Presentation put together by volunteers. Sara Cornelissen assisted with the presentation as they explained construction and fund raising options the committee provided.

After much discussion in reference to the plan, Marty Kosobucki thanked the committee for all the hard work and commended them on the plan they put together. Members asked the Committee to review the plan further and bring recommendations for policies and procedures to the next meeting. Motion made by Rod Kowalczyk; seconded by Kathy Van Vonderen to bring this item back to the March Board of Park Commissioners Meeting. Motion passed.

4. General discussion on user group funding (Attachment)  
Motion made by Sue Schinkten; motion seconded by Mike Donovan to open meeting to public. Motion passed.

Marty Kosobucki explained that this topic has been part of various discussions at budget time. The Park Board has been asked to bring a proposal to the City Council explaining the need and importance of future funding and the impact it has on user groups.

De Pere Girls Softball Association  
No one in attendance.

Kelly Danen Youth Baseball  
No one in attendance.

De Pere Select Soccer  
No one in attendance.

DADS Pony League, DADS Babe Ruth League, DADS Youth Baseball  
Larry Lueck, Chairman for DADS addressed the board explaining each program, enrollment numbers, fees and field use in great detail. There was considerable discussion regarding the growth in these programs and the continued need for these programs in the area.

#### De Pere Rapides Soccer (Attachment)

A citizen representing George Ostrander presented the attached letter, which outlines the recreational soccer program. Discussion followed in regard to the program and fees.

#### De Pere Youth Hockey

Eric Berg and Dan Reynolds represented this group. They explained that this is the most costly sport as the cost of ice and referees is quite high. They have had no fee increase for two years. Participation in hockey has stayed the same over the last three years. Keeping costs down for those who cannot afford Club Teams allows kids from all schools to play. No out of district fees are charged.

After further discussion, Marty Kosobucki suggested that User Group funding be referred back to staff and one or two members from the Park Board to come up with a proposal as to how the money benefits the residents and participants of De Pere. Mike Donovan and Rod Kowalczyk offered to assist. James Boyd asked how the allocations were decided originally. Ernie Christus was also present, and stated that he believed it was based on participation as well as cost of equipment, etc.

Motion was made by Mike Donovan; seconded by Sue Schinkten to bring meeting back to order (7:27PM). Motion passed.

Motion by Rod Kowalczyk; second by Mike Donovan to refer this item back to staff and participating board members for recommendation to present to the Board of Public Works Commissioners at the March meeting. Motion passed.

5. Discussion on Ice Arena lease and funding a feasibility study for a second sheet of ice at the Ice Arena

Marty Kosobucki gave a summary of last month's tour of the ice arena and discussion with management and user groups at that time. He explained that our current contract with Ice Time Management expires in December 2010. Marty Kosobucki recommended that the City should extend the current lease for 18 months which would allow for termination of the lease to be done in the off season as recommended by George Brown at the last meeting. Also explained was the need to do a feasibility study for a second sheet of ice if we are going to extend contract an additional 10 years. Marty Kosobucki stated that "The study would be a Financial Feasibility Study, not design of what you would put in there, how many seats, that would come in there somewhat, but it is really to determine the users out there and the potential of use and if it could financially support itself is the study we are looking at." The rough estimate for the cost would range from \$10,000 to \$20,000. Two recommendations were made by Marty Kosobucki: 1) Extend the lease 18 months and if approved forward to Finance and Council, etc. 2) Conduct a feasibility study using Park Land Dedication funds and any contributions we can also ask user groups or stake holders if they have an interest in participating.

Mike Donovan moved to open the meeting to the public (7:34PM); motion seconded by Rod Kowalczyk. Motion passed.

Carl Magnuson addressed the Commission and feels User Groups and Board of Park Commissioners should discuss where the use for the Ice Arena is going in the future. He feels that rather than spending money on a feasibility study, the User Groups should be able to give answers needed. Dan Reynolds, Eric Berg participated in the discussion along with Greg Smith, which included East and West De Pere School hockey users also.

Marty Kosobucki advised we need to know if Ice Time Management is interested in extending the lease before discussion regarding a feasibility study is pursued. The extension period would give the City time to research the possibility of adding a second sheet of the ice some time in the future. The council would require a feasibility study to approve a second sheet of ice. Facility renovations in the near future are needed and costly, and need to be done based on the number of sheets of ice.

Carl Magnuson stated that Time Ice Management would accept the contract extension. He stated that he would like to have discussion with user groups and the city to put numbers and data together and put everything on the table to see if it is worth going with the study and if user groups are willing to move forward with the study. Diane Magnuson thanked Marty Kosobucki for his explanation of why the study is necessary and that she also now understands why the city would require a study to be done so all aspects are taken into consideration.

James Boyd moved to go back to regular session (7:43PM); seconded by Rod Kowalczyk. Motion passed.

Motion was made by James Boyd to recommend to Finance Committee extension of Ice Time Management Lease 18 months; Motion seconded by Kathy Van Vonderen. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Sue Schinkten to move forward with Feasibility Study on the future of De Pere Ice Facility; motion seconded by Kathy Van Vonderen. Bill Volpano questioned spending money on this study when the Mayor isn't committed to a second sheet of ice. Marty explained that if done through funds other than city money such as fund raising, it could happen and that private funding is a possibility as it was for Cornerstone. Discussion continued on the necessity and life of a study in this regard. Motion passed with Bill Volpano voting nay.

6. Review and action on Teen Advisory Packet (Attachment)

Marty Kosobucki asked if anyone had any questions, that this was ready to go out to the schools and publicize this. Discussion followed regarding the age group. Marty stated it was open to high school age students, that this has already been approved by council and is being presented tonight for approval of the materials for the application process.

Kathy Van Vonderen recommended that items # 2 and #3 be placed on the last sheet of the application and also state something to the effect of : "I have read, agree and understand the roles and responsibilities..." and have a signature line for them to sign. Marty Kosobucki stated that he does not know. Marty stated that this is not a job application and our Human Resources Director looked at it and put her blessing on it. Marty said he can certainly check. Kathy Van Vonderen feels that just checking yes or no could be left blank and there is no signature required. Marty will check with our Human Resources Director to pull #3 off and put it at the bottom of the Roles and Responsibilities page.

7. Review and acceptance of donations over \$250. (Attachment)

Kathy Van Vonderen moved to approve acceptance of donations. Seconded by James Boyd. Motion passed.

8. Request funding for pool consultant and drain work at VFW and Legion pools to have them meet standards set forth by the Virginia Graeme Baker (VGB) Act. (Attachment)  
Ernie Christus, Park & Recreation Supervisor explained how this Act came about and the requirements of all pools meeting certain drain criteria. Ernie also stated fact that we were not aware of the mandated pool consultant costs until recently. Mike Donovan moved to accept the low proposal from Pool Works, not to exceed \$6080; seconded by Rod Kowalczyk. Motion passed.

9. Review and consider acquisition of Neighborhood Electric Vehicle (NEV). (Attachment)  
Marty Kosobucki summarized by informing members that in lieu of replacing Truck 17, a one ton plow truck, we have been allotted \$30,000 for the acquisition of a Neighborhood Electric Vehicle which run on battery power only and have a maximum speed of 25 mph to be used (generally) for seasonal employees. Because of allotted amount of money and working with perspective dealers, we would be able to purchase two NEV's for \$30,000 and highly recommends we do this as we would then have two vehicles saving money on fuel. As of now there are five of these vehicles on the market. Marty would not recommend purchasing two of the same vehicle at this time because this is new technology and has not been around for a long period of time. Two would be preferred, but not of the same kind and feels if we diversify ourselves we would be in better shape.

Marty Kosobucki provided a Power Point Presentation on the vehicles along with his written recommendation, which is attached. A lengthy discussion on each vehicle, including, but not limited to technology, durability, maintenance, physical review of vehicles, warranty, safety, battery life, battery replacement cost and square footage carrying capacity. Bill Volpano asked why the City is not considering regular trucks that could be used all year and if the NEV's have been collision tested and Rod Kowalczyk asked how these vehicles feel for safety compared to a truck. Marty advised that we are being environmentally conscious and that these vehicles feel significantly different than a large truck, but not a lot different from a small pick up truck as far as space goes. Marty also advised that Truck #17 remains parked most of the time when seasonal employees are not here and is used about six months of the year.

Rod Kowalczyk moved to have staff physically examine other Neighborhood Electric Vehicles, obtain information on square footage of bed area, battery life and battery replacement costs as well as warranty to be provided at the March meeting; second by Mike Donovan. Bill Volpano also requested information be brought to the March meeting regarding hybrid trucks. Motion passed.

10. Review and consider acquisition of wide area mower. (Attachment)  
Marty Kosobucki advised that Reinders Toro was the only company to meet specifications. Reinders have indicated they would provide a used hard shell canopy and an extra set of blades bringing the total cost to \$45,000. Mike Donovan moved to accept bid from Reinders Toro for \$45,000; motion seconded by Kathy Van Vonderen. Motion passed.
11. Public Comment Period.  
No one present at this time.

12. Future Agenda Items.

Rod Kowalczyk advised that he will be on vacation for regularly scheduled meeting in April. Sue Schinkten and Marty Kosobucki stated that they will not be able to attend the meeting scheduled for March 16. After discussion, the following dates have been scheduled for future meetings:

March 12, 2009

April 23, 2009

13. Staff Updates.

a. Donations (Attachments)

Marty Kosobucki presented request for approval to accept donations from De Pere Optimists Club and De Pere Area Men's Club for the De Pere Community Center. Park Board moved to approve acceptance of donations.

b. Capital Project.

Marty advised that these were the NEV and Mower, previously discussed.

c. De Pere Parks – Reach Out (Community Center)

Marty Kosobucki updated members that a meeting has been scheduled at the Community Center in May in which user groups will be invited to provide input. He also advised that he will be writing an article in reference to the Reach Out Program, which will be part of the De Pere Opinion Page of the Green Bay Press Gazette.

d. Fee increase to include convenience fee will go into effect next brochure.

Marty Kosobucki advised new fees will be listed in the next brochure, which will eliminate convenience fee.

e. Brochure/registration.

Next brochure is in progress.

f. Summer Day Camp registration.

Marty Kosobucki advised that registration has occurred and West De Pere is full and has a waiting list and East De Pere has a number of weeks full.

Rod Kowalczyk moved to adjourn the meeting; Kathy Van Vonderen seconded the motion. The meeting ended at 8:45 pm.

Karen Hornick, Secretary