



**TWO
RIVERS**
WISCONSIN

ADVISORY RECREATION BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 6:00 PM

Koska Room - Community House 1520 17th
Street, Two Rivers, WI 54241

MINUTES

1. ROLL CALL

Board Members: Daniel Cortte, Brian Gallagher, Travis Kadow, Erin Lamal, Robert Reed Jr., Jason Sharping, Dorothy Tinkham Delo, Adam Wachowski-Council Rep, Jeff Dahlke-Council Rep

PRESENT

Council Rep Adam Wachowski
Robert Reed
Erin Lamal
Jeff Dahlke
Jason Scharping
Travis Kadow

ABSENT

Brian Gallagher

Dorothy Tinkham Delo
Daniel Cortte

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Motion made by Travis Kadow, Seconded by Jason Scharping.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Giant Cottonwood tree was dangerous and needed to be removed from Neshotah Park. Cost was around \$4-\$5000 from Chris Lewis which was quite reasonable compared to other estimates.

4. COMMENTS FOR THE PUBLIC (Limited to 3 minutes each)

None

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. City Budget Implications

- 1) Staffing
- 2) Operating
- 3) Capital

B. Tree Inventory Preliminary Results

A. City Budget Implications

1) Staffing

- 15% increase to health insurance costs (15 full time staff)

2) Operating

- Had to increase budget for water expenses to accommodate for increased usage, changes in meter fees (due to seasonal operation - turned on & off), and 8% overall increase in costs.
- Increased in amount of time that we need to care for the parks/beach, cemeteries, recreation & community house - we are doing more so costs are more. More events, more beach, new central park area all has increased hours needed to maintain.
 - Hoping to increase seasonals pay grade by \$1/hour and number of hours available for them to work. They are a skilled group of retired guys that are well worth it with the knowledge they bring.
 - Hoping to expand summer recreation support.
 - Hoping to create a higher pay rate for weekends - park closers, trash pickup. Friday nights and weekends are hard to find people to work those shifts.
- Increased subscription for beach alert systems
- Upgraded to Civic Rec program that most other Parks & Recreation departments use.

3) Capital

Kayak Launch - Still waiting on DNR Grant that will match city dollars

Community House - 17th Street Door needs to be replaced, Senior Center Fridge Compressor needs to be replaced, updated tables and chairs, and new golf simulator.

Senior Center - Friends of the Senior Center help a lot with the improvements needed at the Senior Center. They also sponsored Santa for Cool City Christmas.

Neshotah Park - need speed table and crossing area for parking close to beach and new park area. Also working on a plan for costs (about \$30,000) to improve the Beach concession stand and bathrooms.

Washington Park - needs new picnic tables, some native plantings to deter geese, and something new for the play equipment.

Vietnam - Baseball fields

Maintenance Equipment - ex: larger lawn mowers, new rake/beach goomer, compact loader.

B. Tree Inventory Preliminary Results

- Last inventory that was done was in 1997 and its on paper cards.
- 3460 trees in parks (that we mow around) and terrace.

433 tagged for removal, 113 need pruning, 284 ash that will need to be removed with 37 having active infection

- Partnered with electric department on topping off some of the dead trees while they are pruning for the season.
- Maples are doing poorly - thinks that there is a iron deficiency.
- Neshotah, Zander, & cemeteries need a lot of TLC.
- In future need better soil for new plantings.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Parks and Open Space Survey
- B. Parks and Open Space Next Steps

A. Parks and Open Space Survey

- Received 267 responses
- Need to get more responses. Re-post on Facebook.

B. Parks and Open Space Next Steps

January - Discuss take aways from final survey results. Hoping to get a guest speaker at Board Meeting.

February - Discuss full draft of Open Space Plan. Post online for for public review and feedback.

March - Last opportunity for public feedback.

April - Approval of Open Space Plan.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

None

8. DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

- A. WPRA 2023 Park Design Award
- B. Ice Rink and Skate Rental Operation
- C. Cool City Christmas
- D. 2024 Special Event Calendar
- E. Retirements and Staff Changes
- F. Program Updates

A. We were awarded the WPRA 2023 Park Design Award for Central park!

B. Ice Rink and Skate Rental Operation

- 140 rentals and \$700 revenue
- Expanded hours and Sundays per community outreach.

- No shoes on the rink - please wear booties

- Straw bales covered with red & green bags as temporary remedy for barriers and avoiding straw on the ice.

C. Cool City Christmas

- Free ice skate rentals per sponsorship by Community First Credit Union. 55+ vendors. Lots of free stuff - gift wrapping, face painting, toy making, smores.

D. 2024 Special Event Calendar

- Rebecca has MANY events already planned for 2024, and made a city google calendar to coordinate all that is going on throughout the city. Community culture brings in tourism.

E. Retirements and Staff Changes

- Linda Sheeter - retired mid - November, Tammy Stadler retiring Dec 22, 2023 after 30 years!

F. Program Updates

- Youth Sports - Kenny - Will be starting middle school soccer league, adding more baseball/softball, and expanding swim lessons.

- Senior Center - Heather - Silver Sneakers certified, 2 trust cars running all the time, Thanksgiving Meal had 124 people served.

9. ITEMS FOR FUTURE ADVISORY RECREATION BOARD MEETINGS

Benches - were made by Formrite - possible poor quality welds on some of them.

Building use - People in the building should be here only with a "purpose". Had fires set in bathrooms. How can we deter this?

10. NEXT MEETING - Wednesday, January 10, 2024, 6:00pm

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Travis Kadow, Seconded by Jason Scharping.