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**Waupun Recreation Board**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Monday, July 22, 2019**

The Waupun Recreation Board met on Monday, July 22, 2019 at 6:00pm at the Waupun Senior Center, located at 301 E. Main Street, Waupun.

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Mike Matoushek, Bobbi Vossekuil, Larry Sullivan, Amy Ewert, Jan Harmsen

**Members Absent:** Randy Armga, Beth Lienard

**Other Present:** Jeff Daane, Kathy Schlieve, Rachel Kaminski, Julie Nickel, Jason Westphal, Jacob Van Den Berg, Loren Greenfield, Amber Gathney, Liz Patrykus, Doug Mock, Kathy Larsen, Adam Nisler, Justin Schmidt, Jason Steinbach

**PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE RECREATION BOARD**

1. Facility Usage Fees and City Contributions- Youth Leagues of Waupun
  - a. Doug Mock - Disappointment in tennis court conditions at Dodge Park and West End Park. Please consider making a basketball court with lights on tennis court area. Other topic discussed was possible changes to youth programming in Waupun. Respect for parents/volunteers that run their own programs in return to support youth sports and youth sports facilities. City charging user fee to offset the cost. Nice facilities mean nice community like the youth baseball complex. In support of the revenue benefit to the City. He appreciates the facility. Also would appreciate a new Senior Center facility. In support of this. All age support of all programs. Maybe a referendum is the answer for a new facility that supports all ages. Please do not charge youth organization a fee to use facilities. In many cases, youth sports are already raising money to support program and facility needs. Youth involvement is best. Involvement is the way to increase participation. The most ugly gym, field, diamond or court is an empty one.
  - b. Jason Steinbach, Waupun Little League Vice President – Handout on Little League Responses was passed around the table. Incurring more cost means kids will not play and miss opportunities. Sports keep kids active and involvement in a positive way and out of trouble. Positive situations are created rather than negative. Youth is the future and Waupun has done a phenomenal job of getting kids involved in positive things. Volunteer based organizations help this. Incurred costs can lose volunteers or support. I do not want to lose volunteers or parent ran organizations. General discussion on how to find common ground between volunteers/parents organization and city. How can this work for everybody? General discussion on public input importance to see what can be done in the future.
  - c. Justin Schmidt, President of Waupun Little League –Little League currently has 14 board member positions, 1 paid position, 4 nonvoting board members and 525 kids in Little League. 360 Waupun kids. Other kids come from Cambria and Markesan. There are 7 travel teams with multiple tournaments, 47 total combine teams up to junior division. Paid out \$16,000 for umpire and \$30,000 went back into the baseball complex. Some reimbursement from DPW for repairs and maintenance. Little League works with DPW and CWC to split costs. It would be additional approximately \$51/kid to cover the cost pf all Little League expenses with more increased fees for Markesan and Cambria participants. Little League does supply equipment to kids who

cannot afford it. Out of town kids pay less to play and do not have to do volunteer hours. Out of town kids fee is part of school fees.

- d. Jason Westphal, Waupun Youth Softball - Every dime that comes into program goes into facility or equipment. No outsourcing happens. The money stays in Waupun. DPW prepares fields Monday – Thursday. Youth Softball has purchased the equipment and supplies for field preparation. DPW provides field preparation labor, winterization of equipment and equipment storage. Working together has always been the policy. This is a quality of life situation. Tennis courts and horseshoe pit have lights. Swimming pool in a quality of life benefit that loses money. Little league and youth softball already has fees. Room tax dollars comes from youth sports tournaments and activities. Sponsorship for legion tournament is youth sports dollars. Volunteers have been asked to produce with lack of city support in money and youth sports grants. Fees are not being charged at the Senior Center for exercise classes. It must be fair for all ages to participate in activities.
- e. Amber Gathney, Waupun Youth Softball Vice President - I am a 15 year volunteer and discouraged to hear that this is happening. Will the City be hiring a position to track diamond time? Who is going to monitor this? I do understand the problem with outsiders coming in. We need the competition and they spend money in our community. If we did not have players from Waupun then we would traveling multiple nights per week. Laconia and Ripon will not come if fees are higher. No one will come to tournaments if fees increase. Waupun is not a very wealthy community. We will price ourselves out of sports and opportunities for kids if additional fees are charged. We are lucky to have volunteers right now. Outsiders coming into the city are spending money in Waupun. The school district uses the facility too. Youth softball provides scholarships and usage for school. Do we need the money that bad? What is the money going to be used for? General discussion followed stating that this meeting is for informational purposes only. The idea for subcommittee was also discussed to meet and create a policy. A subcommittee could work together to sit down and make a plan. Other discussion on need for subcommittee. Why would there be a need to form another committee when the Recreation Board can do the work that needs to be done? We can work with each youth sports organization within our board. School district example of subcommittee. Rec Board can determine the result and recommend to council for the final outcome. Discussion followed about complicated process, up against levy limits, and very limited revenue. Fire Department in need of a new ladder truck example. City is hitting the ceiling to make revenue. Fees can help with that. Pressed by outside groups and taxpayer equity. How do we pay for assists and what does the city of Waupun taxpayer represent and pay for? Appleton players example of using Waupun baseball fields. Common standardized rules for appropriate costs and how to accommodate. Any kid can come and play. Club players are playing rec and travel leagues who live out of town. Fees collected would go to cost to maintain facilities. Discussion about travel teams bring in revenue. How can we prove that there is an economic impact? Ask hotels. We do not want to travel as a Waupun team, we want them to come to us. Rec league older levels are going to other cities due to price or package price of playing in on multiple teams.
- f. Loren Greenfield, Waupun Hoopsters – In the past, Hoopsters has gone through difficult times with school board resulting in miscommunication. Meeting and getting together was missing in that relationship. Cooperation between both parties was lacking. Developed committees to work together and make decisions. Fees increased drastically. Greenfield encouraged bringing people around the table to talk and grow together. We have great people and great work to do together.
- g. Adam Nisler, Waupun Youth Soccer – Transparency would go a long way so no one is blindsided by a decision. Fees in general will increase due to time. For the City to add on fees already on top of fees that we

already have will hurt some families and kids. Free and reduced lunch discount kids already get to play at half price. Soccer barely breaks even now with current fees being charged. Slowly have increased fee but not drastically. Countless volunteer hours to set up and line the field once a week, checking nets, and field conditions. Additional burden would be put on everyone with user fees. Soccer currently does not have a facility to maintain as their own and sell concessions. They do sell some concessions, but limited items do to what the current situation is. Could be better ways of making revenue in terms of concessions.

- h. Kathy Larson – Soccer – Talked about current financial structure. Soccer could not afford to pay the additional fees or choose not to use a city park.
- i. Julie Nickel, Mayor of Waupun – Stated that many cities around the country are doing different things to make up costs. For example, Arlington, VA does adopt of field program, Vero Beach, FL charges \$30,000 to use community facilities. I have raised two kids in this community. I have been in every one of your shoes. Sat with Doug Mock about 20 years ago talking about this. We have had five Recreation Directors since that. Our goal was to go through Comprehensive Recreation Plan to determine what needs to be looked at and how to fill those needs. It took 10 years to build the Little League Complex. Soccer needs are in the Comprehensive Recreation Plan. School District track example that took 15 years of planning. These things do not happen overnight. Recommendations to Recreation Board make recommendations to Common Council. God bless you for doing what you do. Volksfest is gone after this year due to lack of volunteers. I have to look at \$25,000 to light up a park; we need a better Senior Center, better roads, and so many other things. Youth is keeping the city growing. People raise their kids here. What is there to do in this town? We are trying to keep kids here. The Recreation Plan details how to be ADA compliant. I feel for you, but need a happy medium. How do we do that? Sitting down with each organization? What can we afford? Plan for? What can we save and budget for? Recreation Board guidance is important.

MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETINGS (Recommendation to the Common Council to Approve)

- 2. Recreation Board Minutes -June 24, 2019
  - a. Harmsen motioned for approval, Ewert seconded, all approved

FUTURE MEETINGS AND GATHERING INVOLVING THE RECREATION BOARD

- 3. 2019 Tentative Future Meeting and Gatherings of the Waupun Board of Recreation
  - a. August 26 at 6:00pm will be the next meeting and all other future dates listed in agenda packet

CONSIDERATION - ACTION (Roll Call Vote)

- 4. Establish 2020 Recreation Board Budget Priorities
  - a. Canoe/Kayak Facilities
  - b. Controlling Erosion Around River
  - c. Bike/Walking Trails
  - d. Fishing Pier at Harris Mill Park
- 5. Bean Bag Toss Equipment Rental Agreement and Fee
  - a. Revise maximum number of boards to rent to 20 full sets.
    - i. Harmsen motioned for approval, Matoushek seconded, all approved

6. Consideration for a Recreation Sub-Committee for Development of a Facility Usage Policy
  - a. Amy Ewert – Recommendation for review policy and creation of subcommittee made up of city representatives and representatives from youth sports leagues. Goal is to determine and develop a facility usage policy. Questions followed on number of board members, city employees and alderpersons. Mayor Nickel stated that she is not leaning this way due to confusion. Alderpersons are assigned to city boards as representatives of Common Council. Alderpersons relay the message to Council. Mayor Nickel and Schlieve attend voluntary when asked.
    - i. Ewert first motion for subcommittee to be formed by Mayor Nickel, seconded by none

DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES (No action to be taken)

7. Jacob Van Den Berg, YMCA of Dodge County
  - a. Mock drill was today. Fake drowning and rescue drills. It went well. June was a slower month due to weather. July hot temperatures increased attendance and sold passes. State inspection happened on 7/15/19. Few things to change over the next 30 days. No citations or fines. Swim lessons and water aerobics going well.
8. Rachel Kaminski, Recreation Director
  - a. Kaminski discussed Senior Center attendance in the month of June and Senior Center summer highlights. Park Program event attendance and daily attendance was also discussed. Kaminski thanked Waupun Police Department and Waupun DPW for their help and support of the Bike rodeo and fishing tournament. Sully's Sporting goods was also thanked for their donation of fishing equipment to the fishing tournament. A full Park Program report will be completed at the end of the 2019 summer season. Pool concessions stand was inspected by Fond du Lac County Health Department. Next year, a refrigerator that is stamped "Commercial" must be installed and used.
9. Jeff Daane, Director of Public Works
  - a. Daane discussed items that are done, soon to be completed and items that are being moved on his 5 year park facility plan. He encouraged the board to add or remove items on the list. 5 year facility plan was included in the agenda packet.
10. Kathy Schlieve, Administrator-Economic Development Director
  - a. There needs to be an upfront analysis that has to happen to develop committees and policies. Schlieve is looking for input and what makes sense. Draft policies, public hearings, multiple steps need to be taken before recommendation to Council. This is an advisory committee only. Tried to pull this off the agenda, because this is not ready to. More to come in the future regarding facility usage fees and city contributions. Hired Casey Despres to cover 8 hours a week Senior Center. She is certified to teach senior fitness and will do limited administrative support. Facility Advisory committee retained Cedar Cooperation and will be looking into Senior Center facility replacement. The big goal would be recreational community center for all ages to use that is a multipurpose facility. General discussion on how the various youth sports organization came to the meeting. They were personally invited by Ewert asking for input and more information. Ewert sent budget questions and worksheet to Schlieve on general sense of recreation programming, implantation, city support, contracts, maintenance, season, and other expenses. Schlieve will share worksheet with the Recreation Board.

ADJOURNMENT - Matoushek motioned for approval, Harmsen seconded, all approved

Submitted by Rachel Kaminski