

MINUTES

PARKS, RECREATION AND FORESTRY COMMISSION

April 26, 2016, 5:30 PM, Municipal Building Board Room

PRESENT: Monroe, Webber, Shay, Pakkala, Recknor

ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Dudley, Gorman, Hagen – Village of Mount Horeb

Monroe called the meeting to order at 5:29 pm.

Minutes of the 1/26/16 meeting

Webber moved, Shay seconded to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2016 meeting. Recknor and Monroe abstained. Motion carried.

Consider revising skate park rules to allow bikes at the facility

Gorman informed the Commission that bikes have not been allowed to use the skate park since the park opened in 2008, following a recommendation by the company that built the skate park. Gorman has noticed an increase in the number of bikes using the skate park in the past 2-3 years and both the Parks Dept. and the Police Dept. are unable to provide much enforcement to keep bikes off the facility. Matt Meinholz, a local skateboarder and bike enthusiast, provided a letter to the Commission and was present at the meeting to explain his support for allowing bikes to use the park. In his opinion, bikes with plastic on their pegs do less damage to the concrete than skateboards. Gorman said he checked with the Village's insurance carrier and they do not have any problem allowing bikes to use the skate park. They further stated that if bikes are not allowed, then the Village needs to strictly enforce that rule. Gorman has not noticed any damage to the concrete from bikes or skateboards and recommended changing the rules to allow bikes to use the facility. Hagen recommended stating something in the rules encouraging bikers to use pegs with plastic on them. Recknor moved, Webber seconded to revise the skate park rules to allow bikes. Motion carried.

Consider installing vending machine at the skate park

John Dobbe, owner of Focus Boardshop, presented a proposal to install a vending machine at Sunrise Park that would contain various parts needed for skateboard or scooter repairs and provide some tools necessary to make repairs. Dobbe is building the vending machines and is hoping to install them at several skate parks across the state. The machines would require electricity and would accept credit card or cash payments. He stated that 10% of the profits would go back to the Village of Mount Horeb skate park and 5% would go into a pool for various grant programs. Dobbe said he would pay for the installation of the electrical service if necessary. He anticipates proceeds from \$250-\$1600 per month. He would remove the machines for winter. Monroe asked about concerns with vandalism and Dobbe explained that the machines are built very strong with steel and break proof glass and he does not anticipate any more vandalism than other vending machines. Gorman suggested working out the location and electricity details with Dobbe and bringing a contract/agreement to the next Commission meeting.

Consider concrete pad request from the Summer Frolic Committee

Gorman received a request from Frolic President Rob Boelkes to install a 20'x30' concrete pad at Grundahl Park for the Summer Frolic. It would be located where the concession area is under the beer tent. Boelkes stated that there would be no cost to the Village for the project. Shay moved, Recknor seconded to approve the request. Motion carried.

Consider playground equipment donation from Gerber Leisure Products

Gorman informed the Commission that Bob Szalkowski from Gerber Leisure Products in Mount Horeb has offered to donate a Mobius climbing structure, including installation, at one of the Village parks. Gorman said the Village has a similar Mobius at Hickory Hills Park which has been in place for about 10 years. The Village would be responsible for excavating the 25'x26' area for the equipment and for installing the wood safety surfacing. Gorman estimated this cost at approximately \$700. Gorman suggested installing the equipment, if donated, at either Waltz or Grundahl Park.

Recknor moved, Monroe seconded to accept the donation and to place the equipment at Waltz Park. Motion carried.

Discussion with Chris Kealy regarding hockey rink

Chris Kealy stated that he would like to see more kids playing hockey and said there are some safety concerns with the way the Garfield skating rink is set up. Collisions between hockey players and non-hockey players are his primary concern. He asked if there was another location where we could have a rink set aside for hockey or if the Garfield rink could be modified to accommodate more hockey play and keep the hockey players separate from the non-hockey skaters. Shay asked if portable boards would be an option and Recknor asked if volunteers could help. Kealy thought both would be options.

Gorman gave the Commission some background on the rink situation and stated that he did not want to bring the hockey rink back to Grundahl Park due to the fact that the Parks Dept had re-seeded the area by the volleyball courts to allow more use for soccer and flag football. The ice would kill the grass that they are trying to improve. Gorman also stated that it is much easier for the two staff on the Parks and Forestry Dept. to maintain one rink.

Monroe suggested the hockey group bring a proposal back to the Commission at a later date.

Consider Gator's storage shed at the Aquatic Center

- Dudley reported that the storage room on the west side of the bathhouse was simply getting too full. Most of the space is being occupied by the Gators Swim Team. Dudley and Gorman met with members of the Gators to discuss the Gators building a small storage shed at Boeck's Park to free up space in the pool storage room. The location that both parties thought would work well is adjacent to the parking lot behind the large dumpster. A concrete pad would be poured to support the building. Recknor suggested that the Gators should bring building plans to the Commission at the May meeting.

Recreation Director's Report

- Dudley handed out a written report.

Parks and Forestry Director's Report

- Gorman handed out a written report.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting was set for Tuesday, May 24, 2016 at 5:30 pm.

Adjourn

- Webber moved, Shay seconded to adjourn at 7:00 pm.

Minutes prepared by Jeff Gorman, Parks and Forestry Director.