

PARKS, RECREATION AND FORESTRY BOARD
April 2, 2014

PARK20140402-1
UNAPPROVED

A regular meeting of the Parks, Recreation & Forestry Board, City of Cedarburg, Wisconsin, was held on Wednesday, April 2, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was held at City Hall, W63 N645 Washington Avenue, lower level, room 2.

Meeting was called to order by James Schara at 6:30 pm.

Roll Call: Present - Council Member Mike O'Keefe, Scott King,
James Schara, Dave Polacek, Dick Dieffenbach,
Glenn Herold, John Lerand

Also Present- Director of Parks, Recreation & Forestry Mikko Hilvo
Superintendent of Parks & Forestry Kevin Westphal
Senior Center Director Carol LaFontaine
Parks, Recreation & Forestry Assistant Ellen Beck

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE

James Schara acknowledged that the Park & Forestry Board Agenda was posted and distributed in compliance with the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Dick Dieffenbach, seconded by Council Member Mike O'Keefe, to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2014 meeting. Motion carried without a negative vote.

COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS FROM CITIZENS- None

REPORTS

Senior Center Director Carol LaFontaine distributed newsletter for April. Ms. LaFontaine stated the annual art show is coming up in May. The travel show that was rescheduled for March had a great turn out. Mr. Dieffenbach wondered about membership for the Center. Ms. LaFontaine stated they don't have membership dues but ask for an investment to be made in Senior Center. This brought in about \$2,000 last year, which is about a \$60 average per day.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Review athletic field rental fees; and action thereon

Director Hilvo stated he is waiting for other communities to get back to him about their fees. Senior Center Director LaFontaine said she got Webster courts for their tennis league for the summer. Mr. Schara wondered about the bathrooms that are used there. Director Hilvo said they need to

use porta johns. They are \$67 a month. Mr. Dieffenbach wondered about using the soccer field bathrooms across the street. Director Hilvo said we would have to rent them for a higher rate. Director Hilvo received an email from school district informing him that they bought wind screens and since the department has a 50/50 agreement they need to pay for half which wasn't budgeted for. Mr. Dieffenbach inquired the price of the screens. Superintendent Westphal said about \$120 a piece. Director Hilvo stated around \$400 or \$500 to cover entire fencing around field.

NEW BUSINESS

Review Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management plan; and action thereon

Superintendent Westphal stated EAB was found in 2008 in Newburg, Wisconsin. At that time we had done a street tree inventory so we knew size and location of ashes. He received quotes from contractors in Southeastern Wisconsin of tree and stump removal prices. Of our 1,500 ash trees it would cost \$1.3 million dollars to remove. The Park's crew removes about 150 normal trees right now with help of DPW. The Council agreed the most economically sound plan would be to start prevention. They used \$70,000 in treating trees since 2009 to keep them alive. He is working on getting a park tree inventory. In January we confirmed EAB in the City in Westlawn Woods, which is a natural area that is not treated. The others in the area looked fine. It is safe to assume the whole city is infested. The EAB plan is based on information from DNR, other states and communities. It is important that we laid out our goals.

First we want to mitigate our impact to the tree canopy. It is going to change the way Cedarburg looks when they all start coming down. The canopy has economic benefit to the community as well. They provide cleaner air and are beautiful. It also ensures public safety by creating buffers along public use areas where dead trees need to come down immediately.

We need to prevent future catastrophic losses through species diversity. We will use a broad range of trees. Dutch Elm disease came and now we use four types of trees and ash is one them. Asian long horn beetle is out East and will eat a broad range of trees such as Maple. We have 42% Maple trees right now. We will try to convert to Norway Maples over time.

Our public Ash trees are not going to die in the next three years. Council member O'Keefe inquired about the cost being comparable of treating to losing our whole canopy. Superintendent Westphal said preserving the canopy is the best practice. Another method is preemptive removal, which means spending more money and losing trees before the insect is in the area. His job is to protect the urban forest. Chemical treatment is also another strategy. Grosse Pointe Farm in Michigan started treating their trees and extended their removal time. They had 95% success with the program which proved you can do it a municipal scale. Dieffenbach wondered about private land owners treating trees. Superintendent Westphal was unsure if they did anything for private land but the City contractor gives discount to city residents.

He is looking to promote and do updates on how to treat trees. John Lerand interjected about residents not knowing Ash trees. He suggested publishing pictures in the News Graphic and what to do for treatment. Superintendent Westphal said there is a section about public education and outreach in the plan and he is communication with the News Graphic. He also held a public informational meeting. Mr. Dieffenbach said to look at other communities and their public outreach. James Schara said to get grade schools involved and something to take home. Glenn

Harold wondered about putting something in water bills every month. Superintendent Westphal said the City website directs citizens to the information.

The existing parks staff has three people so it is hard to keep up with pruning. We are on an 11 year cycle. The ideal is five years. We have the equipment for removal, planting, and treatment but do not have the staff so he went back to contracting. Council Member O'Keefe asked about soil treatments. Superintendent Westphal said trunk injection saves a little money and gets more insecticide into tree. Our street trees are valued at approximately over 11 million dollars. There are over 400 vacant plantable sites. The goal would be to be at 100% stocked but we are at 94% right now. Just looking at the Ash trees they bring about \$150,000 of benefits to the City. He is hoping to get the park tree inventory done in 2015. Mr. Schara wondered if the DNR was doing anything on a statewide basis to help communities. Superintendent Westphal said they are providing matching grants for street tree inventories but have not held a single treatment seminar.

He recommends that we do a park and public inventory. The ordinance needs to be updated. Mr. Dieffenbach asked who does that. Superintendent Westphal stated he has done it for a couple years. He is currently reevaluating the cities trees and is about 2/3 of the way done. Ash removal will be the priority. The removals will be prioritized first by hazardous trees, then dead/dying, poor structure/condition, trees causing infrastructure damage, undesirable location, and lastly trees of undesirable variety. He had looked into a lumber company coming in for the Woodland property but found out it wasn't worth it for them to come and remove trees and harvest the lumber before they die.

Private property removals will be the responsibility of the property owner. The City will enforce removal if it is a public safety concern. The City may want to create a payment plan for this process. For several years woods has been taken to Kettle Moraine Hardwoods. He'd like to offer firewood back to the City residents if possible. At the new Public Works garage they would have a place for wood to be brought and for residents to take.

He said after EAB wipes out most of the City's trees he will be doing canopy replacement. Hopefully every tree cut down on public property will be replaced. To promote tree planting on private property Cedarburg Green has a planting sale every year to offer them cheaply to homeowners. He plans to maintain new and existing trees by pruning them twice a year in the first 10 years which takes away 90% of problems in the tree's lifetime.

Public education and outreach will be through the News Graphic, inserts in water bills, and public meetings. Mr. Lerand had more ideas such as publicizing it as often as possible in the News Graphic and get in the schools. Mr. Dieffenbach asked about Ash trees on Washington Avenue and if it were possible to identify them and have a display by it. Dave Polacek wondered about the school's Arbor Day program. Superintendent Westphal said he does something with the 4th graders at Westlawn every year. Director Hilvo said schools don't do newsletters anymore since it is all electronic, which many people don't bother to look at. He said he and Superintendent Westphal will have a discussion about how to best reach the public. Mr. Dieffenbach wondered whether trees that are infected are marked so people can go and look at them. Superintendent Westphal said they haven't found an exit hole yet that would allow people to go look at. Mr. Dieffenbach said to put a ribbon around infected trees so people can go look. He also stated that Superintendent Westphal should go to different groups and speak about the problem.

Superintendent Westphal hopes Council will adopt his management plan for the City. He will revise the education and outreach section. Mr. Lerand wants a simple emotional message to be used and get the word out. Director Hilvo stated he didn't want to mix Arbor Day with the EAB problem which could complicate things for Tree City USA.

Motion made by Mr. Dieffenbach, seconded by Mr. Harold, to adopt the EAB management plan but have additions in public education section. Motion carried without a negative vote.

REPORTS

Director of Parks and Recreation – Update on Projects

Director Hilvo reported that during Monday night's Council Meeting the naming rights for the baseball field at Adlai Horn Park was approved to be named The Grant Schoen Field. He stated there was a great turnout from public at the meeting. The Council also approved the \$1 per year lease for Willowbrooke for the Cedarburg Girls Fast Pitch Club. Meetings with a couple groups and grading of Midwest Athletics about grading the field at prairie view park. Will get cost estimates \$40,000 budget for athletic field development for that field. Kevin is making plans to plant trees along Wauwatosa Road to prevent balls or frisbees going onto the street. Porta john were delivered to Cedar Creek and Adlai Horn Park. Select Baseball has their first game against West Bend this weekend. The soccer goals at Cedar Pointe have been removed and will be moved to Georgetown Park.

Next Meeting

May 7th, 2014 at 6:30 PM

Recreation Supervisor – Update on recreation programs

Director Hilvo stated that Maggie Bultman is at lifeguard training class to become certified to teach lifeguard certification. The Easter Egg Hunt is next Saturday at Cedar Creek Park. She is also working on receiving donations for archery equipment. Forever Ozaukee County is willing to put an amount into it. Men's and women's volleyball is done. She is starting pool preparation and hoping for things to warm up to get things done. May 17th will be the start or staff training for the summer pool employees. Maple manor swing sets are ordered and she is working with Kevin on the install date. New customer service staff was notified and papers sent out to the four new employees. Lifeguard interviews are coming up in the next few weeks. She is looking to hire eight new guards. New programs coming up are Yoga, Yoga by the Pool, Youth Soccer, ages 3-9 Cheer Camp, new Form and Fitness Boot Camp, and a Father's Day dads swim free at the pool event.

Mr. Dieffenbach wondered about the field use by the cemetery. Director Hilvo stated that it was misused so we do not offer sports activities there anymore.

Superintendent of Parks & Forestry – Update on projects

Superintendent Westphal stated the parks crew removed sledding hill fences and working on the restrooms to be opened up. There is some ball diamond maintenance and boulevard shrub

maintenance to be done as well. A lot of tree work is getting done since there has been no snow for awhile. The crew completed pre-construction pruning a few weeks ago and went back to do cycle pruning in Willowbrooke. He is also busy with removals of trees and surveying the trees on the treatment list. He has also been working on the EAB plan and public informational meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mr. Dieffenbach, seconded by Council Member O'Keefe, to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.
Motion carried without a negative vote.

Ellen Beck
Parks, Recreation & Forestry Assistant