

**PARKS, RECREATION AND FORESTRY BOARD  
October 7, 2015**

**PARK20151007-1  
UNAPPROVED**

A regular meeting of the Parks, Recreation & Forestry Board, City of Cedarburg, Wisconsin, was held on Wednesday, October 7, 2015 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 6:40 pm.

Roll Call: Present - James Schara, Glenn Herold, Scott King, Dave Polacek

Excused- Council Member Mitch Regenfuss, Terry Wagner, Craig Rausch

Also Present - Director of Parks, Recreation & Forestry Mikko Hilvo  
Recreation Supervisor Maggie Bultman  
Senior Center Director Carol LaFontaine  
Parks, Recreation and Forestry Assistant Ellen Beck  
Council Member Rick Verhaalen

**STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made by Glenn Herold, seconded by Dave Polacek, to approve the minutes of the September 2, 2015 meeting. Motion carried without a negative vote with Council Member Regenfuss, Terry Wagner and Craig Rausch excused.

**COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS FROM CITIZENS**

Council Member Verhaalen stated that he would like to see the Youth Flag Football leagues not use the mesh jerseys anymore.

**REPORTS**

Director LaFontaine stated the Senior Center is sponsoring a program on October 14 regarding power of attorney with attorneys from Ozaukee County. There will be a panel of experts talking about the issues seniors may face. She has been trying to get more volunteer van drivers and has sent requests to local churches and put up posters in the area in hopes of finding someone to cover shifts, in case a regular route driver is unable to drive. She also stated that an art class with a new instructor started today with a full class.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Consider Allowing Dogs on all City Park Walking Paths on a Leash; and Action Thereon**

Director Hilvo stated that over the years there have been several requests for the allowance to walk dogs on park paths and he has noticed citizens already doing that. It is time to consider or look at the possibility of allowing it or not. They would not be allowed on the park areas or playgrounds. There would be new signage put up. They would not be allowed during festivals or Summer Sounds because the paths need to be open for emergency vehicles, if need be. Summer Sounds has contacted him and stated they would like their events to be more dog friendly. He has had four emails stating they are for the allowance and one phone call against it. He recommends allowing park staff to have some sort of way to give tickets/fines to citizens not following the rules regarding picking up after their pet. If we decide to not allow dogs on City park walking paths, we need to start enforcing it. As a whole our park system is considered unfriendly to dogs.

Donna and Robert McElligott, W59 N380 Hilbert Ave, stated throughout the country dogs are allowed in parks and they are in favor of it. They always pick up after their dogs.

A citizen stated that many communities in the Milwaukee area allow dogs in parks. It is not impossible to do it in a way where everyone is happy. As a dog owner, she gets angry when people don't pick up after their dog. She thinks a heavy fine and park personnel to report it would work.

Council Member Verhaalen stated numerous people suggested raising the fine price to be detrimental.

Donna stated that doggie bag stations have been extremely successful in parks. The dog park in Grafton has them in their park.

A citizen stated they would like to enjoy the park with their dogs.

Council Member Verhaalen stated that people are already doing it. Some people are aware that it is not allowed and some are not.

Director Hilvo suggested a trial period. He would continue doing research and monitor the dogs in the park. The Department would also budget for an enclosed dog park later.

A citizen noted that the dog owners in the Community would be willing to sponsor the dog park.

Director Hilvo stated it does make sense for the Community to have one, so the citizens do not have to drive to get to the park.

Scott King stated Washington Avenue is dog friendly. Community wise it is open to leashed dogs. Having the doggie bag stations in the park would be good. The Community is changing and becoming more dog friendly.

Council Member Verhaalen stated the Board could consider going off paths but to make sure the fine is substantial.

Director Hilvo stated there is one safety concern, considering not all dogs are friendly he wants to stay away from allowing them in high traffic areas such as the baseball field.

Jim Konowalski, N70 W7254 Bridge Rd., stated he is totally opposed to dogs walking through parks. That is what dog parks are created for. He has been a dog owner and trainer. His dogs were trained to go in a specific area but not all dogs are like that. He recommends making it a six foot leash requirement. He noted if someone isn't there to enforce the rules it won't stop anyone from not picking up after their pet. He also stated retractable leashes should not be allowed as dog owners continue walking while their dog is out of their sight.

Donna stated the downtown businesses are very welcoming to dog owners. It adds to their business and the friendly atmosphere of Cedarburg. This would be a step further along that path. There can be irresponsible drivers who don't stop at crosswalks but drivers aren't banned.

James Schara stated he lives across from Cedar Pointe Park and he notices people do not pick up after their dogs in that area sometimes. We can never guarantee people to be responsible and pick up after them.

Scott King wondered if there have been any fines or tickets given.

Director Hilvo stated no there have not.

Glenn Herold wondered who would enforce the law. He sees citizens letting their dogs run through Willowbrooke Park. He does not have a problem with them walking their dog in the park but thinks a shorter leash is better.

A citizen stated people leave garbage or throw benches in the Creek but you cannot ban kids from the park.

Glenn Herold stated that if there is any change it would need to be enforced since it isn't at this point.

Council Member Verhaalen suggested changing the ordinance to a six foot leash and that he doesn't see a difference between walking their dogs on the park path or the sidewalk.

A citizen stated she has seen a lot of ordinances having playground areas off limits and they should always be leashed throughout the whole park.

James Schara also mentioned that summer camps take place in the parks.

Director Hilvo stated using a six foot leash on just the paths on a trial basis could work. If the program does not work and causes more issues the City can pull back. There needs to be a discussion with the Police Department regarding what happens next with park personnel being allowed to enforce and issue tickets.

Council Member Verhaalen stated the current ordinance states adults can report an incident to the Police Department.

James Schara wondered what the rules were for the bike path.

Director Hilvo stated dogs are allowed on bike paths. There is a posting of rules on the path. There are also lots of garbage cans in parks to alleviate the issue.

Motion made by Glenn Herold, seconded by Scott King, to approve the allowance of dogs on park paths with a six foot leash. Motion carried with Glenn Herold, Scott King and Dave Polacek voting in favor and James Schara opposed.

**Consider Creating an Off-Leash Dog Park at Zeunert Park; and Action Thereon**

Director Hilvo stated he will be looking into finding a better location for a dog park.

Item is tabled until further notice.

**Consider Recommended Park Rental Fees for 2016; and Action Thereon**

Director Hilvo stated he is looking to raise park rental fees. The last time they were raised was 2012. It is another source of revenue for the City. He is proposing a slight increase and would need final approval from the Common Council.

Glenn Herold asked how much money the City receives for rentals.

Director Hilvo stated they collect about \$5,000 - \$6,000. This year it is over \$6,000.

Motion made by Scott King, seconded by Glenn Herold, to approve the recommended increase in park rental fees. Motion carried without a negative vote with Council Member Regenfuss, Terry Wagner and Craig Rausch excused.

**Director of Parks and Recreation- Update on Projects**

The next Parks, Recreation & Forestry Board meeting will be on November 11, 2015.

Director Hilvo gave an update on the band shell. They are looking at a completion date at the end of April or early May. They found asbestos in the facility so there was a delay on destruction for a few weeks. The top will be off within two weeks. There will also be a few trees removed for construction. Director Hilvo and Superintendent Westphal inspected the trees and found they were quite old and were not in great shape. January 2016 will be the start of the construction for the new building.

Stump removals were completed last week by the crews. They are preparing the Prairie View field and there has been additional topsoil brought in for it. They will dormant seed the area so it begins to grow in spring. The field should be ready for use in mid-June of 2016.

The playground at Prairie View is also completed and looks great.

The Department has been working on geese control in the parks, using the dog silhouettes, and it has been working.

This winter the ice rink at Cedar Creek will not be open due to the band shell reconstruction. The crews will continue to plow the ice at Boy Scout Park for ice skating use this winter.

Director Hilvo stated that this is Assistant Beck's last week and he thanked her for her time at the City.

**Recreation Supervisor- Update on Recreation Programs**

Superintendent Bultman stated the men's and women's volleyball leagues started this past week. There are six women's teams and four men's teams. There is an upcoming Fall Costume party being held at the Community Center Gym on October 21, for children ages 0-5. She is trying to find someone to do face painting and there will be a photo area, snack and craft station, and Lenny will also be doing a magic show. Thanks to the Junior Women's Club's generous donation for the event the fee is now waived.

Youth basketball registrations are still being accepted. There will be no draft this year and Superintendent Bultman will make teams in the Recreation office like other recreation programs do in the area. The rules will also change a little. The skills testing will still take place.

Water Fitness and Total Body Fitness classes have begun. The head instructor, Janis Gralewski, stated that Curves in Thiensville recently closed and some new people have joined City programs due to their closing.

Superintendent Bultman has started a sponsorship program for the youth basketball leagues. For \$75 a business can sponsor a team and have their logo on the team jerseys.

Adult basketball registration is still coming in and there may be a few new teams this year.

Flag Football ends this Thursday.

Director Hilvo stated since the Council gave approval to seek sponsorships, he has sent out letters informing area businesses of the Departments sponsor levels and has received \$3,000 so far.

**Superintendent of Parks and Forestry- Update on Projects** - None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Glenn Herold, seconded by Scott King, to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.  
Motion carried without a negative vote with Council Member Regenfuss, Terry Wagner and Craig Rausch excused.

Ellen Beck  
Parks, Recreation and Forestry Assistant

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