

CITY OF WEYAUWEGA
RECREATION COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS
APRIL 12, 2022

The Recreation Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Chris Gunderson at the Weyauwega Municipal Building Council Chambers at 6:05 pm. Roll call was taken. Members Present: Chris Gunderson, Shani Appleby, Cameron Looker and Citizen Members Frank Zaborj, Tim Potratz and Andy Rosenwinkel. Not Present: Citizen Member DeAnna Volz. Also Present: Mayor Jack Spierings, City Administrator Jeremy Schroeder, Clerk Rebecca Loehrke, Mary Jane Baehman and Dewey Stelzner.

Motion Gunderson, second Appleby, to approve the March 8, 2022 Recreation Committee minutes. Motion carried with all "ayes".

Citizen Appearances: Gunderson asked Baehman if there was an update for the group at the park during Horse & Buggy Days. Baehman did not have an update but will try to get more information for the next meeting like how many people will be there and the exact location in the park where they want to set up.

Playground Equipment Install and Prep Update: Schroeder reported that the equipment will be installed on May 18th. The site prep work needs to be done by May 11th for inspection. The city will need some assistance with the zero grade accessibility. Schroeder reached out to Waupaca County Highway Department because of our agreement with them to see if they can assist with clearing the area for the zero grade. Waiting to hear back from them. The old equipment has been removed except for the multiage unit. Lee Recreation doesn't think the unit will be salvageable once removed because all of the brackets will need to be replaced and the poles can't be bent. Public Works would still like to try to save that piece of equipment. City staff will do whatever it takes to get the area ready to go by May 11th.

Discussion and possible action on Playground Donor Recognition: Schroeder updated the committee on the donor list for the playground equipment. The City is still waiting to receive a \$10,000 grant. Once we have that grant we are only short by \$7,000. Schroeder asked how we want to recognize all of the donors. Does the committee want signage similar to the one at the kayak launch? Lee Recreation also has different options for signage in their original proposal to look at. Committee members should bring ideas to next meeting.

Discussion and possible action on Lifeguard Wage and Incentive Comparison: Information on area wages was included in the packet. The City cannot compete with private businesses but we are at the low end for wages of surrounding municipalities. Currently the starting wage for lifeguards is \$8.50 with a 25 cent increase each year they return. Head Guards receive an additional 50 cent increase and if the guard is WSI certified they receive an additional \$1.00. Other area communities are at \$9.00 or \$9.50 to start. Committee feels it would be appropriate to bump the starting wage up to \$9.00/hour. *Motion Gunderson, second Appleby, to raise the starting lifeguard wage to \$9.00/hour. Motion carried with all "ayes".*

Discussion and possible action Private Swim Lessons: Schroeder wanted to discuss how private swim lessons were done in the past and how they now will be done moving forward. In the past if someone requested a private lesson that individual would pay the lifeguard directly for the lesson. The lifeguard would not note it on their time sheet. Moving forward lifeguards will now list the lesson on their timesheets and payment is included in the daily receipts of the swim lake. The guard needs to document their time on the timesheet to be covered by insurance.

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Dog Park Planning Discussion: Schroeder provided the committee with a lot of information he found out on what is needed to develop a dog park. The location that was first talked about near the swim lake will not work. It is way too small. Recommendation is to have 5 acres but some municipalities have gone as small as 2 acres. The smaller area you have the more problems you get. You need enough space for dogs to run and the grass to grow. He was told to be prepared for lots of complaints and a working relationship with the Police Department. Appleby said Waupaca has a lot of regulations to follow on their dog park. Gunderson mentioned that her son goes to a park that you have to pay an annual fee and then receive a swipe card to enter the park. The biggest problem is finding enough land to have a park and we would be going outside the City limits at this point. ZaboJ would like to see a "Friends of the Park" group created to see if there is enough interest even to continue. Rosenwinkel will look into creating a Facebook group to get feedback from.

Discussion and possible action on June 18th Park Renaming Ceremony: Schroeder reported that the renaming of the City Community Park to Maasch Community Park was approved at prior meetings. The rededication will take place on June 18, 2022 which is the 50th anniversary of Dr. Maasch starting the creation of the park. Dr. Maasch was then chairman of the park project. What would the committee like to see done at the ceremony? The Historical Society will also be recognizing their new sign that day and has asked the High School Band if they would be available to play. Idea of offering free swimming was suggested. Maybe the Historical Society can do an ice cream social. The committee would also like to recognize the new playground equipment that is being installed. *Motion Gunderson, second ZaboJ, to have the renaming ceremony and dedication of Maasch Community Park on June 18th. Motion carried with all "ayes".* Schroeder will put together a schedule of possible events for that day and bring to the next meeting.

Discussion and possible action on Warhawks Community Wellness Booth: The Wellness Booth was brought up in discussion at the last meeting. Is this a good fit for the committee to participate in? There was a list of criteria to meet and the City doesn't have anything to sell, give away or be interactive. Appleby suggested holding something at City Hall that fits better to promote the City recreation opportunities and other organizations and businesses in the area. The committee decided not to participate this year in the Wellness Booth.

Discussion and possible action on Fireworks Quotes: Stelzner spoke on the quotes for a land show and water show. The City would receive more shots for a land show than water. A water show is very difficult to put together. The people that work the Weyauwega show volunteer their time and donate their pay back to use towards more shots for the show. Loehrke mentioned that she could not get a quote from Fivestar Fireworks which the City has also used in the past. They couldn't fit the event in their calendar so wouldn't even submit a quote. Stelzner would like the committee to reconsider where the show would be held. A land show is a much better display and cleanup is easier and faster than on the water. It doesn't matter to the City which way to do the show because the City staff will have work to do either way. Loehrke will have to check with the Waupaca County Park department to see if the fairgrounds is even available for July 3rd. *Motion Rosenwinkel, second Looker, to move the fireworks show on July 3rd back to the fairgrounds contingent on availability. If unavailable it will stay on the water. Motion carried with five "ayes" and one "nay".*

Administrator's Report: Schroeder report on the following items:

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- The new pier had to be relevelled due to ice and a tree stuck under it. Schmidt Boat Docks came out and helped relevel it.
- Public Works will pressure wash the kayak launch and the road.
- Faulks Bros leveled the stones in the swim lake. Will be filling the lake next month.
- Received a call from the school district that they need more ballfields for a JV softball tournament on May 14. They will be using the field at the City Park.
- Public Works staff is busy cleaning parks and getting ready for summer.
- Looking to install a small shelter at the kayak launch like what the library installed. Schroeder has a sponsor for the shelter and will work on the purchase and installation of it.

Set next meeting date/time: The next committee meeting will be scheduled at the Council Re-Organizational Meeting held April 19, 2022.

Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law: Zabojski asked if restroom facilities at the kayak launch were still in the works. Schroeder said yes with the construction of a public works garage but the timeline is probably a few years yet.

Motion Gunderson, second Zabojski, to adjourn at 7:08 pm. Motion carried with all "ayes".

Recommendations to Council:

1. Recommend to raise the starting lifeguard wage to \$9.00/hour.
2. Recommend to have the renaming ceremony and dedication of Maasch Community Park on June 18th.
3. Recommend to move the fireworks show on July 3rd back to the fairgrounds contingent on availability. If unavailable it will stay on the water.

Rebecca Loehrke
City Clerk