

Board of Park Commissioners' Minutes
Wednesday, June 26, 2019– 6:30pm
City Hall, Meeting Room 2A

Meeting Called to Order at 6:50 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Mayor Tom Hartz, Park Board President: Ann Esarco, Park Board Commissioners: Barbara Philipps, Dave Quickel, Brian Olsen, Obdulia Alvarez.
Excused: Peggy Schneider, Meaghan Madden-Van Dyke

Aldermen Present: Alderman Straube, Alderman Dunn

Staff Present: Neil Waswo (DPW)

Public Present: Elizabeth Sanchez, Cynthia Perez, Mary Jo Fesenmeier, Dick Malmin

Introduction of New Board Member: Chairman Esarco welcomed and introduced Obdulia Alvarez to the Board.

Approval of Minutes from prior meeting: Motion by Phillipps to approve minutes of May 22, 2019 as presented, second by Quickel. Motion carried unanimously.

Acceptance of Board of Park Commissions Fund Report: Motion by Hartz to accept Finance Report as presented, second by Olsen. Mayor discussed that the \$15,000 committed to the Never Say Never program was kept in the Park Fund and not the Park Impact Fees. The result is that the new equipment needed for Vets Park would be unfunded. The Mayor will address the issue with the City Attorney and bring the idea back for the next meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Comments from public limited items on the agenda. Comments shall be limited to 5 minutes:

Mary Jo Fesenmeier – referenced an advertisement that the Friends of Hillmoor placed in the Lake Geneva Regional News. The advertisement stated that the City should make Hillmoor into a park. She noted that this idea would be best for the City as a whole. She finished her presentation with, “Now the city needs to have the developer on board.”

Dick Malmin – referenced the Hummel Property and the lawsuit that resulted from the Comprehensive Plan designation. He called it Contract Zoning and that the City was sued for it. He further stated that the owner of Hillmoor did the same thing; sued the City and now the insurance company has made a deal with the developer and the result is contract zoning again. He further noted that the Park Plan has designated Hillmoor as a park.

Staff Report:

- Mosquito spraying will commence on June 27 weather dependent.
- Street Superintendent Waswo said that he would bring the 5-year Equipment Replacement Fund report to the Board next meeting.

- Habitat for Humanity meeting was postponed. Gary Dunham was unable to make the previously scheduled meeting.
- Waswo noted that the newly hired part time staff and that they have been a great asset to the department.

New Business

- Westgate Tot Lot – N. Waswo presented the pricing for the proposed new equipment which would total \$7,900. Motion by Quickel to approve the purchase of the noted equipment for a price not to exceed \$7,900, second by Phillips. Passed unanimously.
- Recycling in the parks discussion – Chairman Esarco asked if the Board wanted to consider recycling in the parks. N. Waswo suggested that it wouldn't work for the following reasons: high cost of special containers, doubling the labor cost because the work would double, and the users of the park would fill the recycling containers with garbage. Alderman Straube asked if other communities were successfully recycling in their parks. No decision was reached. The item will be placed on the next agenda for follow up.

Park Plan and Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Implementation Process:

- Four Seasons – The Board discussed the Park Plan recommendation for Natural and Open Space Areas. For 4 Seasons, the plan recommended that the City should consider an archery range or other appropriate recreational facilities. The other appropriate recreational facilities discussed were cross country skiing, picnicking, wetland observation from board walks through the park, unsupported camping, drone launch ports. Of most concern was personal safety. The Board suggested more than one entrance and perhaps lighting. Lastly, more signage was recommended. In the bigger picture, as the Park Plan suggested, 4 Seasons could be a piece of a larger "Green Belt Corridor" around new growth to the south.
- Hillmoor Heights – disqualified because it is in Lyons Township and landlocked.
- Veterans Park – the Park Plan proposed that space should be reserved for additional playing fields rather than space consuming Special Use Facilities. The discussion was robust. A full size ice skating rink and pickle ball courts received good support. It was decided that Avi Mor from the YMCA should be invited to the next meeting to offer his perspective on scheduling Vets Park.
- Dunn Field – review new baseball diamonds. Ice Castles was discussed as the Plan Commission followed up on the plan.

Alderman Requests

- Amendment to Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for additional bike paths along Wells. The discussion centered around the idea of the YMCA moving next to the state park. Perhaps water and sewer would be closer.
- Safe Routes to School funding application - Mayor reported that the school district would not support such a proposal. They invested too much time and money getting

children onto a bus. The program is a federally funded effort to identify and construct paths and walkways to school.

- Central/Dennison tennis courts – Alderman Straube stated that a system should be developed to prevent the gravel from the playground leaching onto the tennis courts.

Future meeting agenda items –

- Safe routes to schools (how close or far do students have to live from the school to ride the bus?)
- Funding projects for 4 Seasons.
- Veterans Park Ice Skating Rink and Pickle Ball Court
- Maple Park tennis courts
- Park finances – where should the \$15,000 funds reserved for Never Say Never live: Impact fees or Park fund? Mayor will speak to the City Attorney.
- A list of upcoming events coming to our parks.
- Printed agendas and minutes.

Motion by Hartz to adjourn the meeting, second by Quickel. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm

/s/ Mayor Hartz, Secretary of the Board of Park Commissioners

These minutes are not official until approved by the Board of Park Commissioners