

March 14, 2017 Park Commission Minutes

Present- Scott Warner (President), Alex Hintz (Vice-President), Kathy Burton (Secretary), Ed Willing (Trustee), Melody Schmitz (Commissioner)

also present- Tom Christensen (Village Administrator), Randall Solberg (Supervisor), SEWRPC Representatives: Nancy Anderson, Rob Robertson, and Ben McKay

1) Call to Order- The meeting was called to order at 7:02 P.M..

2) Public Comments- Martha Hutsick expressed concerns for the potential sale of Woodland Park with the East Side Community Center. She would like the Park Commission to keep control and ownership of the park.

Sue Schuit echoed Martha's concerns regarding Woodland Park. She also asked the Commission to keep the Nicholson Wildlife Refuge in consideration for capital expenditures and presented information for the Commission's review.

3) Approval of Minutes- Trustee Willing made a motion to approve the January 2017 minutes. Seconded by Secretary Burton. Motion carried unanimously.

4) President's Report - President Warner noted that the Commission currently has no information regarding the potential sale of the East Side Community Center and Woodland Park. He then went on to thank Randall for his hard work on the Bowling Fundraiser. He stressed spreading the word for our upcoming Golf Outing.

5) SEWRPC Parks Plan Chapters- SEWRPC Representatives presented the Commission with the first three chapters of the Parks Plan. Nancy Anderson went through them and went over the standards used to obtain the information. She informed the Commission that the minimum requirement to qualify for DNR grants is that the Parks Plan needs to be approved by a resolution of the Village Board, but that the Park Commission could choose to have it approved by the Plan Commission in addition to the Village Board and have it adopted into the Comprehensive Regional Land Use Plan. Secretary Burton asked if the land that the Caledonia Conservancy holds with public trails would impact the number of parks the Village is required to provide? Nancy answered that the land is taken into consideration, but the number is based on a needs analysis per capita and refers to public land. Trustee Willing asked if public and private trails are represented on the map? Answer: Yes they are. Tom Christensen asked if the 10% parkland requirement was a lot of land? Nancy agreed that it may be, but that 10% has always been 'the rule of thumb'. President Warner and Trustee Willing hope that this plan will ensure the ability to spend our impact fees where needed, obtain grants, and enlist a clear direction for future commissions. President Warner asked the Commissioners to bring ideas forward to the next meeting.

6) Supervisor/Maintenance Update- ***see attachment

a) Supervisor's Report- Randall has been working on the rooftops for the dug-outs. He reminded everyone that the work on the dug-outs is funded by our fundraisers. The

Gorney soccer fields are being seeded this year and will be playable next year. He talked about our upcoming golf fundraiser and prizes. He also noted that the Moose Riders will be holding a Poker Run and donating the proceeds to the Parks.

b) 2017 Projects- Mano Fencing has ordered the fencing and is 30 days ahead of schedule. President Warner asked Randall to get quotes for security lights at several parks. He also asked for quotes to side the shelter at Crawford Park.

c) Leagues- All of the teams are returning and there may be some new ones. The Tavern League may be putting a league together.

d) Expenditures - Trustee Willing made a motion to spend up to \$2,500.00 for initial supplies to start the leagues. Seconded by Vice-President Hintz. Motion carried unanimously. Trustee Willing made a motion to approve \$150.00 for uniforms for the Parks. Seconded by Commissioner Schmitz. Motion carried unanimously. Trustee Willing made a motion to begin the process of entering the 4th Fest (application, design, float, etc.). Seconded by Secretary Burton. Motion carried unanimously.

7) Budget Report- President Warner informed the Commission that there is currently \$301,494.26 in available impact fees.

8) Nicholson Wildlife Refuge Update- The boardwalk will be expanded. President Warner expressed concerns regarding water at the park. Commissioner Burton suggested talking to Tony Bunkelman, current Village Engineer who has a wealth of knowledge about the drainage issues in Caledonia and how to resolve them. President Warner would like to see some sort of gate at the entrance of the trail. Sue Schuit talked about boundary markers to define NWR and private property.

9) 5 Year Capital Improvement Plan- President Warner asked the Commission to think about what things we would want to include in a Capital Improvement Plan. This would also tie into our Parks Plan (such as concession stand with bathrooms at Gorney Park, etc.). Tom Christensen made the point that the Capital Improvement Plan would help the Village Board prioritize items during budget time by keeping them aware of the needs of the parks and eliminating surprises. President Warner would like the list by July.

10) New Business- none

11) Communications and Announcements- President Warner briefly talked about items he's forwarded to the Commission -- outdoor skateboard park, a splash pad, and the 'Trees we love' dedication.

12) Adjournment- Secretary Burton made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Schmitz. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted By: Kathy Burton

2017 Parks & Recreation – Jan/Feb Summary

January

New laptop – working on recovering lost files. This will be my challenge throughout the year.

New Web Site- added photos to all the park locations. I also contacted our “friends of the parks” for information on their organization to also be added to the web site. Once we receive their information we will remove RYS information because they are not Caledonia.

River Dawgs youth baseball has requested to use our Gorney diamonds for practice one night during the week. Last year the Racine Belles U14 group did practice on Wednesday nights along with the weekend mornings. They understand we are trying to grow our adult leagues and if we do not have enough teams for league play we will allow them to practice on the fields.

Adult softball/Kickball information is out. Last year teams are all returning and we have several new teams looking to join.

Bowling Fundraiser: I would like to personally thank the commission members who took the time to help support our fundraiser with donations or came to the event to help or participate in the event. This was our 3rd year and we did raise money to improve our field conditions for our friends of the parks. This was our lowest year for bowler turnout. Big Bother-Big Sister raises \$20k this year that is with bowler pledges and many local businesses as corporate sponsors. Gangl has been doing a fundraiser for 12 years and with a committee of 20 they fill the back room with 200 raffles baskets and the lanes with 350 bowlers. They raise \$12k this year at The Lanes on 20.

I know I shifted our fundraiser to be more to benefit our youth baseball and youth soccer organization which are both a 501c3 nonprofit group. This helps with qualifying for more opportunity with local businesses. Caledonia Baseball applied for the Kohl’s Community Volunteer program which brought 5 employees to help our event along with a \$500 Donation to the organization which will be earmarked to purchase a fence guard for one of the diamonds at Crawford Park,

I will work with our organizations to plan next years event so there is no conflict with registration being on the same day as our event or have registration at the bowling alley. Hope this will bring more parents to the fundraiser.

Our next fundraiser is Golf at South Hills on August 6. We are working with Dixon Golf Company for bring more excitement to our event. Dixon Golf is an Arizona –based company that created the world’s first high performance eco-friendly family golf balls. There will be an opportunity for a hole in one shot to win one million dollars at the Fiesta Bowl Million dollar Hole in One. I will be working on our promotional flier so we can get our out soon. I think with moving our event to August will allow more golfers to see our event. The first week of June may have been too early in the season.

SEWRPC – 2/22 They have finished the first 2 chapters of the park plan and hoping to complete the 3rd by our meeting on March 14.

2017 Parks & Recreation – Jan/Feb Summary

February

The boards for the new picnic tables that were purchased last fall are sanded and ready from painting when the weather permits.

Crawford Park Dugout roofs project which is funded by our fundraiser. The frames for the one diamond are built and ready to be installed onto the fence. We need to wait for the wood to dry before we can paint the green treated lumber.

The trash cans with our “friends of the Parks” logo are painted. I need to finish painting the baseball stich on the domes. I hope to have them completed soon.

Mano Fencing has ordered our new fencing for Gorney Park ball diamond. This is 30 day ahead of schedule to the mild winter. They are planning on installing this next month.

I will be preparing to install the old player benches from Crawford Park to Gorney Park. I need to cut and remove the old concrete from the post so I can install at Gorney Park.

Pending the weather for March my goal is the ball fields; otherwise, I will be building the boardwalk sections for NWR. As we know it will be very wet during the spring so pending that will decide when they can be added to the board walk.

Racine Spartans – working on grade plan – contacted Gateway Tech. There is dirt holding at Parkview development.

Future planning:

What are we going to for the Crawford shelter? Painting or siding

Request the land east of Crawford Park for park expansion – High Priority

Finish Painting Gorney Shelter under the roof area on upper shelter – not complete do to funds w/lawnmower

Repaint all posts on lower shelter – woodpecker did a number last fall on all post.

Repaint floor in outhouse – walls are OK only the floor.

4th of July Parade -

Additional parking at Gorney Park east diamond.

Shingles for Linwood Park Shelter.

Playground area at lower Shelter

Invasive aquatic weeds at Gorney Pond

Outdoor Fitness Equipment

Oak Creek Recreation – wondering if we would like to co-op trips for 50+ age groups.

Need to work on capital expenses for Board.