

**MAY 24, 2017 PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF EDGERTON**

Chairperson Jonathon Frey called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Committee members present were Jonathon Frey, Paul Davis, Ken Haagensen, Russ Jorstad and Bonnie Slagg. Denise Langan was excused. Karen Jackson was absent (Karen resigned her seat before the meeting started.) Also present were City Administrator Ramona Flanigan, Public Works Director Tom Hartzell and many citizens.

Flanigan confirmed that the meeting agendas were posted on Friday, May 19, 2017 at the Post Office, Edgerton Library, and City Hall.

ELECT CHAIR: A Haagensen/Davis motion to nominate Jonathon Frey as Chairperson passed, all voted in favor. Jonathon Frey abstained.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A Jorstad/Haagensen motion to approve the February 22, 2017 Parks & Recreation Committee meeting minutes passed, all voted in favor.

DISCUSS SOCCER FIELD IMPROVEMENTS AT RACETRACK PARK:

The Edgerton Youth Soccer Association would like have a soccer field that is not used for parking. They would like to install a fence/barrier at the edge of the outfield of the minor league baseball field to allow better use of the space for soccer. The barrier would prevent cars from driving on the field. The Committee discussed two options for the location of the soccer field and barrier. A map was provided to show the two options (see attached). The first option is to put the field north/south. This option is entirely on land that is not leased by the Conservation Club. The other option places the field east/west. This option uses land that is already being used by the baseball program and a portion of it is on the land that is leased by the Conservation Club. Option two would leave more area for the parking lot to be enlarged and requires less grading. The Soccer Club would pay for the upgrades to the field and the barrier.

Lisa Hanks, 150 Sterling Dr., Ms. Hanks supports the east/west option for the field. She believes that this option would not require any removal of trees. She stated that either field would impact the Soccer Club's ability to have a field that is not impacted by parking for events at the park such as the tractor pull. She also feels that the east/west option would benefit everyone because it would allow for additional parking to be used by the park patrons as well as the Conservation Club.

Josh Jackson, 6497 County Road F. Josh is the Vice President of the Conservation Club. His concern is regarding the map that was distributed. He feels that the lines that were presented to show the land leased by the Club are incorrect. Ramona Flanigan stated that the lines on the map were drawn according to the mapping on the Rock County mapping system and the platting records. Josh feels that the parking lot near the Conservation Club was too narrow to begin with. During a Conservation Club event they overflow that parking lot. They have been saving and would like to expand the Club with the city's permission. They do not have an anticipated time line for those improvements.

Krista Kim, 1224 Leslie Dr, felt that everyone needs to consider the number of children that come out with their families. She felt that any sports that can be provided in our parks help keep kids active and this improvement to the soccer field would be one more way to keep kids moving.

Todd Westcott, 1822 W Lois Ln., Mr. Westcott is a coach with the soccer club. He supports the east/west option for the soccer field. He stated that the east/west option would allow for at least 2 additional rows of parking. Ramona stated that the amount of space available with this option would almost double the amount of parking already available. Mr. Westcott stated that the Soccer Club has grown from 105 children to 406 children since it's inception. He feels that everyone needs to think about the 406 children that are affected by the decision.

Bonnie Slagg asked why the kids could not go to other parks. The club stated that all of the space that has already been designated for soccer is being utilized. There is no other park that is big enough for a regulation field. Jonathon Frey asked what the long-term plans are for the field if designated.

Dean Wanless is the High School Soccer coach and is also a driver for Rite Way bus company. He agrees with the Conservation Club regarding the parking lot by the Conservation Club building. It is too narrow for a bus to come in and turn around. The current field in the north side of the park by the tractor pull has a lot of settling because of the stream. The club also has continuous costs and labor that goes into repairing the fields after the tractor pulls or other events in the park where parking is allowed on the field. He feels that soccer gets the short end of the stick when it comes to facilities. He compared it to other municipalities that support their soccer program. He feels the east/west location would help with the settling and the fence/barrier would prevent cars from parking on the field. The field would be something the program would be proud of. Mr. Wanless stated that future plans would most likely be lights and nets behind each goal.

Josh Jackson brought up the subject of the property lines on the map. If the lines were correct, it shows part of the trap shooting range is not on their property. The current map shows that about 30 feet of the Conservation Club property would be used for the soccer club. Mr. Jackson is stating that it could be more land that is being requested. He felt the land should be surveyed and the lines should be verified. The lot lines included in their lease show that lot 6 extends farther out than the maps presented shows. All of the maps used to create these boundaries were available for the committee and citizens to inspect, and the boundaries were drawn using everything available to staff. Mr. Westcott stated that the east/west option benefits everyone.

Jonathon asked about the soccer schedule. Mr. Westcott stated that the park is used mostly on Saturdays from 8:00 – 5:00 with games staggered throughout the day. Most of the games are in the mornings. Ms. Hankes reported that they have 28 teams for about 8 weeks. She gave a list of how many teams at each age level and how many home games they play. They are utilizing all the facilities that are available to them.

Paul Davis raised the question about paying for the parking lot. Tom stated that there would be no improvements made. It would remain grass but parking would be allowed. The Conservation Club would like to see the city hire a surveyor before any decision be made.

Wendy Loveland, 449 Leslie Dr., stated that she agrees that parking is a real issue. She stated that parking is the worst before 11:00. The youth soccer kids are usually all out of the park by that time. People need to understand that it is a park and there is no way that we can accommodate parking for all patrons at all times of the day.

Andrew Aelson, Wood View Crossing, he is a coach for soccer but also has kids in other sports. He said that it doesn't matter what day you are there, at this time of year our park is busy and parking is a big issue.

Mr. Jackson said we should not be trying to cram more stuff into this park. He said there is just not enough room. He feels that the Conservation Club is getting pushed out. He thinks that the city needs to look at other options for these programs. The city has other land in their industrial parks that could be used.

Jonathon asked how confident the staff is on the dimensions on the map. Ramona stated that she used all of the resources available to her to indicate those boundaries. All the measurements match up. Ramona said a survey could cost around \$1,000 depending on the complexity of the survey. Jonathon feels the committee should move forward with a survey to verify the lines.

A Frey/Davis motion to hire a surveyor to find the line between Lot 6 & 8 passed on a 4/0 roll call vote. Bonnie Slagg abstained.

2017 PROJECTS:

Bird and Tree City USA: The Committee was given information that was taken from the internet about what it takes to be a tree city or bird city. The cost of becoming a tree city would be require a budget amount of approximately \$11,000. Ramona felt we could come up with that amount with the budget we already have for our ash borer program. The only downside is that we should be replacing more trees than we are cutting down and that would require the cost of the trees. There may be some grants available. The city is already doing some of the requirements but there is not an official committee established. The Committee asked for staff to gather some information from other communities that are involved in the Tree City program. They decided that the Bird City USA program is too complicated at this time.

Isometric workout circuit equipment: We received a request from a citizen to have some isometric equipment in some of our parks. Preliminary estimates of the cost of a wood system is \$6,000 for a 10 piece set and \$17,000 for a metal 5 piece set. Russ felt that it shouldn't be the city's responsibility to provide this equipment. Bonnie thought the money could be used for other projects.

Multi use trails: Maps were provided for the committee to outline the connection of the city trails to make a trail system that can be for all types of use. Grants may be available for the development of these trails.

Parks Tour: A Frey/Jorstad motion to have a parks tour on June 21, 2017 at 5:00 pm passed, all voted in favor.

DISCUSS MERMAID CLASS:

A citizen is interested in offering a mermaid class at the city pool. She would take all the registrations and has her own insurance. She would rent the pool for an established rate. The cost of the rental would include use of our lifeguards. The class would be given in the upper pool. The classes would consist of around 10 swimmers.

A Slagg/Davis motion to approve a mermaid class at the city pool to be organized by Anne Gohlke passed, all voted in favor.

DISCUSS WAGE SURVEY FOR LIFEGUARDS:

Anne Gohlke gathered a wage survey of wages for the area lifeguards. Our wages are well below the average. Anne stated that she is finding it difficult to find lifeguards because of the low wages. She is competing with the other area pools. She would like to recommend a \$1/hour wage increase for the lifeguards.

A Jorstad/Frey motion to approve a \$1/hour wage increase for lifeguards passed, all voted in favor.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT: Tom stated that he spoke to Joe Mink from the school district. He is waiting for the lumber from the city so he can start the park signs.

Being no other business before the Committee, a Haagensen/Jorstad motion to adjourn passed, all voted in favor.

Tom Hartzell/wjl
Public Works Director