

## HARTFORD PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Wednesday, June 2, 2021

5:30 PM – City Hall Council Chambers

Present: Todd Rusniak, Ken Mikulec, Karin Buhle, Mark Kohnhorst, Todd Bultman, Scott Helms, Joe Kohler

1. President Rusniak called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM; "This is an open meeting under 19.81 to 19.98 of the Wisconsin State Statutes".
2. Approval of Minutes – **MOTION BY** Buhle, seconded by Kohler to approve May minutes.  
**MOTION CARRIED**
3. Informational Monthly Staff Reports – Reviewed.
4. Communication and Correspondence – None
5. Appearances / Public Comments –
6. Old Business – None
7. New Business

### ADMINISTRATION

New Appointment Introduction – Ken Mikulec was introduced to the Commission as the newly appointed Commission member.

Eagle Service Bench Lookout Project – Executive Summary – Scott Wuest, Eagle Scout candidate, met with staff about his interest to complete a park bench project. He plans to raise funds and install a bench next to the footbridge to the east of Rotary Park. The bench will be positioned next to / on the former bridge abutment which will provide a nice overlook of the river. In addition, Scott will incorporate a hard packed surface from the exiting asphalt trail near the bridge up to the new park bench.

Aldersperson Kohler questioned if a safety railing would be required. The Director will investigate that.

Commissioner Helms asked Scout how he planned to raise money. Scott commented he may take the funds out of his Eagle Scout account and if additional funds were needed he'd likely have brat frys.

**MOTION BY** Kohler, seconded by Helms, to approve the Eagle Scout Project and add railings/fencing to the plan if safety regulations call for this safety feature.

### **MOTION APPROVED**

2022-2026 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) – Executive Summary – The Director presented the 5-Year CIP Project as it will be presented to the City Administrator by July 9<sup>th</sup>. In addition to the current CIP as approved last year, the Director shared a list of new CIP projects. Most of the CIP budget items are park related with a few equipment purchases.

Concerning the new \$646,348 West Side Park Baseball Field/Site CIP item, Commission Kohler questioned if the High School, with their anticipated field renovation projects, would continue using this field for home games. Commission Helms, who is also the Co-Curricular Director at the High School, said that the High School does plan

to continue holding games at West Side Park. Commissioner Helms did ask if the replacing the dug outs would be in the City's budget next year. The Director indicated they were not.

Commissioner Bultman commented that he would like to see the \$100,000 Homestead Park development be moved from 2023 to next year but understood doing so would bump other projects for next year further out.

Commissioner Helms asked if expanding the tennis courts for pickleball at Willowbrook was being added to the CIP. The Director said that in his discussions with a court developer, he was told the cost to add courts to that site, with clearing the area of trees, grading and such, it would be cost prohibited to add to the site there. It would likely be less expensive to add another site somewhere else in the city for pickleball / additional tennis courts.

Applicants Needed – Park maintenance, building maintenance, pool concessions and umpires are still needed. A few applicants we planned on hiring did decline the offer due to higher wages elsewhere. Staff will be reviewing wages for next year as they work on the operational budgets in the coming weeks.

### **RECREATION PROGRAMS / ACTIVITIES**

Summer Playground Camp Registration Report – Registrations are going well. The first session will reach the required 35 youth. The last session is looking well and staff is confident the other sessions will continue to get registrations.

#### **ADULT / YOUTH SPORT**

Youthball Report – All leagues are running and things are going well.

Tennis Lessons – First session of youth and adult lessons begin June 7.

Archery – This program is very popular and staff has added another class that has already filled. Staff will continue to look to add classes as the wait list is still long.

#### **AQUATICS**

Veterans Memorial Aquatic Center –

OPENING, OPEN SWIM, SWIM LESSONS - The pool did not open Saturday or Sunday of Memorial Day weekend due to weather but did open on Memorial Day. Monday was still a cool day and attendance was only about 150. The pool will not be open Tuesday through Friday of June 1-4 but regular season will begin June 5. Swimming lessons begin June 7.

##### **SPECIAL SWIMS**

Deck Art Days – June 10 - Kids can decorate the deck with chalk with lifeguard voting on the best art.

Father's Day Cannonball Contest – This popular event will be back this year on Sunday June 19.

KIDS MINI TRI – This event is back for kids ages 5-13. It will be held Saturday, June 26.

SUMMER SPLASH – End of School year event of swim, music, food and a few games for grades 3-5 from Noon – 3 PM and Grades 6-8 from 6-9 PM on Friday, June 4. With the hot weather anticipated, staff is expecting good attendance.

Signicast Family Aquatic Center – None

## **PARKS OPERATIONS**

### Parks Special Project Report –

Baseball South 2 Diamond at Independence Park grading and materials added

Installed three donated park memorial park bench pads

Equipment delivery pick up/ delivery for events (Car Show, Memorial Day, Laps for Logan)

Cemetery Grounds care leading up to Labor Day

Project coordination with Bryce Graef for Eagle Project– park benches for checkerboard at Woodlawn

## **OTHER REPORTS /COMMISSION REQUESTS**

Mark Kohnhorst announced that he will be moving out of the City and will be stepping down from his position on the Commission. Mark thanked everyone for allowing him to be a part of the Commission. President Rusniak thanked Mark for his time and guidance as a Commission member and a member of the Aquatic Board.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION BY** Kohnhorst, seconded by Bultman to adjourn at 6:27 PM.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Submitted by,

Mike Hermann and Sara Cummings

"Persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations for attendance at the meeting should contact the City Clerk at least one (1) business day prior to the meeting." Members of the Common Council may attend the above meeting. Pursuant to State ex rel. Badke v. Greendale Village Board, 173 Wis. 2d 553, 494 N.W. 2d 408 (1993) such attendance may be considered a meeting of the Common Council may attend the meeting without violating the open meeting law."