

Parks Committee Meeting February 16, 2009

James Rossol called the regular monthly Parks Committee meeting to order at 6:47PM in the meeting room at the Town Hall. Present were James Rossol, Kay Hanna, Mike LeClair, Pat Keehan, Douglas Smith and 6 visitors. Jolynn Reinhardt and Barb Anschutz were absent.

Clerk verified posting. Motion made/second Jim/Mike to accept the agenda. Carried.

Accept minutes – Jim had several corrections to the minutes from the joint Town Board/Parks Committee meeting on January 19. Clerk made corrections the next day. Motion made/second Mike/Pat to accept the minutes with the corrections. Carried.

Citizen input – Bill Becker spoke. He and Bob Schultz have some ideas for this year's County League home games. They're planning some type of special activity for each home game. They would also like to have a Parks Appreciation Day on July 12 with a whole day of sports activity at the Rec. Park. They'd like to start at noon. The A's play Sister Bay that day. They're hoping to get the Babe Ruth teams involved too. The Junior Legion would play at 5:30 and the Senior Legion at 7:30. Bill had also emailed Steve Johnson to see if it would be possible to incorporate a soccer game or two as well. It would be a good way to expose the park to a wide range of sports fans. The idea for that day was to forego collecting admission for the A's and posting signs asking for freewill offerings. They would also have the concession stand running all day. Some of the funds generated could possibly go towards playground equipment or various other things at the park. Jim R. suggested promoting this somehow, perhaps with a newspaper ad or flyers around town. Bill invited the Parks Committee to participate on that day. As for scheduling, the A's men's team generally practices Thursday nights at about 6. It can be subject to change if a Babe Ruth game happens to be scheduled.

Jim Parent asked to jump ahead to item five (review discussions from last month's joint Town Board/Parks Committee meeting) before continuing with Citizen Input. Jim P. explained that since the last meeting, he has talked to Bill and Bob and various other people throughout the county as to how ball teams are being run. There will be a 501c3 created for the ball team. This will take the franchise out of the Town's hands and will allow the Town to let that club run concession stands and take care of their money. Another thing it will allow is that anyone who makes donations to that club can write it off of their taxes. Jim P. created a flowchart, viewable in the 2009 minute book, which shows the separation between the groups involved. Bob will be handling all the maintenance aspects in regards to lawn mowing, fertilizing, etc. For field preparation, it may come to a point where the sports clubs wants to take over. The sports club would provide and maintain schedules and Doug will keep a master schedule on the website. They would also control anything having to do with concession stands. For the Parks Committee, they would help in the creation of the budgets. The Committee shouldn't have to worry about the day-to-day operations. Jim P. will be meeting with Randy Nesbitt to discuss the formation of the 501c3. Dave Tauber is also willing to lend a hand from an accounting aspect. Jim R. asked if the club would include the soccer and football

teams. That will be decided as things go forward and will most likely be up to the different sports groups themselves. Jim Parent left at approximately 7:30.

Continued with Citizen Input – Steve Johnson spoke. He manages the Door County United Youth Soccer Team. He thanked the Committee for providing such a great facility. He also submitted a schedule for the season. There are 5 home games and quite a few practices. As for the July 12 event, they're going to look into scheduling a scrimmage or a friendly match against a Green Bay team for a noon start time. The home games are on Saturdays and Sundays and one Wednesday.

Back to Item #5 – Jim felt the meeting was very productive. He called the DNR as suggested by Dale Williams and talked to Carrie Webb. She explained what the timeline would be to get something approved. It would take one or two months to review the plans and another month for posting, for a total of three months. He mentioned the idea of a boardwalk and she immediately asked what the materials would be. Wood would be okay. She would also be willing to work with us on design and materials. What Jim proposed to Jim Parent was to get a plan together, even if it has to take two or three years due to budget constraints. Jim R. had some email correspondence with Jim Parent, viewable in the 2009 minute book. The result was we could do construction in two to three years, but we shouldn't hurry on the plan. We'll eventually be interviewing some landscape architects. They didn't have any money in the budget for construction this year, but we should be able to do the interviews. The goal should be to get the storm sewer in, finish the parking area and then make sure we have a plan in place. We should also talk to all the people involved with fireworks to see what their requirements are. Out of the landscape architects, we would interview them, pick the best one and then present it to the Board.

Discuss/decide lower Anclam Park plans and form a list of landscape architects – Mike Meulemans, president of the Baileys Harbor Community Association, spoke. The BHCA has some concerns, because the jetty is the only place in town where the 4th of July fireworks can be shot off from. The cost of bringing a barge over would be extremely prohibitive. He explained that the reason there are so many fire personnel out there is in case fireworks would blow inland, or if a similar situation to the Sister Bay fireworks explosion would occur. The Association is urging to not go with wood for a boardwalk. Concrete or gravel would be better. Jim questioned whether the jetty is really the only place. Mike M. explained that the Marina wouldn't work because of the boats and gasoline tanks. The only other spot would be the county beach on Ridges Road and the way the wind generally comes from that time of year, would blow the fireworks right over the Ridges Sanctuary. Jim feels we need to put our heads together to satisfy the needs of the fireworks display while still providing something permanent on the jetty for people to enjoy in the future. As for the technicalities of the fireworks display, Kevin Peil would be a good contact. There may be a possibility of putting some sort of permanent fireworks station out there. One of the plans from years past showed a boardwalk off to the side, possibly leaving enough room for vehicles to go down the other side. If we explained the situation to a landscape architect, they should be able to work with it. It would also need to be disability accessible. Jim went online and looked

up some landscape architects for the State of Wisconsin. The companies Jim felt looked pretty good are Buettner and Associates, Inc, CONTEXT, LLC and Schreiber/Anderson Associates, Inc. Locally, there are a lot of landscape contractors but no landscape architects. It doesn't cost us anything to invite them up. We should also talk to some of the local landscapers. We should contact all three of the architects and try to get them up here on the same day and give them an hour. Pat will make the calls.

Set date for March meeting – We will interview local landscapers on March 24. We'll interview Bridenhagen, Meissner, Lakeshore, Green-Side Up and McKeefry-Yeomans. We'll start the meeting at 4:00PM. We'll have another meeting on March 31 to interview the architects. Pat will determine the time after talking to them. Pat will make all the phone calls.

Discussion on rough drafts of park descriptions for website – Jim came up with some verbiage. He will also go out in the spring and take some nicer pictures of the parks. The Parks he included were Anclam Park, Kendall Park, Yum-Yum Lakeview, Lakeview, Schoolhouse Park and the Rec. Park. Yum-Yum Lakeview will be changed to Mid-Town Lakeview. Will also change description to something along the lines of “tucked just 100 yards East of Bluff Road on Lake Michigan.” A few other minor changes were made to the Rec. Park description. Other than that, the descriptions look good. Jim will make the changes to the documents and then email them to Doug. Mike Meulemans will also place on the BHCA website.

Discuss/decide letter to be sent to managers/main contacts of teams that use the Rec. Park – Jim came up with a rough draft of the letter. Instead of just saying “scheduling is on a first come, first serve basis,” we'll say “scheduling is on a first come, first serve basis, but we will work with you to minimize conflicts,” or something along those lines. Jim feels that even though we've started getting schedules in, we should still send this letter out, if only for a PR purpose. Kay will find contact information for the Tavern League softball teams. Mike L. will work with Doug on getting the letters out within the next few weeks.

For the next regular meeting, we'll explore the different options for free promotions, like the various community bulletin boards with TV stations, etc. BHCA would also like to talk about using some room tax dollars in the Town parks.

Motion made/second Mike/Jim to adjourn at 8:29PM. Carried.

These minutes are subject to correction at the next regular monthly Parks Committee meeting.

Douglas Smith
Town Clerk