PORT WASHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

OFFICIAL BOARD MINUTES

DATE: January 13, 2011  LOCATION: Parks & Rec Office

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson L. MacRae at 6:30 PM

A. Members present (P), absent (A) or excused (E): MacRae_P Klotz_P Babcock_P Kinas_P Lemkuil_P Farnham_P Voigt_P Deal_E Johnson_E

Late: B. Babcock (6:35 pm)

B. Motion by R. Voigt to accept minutes as presented.  Second by P. Lemkuil

Motion carried 6-0

C. Citizen Comments not on the agenda

• Kathy LeMahieu, of 429 Westport Drive, spoke in favor of the community garden. LeMahieu stated she felt that the location in Westport Meadows Park is not used and a community garden would be a good use of that land

D. Old Business:

A. Elected Official’s Report

• Ald. Babcock spoke with City Administrator Mark Grams about not allowing dogs on the South Beach. Since the beach is not owned by the City, all governing rules must be agreed upon by WE Energies. Subsequently, dogs will be allowed on the South Beach, provided they are leashed

B. Planning Commission Rep report

• Nothing Reported

C. Director’s Report

• Reviewed and Submitted
• Staff reported that the Polar Express event sold out and was a phenomenal success. This year the event will be coming to Port Washington. Staff is trying to determine a location and is also considering possible format changes. Event was also a great collaboration between communities, including Grafton and Cedarburg
• Staff reported that the new, replacement John Deere tractor is in and not a moment too soon with snow in the forecast
• Staff reported that pickleball is a tremendous success and have extended hours to accommodate participants
• Staff is planning to run concessions, in-house, this season at Pirates’ Hollow Community Waterpark. Vendors have been contacted to solicit bids for equipment and product
• Staff reported that the second group (K-3 grades) has started as part of the Hometowne Basketball League. This group will be at Lincoln Elementary

D. Revisit Discussion on Community Garden

• Derek Strohl (765 W. Melin) spoke in front of the Board with follow-up information regarding the community garden

 One of the main issues was the possibility of providing water to the site. Strohl was investigating the cost of having a plumber run water to the site from existing lines
• Staff reported that the Department has two containers available that hold approximately 500 gallons each. Staff felt this would be a great money-saving alternative
Strohl said he would like to look at them and assumed they would work
Board Member Lemkuil asked if the containers could be fashioned to catch rain water. Staff believes they can
Strohl also reported that a fence was necessary to prevent animals from unauthorized harvesting and also to deter vandalism
Staff reported that garden would have to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
This would require an accessible path to the garden as well as plots
Path could be made of a crushed, compacted aggregate
Slope in park exceeds ADA standards and would also have to be addressed
In response to concerns of vandalism at the garden, Strohl suggested involving high school students and the apartment tenants so that those that are of normally high risk of performing vandalism would be involved
Strohl conducted an informal survey of residents in the vicinity of the proposed garden
Out of 100 questionnaires sent out, only 5 responded
2 respondents thought it to be a great idea
2 respondents thought it be a horrible idea and wanted the park to remain quiet
1 was concerned with an increase in vandalism as a result of the garden
Some teachers at Dunwiddie School, as reported by Strohl, were in favor of the idea
Strohl reported that he is in the process of forming a community garden planning committee
Staff suggested that it should be considered to have long-range commitments by the committee members. Volunteer group members are typically most involved with the initial stages of projects; however, as time goes on, they become less and less committed
Staff feels this could be an issue down the road in regard to proper management of the garden, if not addressed
Board Member Babcock asked Strohl how many plots he is planning for the garden
Strohl stated approximately 80 to 100 plots with sizes of 10 feet by 20 feet
Babcock suggested less initial plots, around 20, and smaller sizes approximately 5 feet by 10 feet
Strohl will keep investigating and follow-up with the Board when he has more information

E. New Business:
   • Nothing Submitted

F. Any Other Business That May Properly Come Before the Board
   • Nothing Submitted

G. Motion to adjourn by S. Kinas. Seconded by M.A. Klotz. Motion carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Ann Klotz
Secretary