

TOWN OF GRAND CHUTE  
PARK COMMISSION  
May 2, 2011

Minutes

Present: Petersen, Feest, Ward, Boeckers, VanBuecken, Haag, Hagen

Also Present: Marquardt (DPW), Thyssen (TB Liaison), Sherman (Retiring member), Karen Weinschrott (Town Clerk), Chuck and Kelly Neuman, Cindi Thaldorf, Tracey Rigstad (GC Girls & Boys Softball)

Vice Chairman Feest called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. By consensus, the agenda was amended to allow discussion of girls and boys softball agenda items first since those representatives needed to leave.

VanBuecken moved to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2011, meeting as written. Petersen seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

Ms. Weinschrott, Town Clerk, administered the oath of office to new commission members, Joan Haag and Joy Hagen following their introduction.

Old Business #6: Review of GC Girls Softball Concessions Plan for Carter Woods Park: Ms. Rigstad reviewed the plan and rent agreement which was approved by the Park Commission in Fall, 2010. Girls' Softball is purchasing a refrigerator and storage cabinet (both lockable) to provide a limited menu of snacks and soft drinks during games. Tom Marquardt (DPW) will be the contact person for this program.

Retiring Commission Chairman Bruce Sherman gave a brief overview of Commission work over his 20+ years as a member. He described how the commission does policy and oversight work and directs employees in completing projects. He referred to the 5 Year Plan and philosophy of decisions being made on the idea that "what's good for Grand Chute" being "the bottom line."

Officers were elected for the following year. Elected, each by unanimous vote, were:

Chairperson: Donna VanBuecken

Vice Chairperson: Brian Feest

Secretary: Martha Ward

REPORTS

*Park Maintenance:* Mr. Marquardt reported that the crew is working to open park shelters, that there has been no damage in the last month, and Mark Arft is still on leave following his injury and surgery.

*Greenways:* Feest reported on a pending Department of Justice ruling regarding motorized vehicles on public trails, the current study of the JJ Corridor by East Central Planning, a Trails for Tomorrow workshop to be held on May 19, trail maps being printed and the need for funds to support new projects.

*Parks/Public Works:* Mr. Marquardt reported that Megan Garvey was hired to be a summer recreation program assistant. (The remainder of the report is covered in New Business and Old Business discussion.)

## OLD BUSINESS

*Internal Trail Design Discussion:* Mr. Marquardt stated that he met with a representative of the Outagamie County Highway Department and presented an estimate for the cost of constructing (excluding planning) the trail portions contemplated for Patriot Park and Prairie Hill Park. Discussion included the participation of Town staff (Mr. Marquardt) in planning the layout. Ms. Haag moved, seconded by Ms. Petersen and Ms. VanBuecken that Mr. Marquardt work with the county representative to formulate a design and cost estimate for the trail portions in Patriot Park and Prairie Hill Park to be presented to the Commission at the June meeting.

### MOTION CARRIED.

*Tourism Organization Grants:* Those present discussed the commission's interest in encouraging tourism related grants to support the GC Father's Day Softball Tournament and requested that staff work to facilitate this. Mr. Marquardt will discuss this with Kevin Vonck.

*Westfest Grounds Use:* The future use of the *Westfest* grounds and role of the Park Commission in planning for this was discussed. Mr. Boeckers moved, seconded by Ms. Haag, that the Grand Chute Planning Commission be requested to develop a plan/vision for the *Westfest* grounds and surrounding Town property and refer it to the Park Commission with recommendations for study and possible future action.

*Crossing/Easement of the Canadian National Railroad on Town Property:* Mr. Marquardt stated that he had asked a representative of the CN Railroad about accessing a crossing in the town for a planned bicycle/pedestrian trail. No agreement was reached on obtaining a crossing. Mr. Marquardt will continue to pursue obtaining a crossing agreement and will contact the Railroad Commissioner and the Wisconsin DOT. This item will be on the agenda and discussed at the June Park Commission meeting.

*Eagle Scout Project Update:* Tyler Much has installed benches on the boardwalk in Arrowhead Park according to plan. When he has completed the total project, the Town Board will formally recognize him at a future meeting.

## NEW BUSINESS

*Request for Upgrade of Dugouts by Grand Chute Softball:* Mr. Neuman discussed the request and a plan for upgrade of dugouts, asking the Town to work with Grand Chute Softball to achieve the improvements at Patriot Park. Ms. Ward moved that staff and GC Softball develop a plan and cost estimate for presentation at the next Park Commission meeting. Mr. Boeckers seconded. MOTION CARRIED. Mr. Marquardt will be the contact person for the Town and will contact with Mr. Neuman to arrange a meeting.

Mr. Neuman also requested that his organization use Patriot Park on Friday and Saturday, June 17 and 18 for a baseball tournament. He will work with Mr. Marquardt to schedule this.

*Future Use of Lecker Park Property:* Those present discussed the Lecker property history (town dump) and the constraints of development. About 25 acres (of 40) might be developed, but it is not considered appropriate for mountain biking due to its flat surface and having development constraints. VanBuecken moved that the Park Commission have a "walk about" of Lecker Park prior to the July meeting of the Commission (5 p.m., July 11) and invite the Town Board members to join them. Petersen seconded. MOTION CARRIED. This will be on the June

agenda and further planning will be done at that time.

#### TOWN BOARD LIAISON REPORT

Mr. Thyssen discussed the Justice Department ruling regarding trail use by motorized vehicles, the town room tax possibly being used to raise funds for trail and park development and calls he has received regarding this idea. He also mentioned possible future cooperation between high school construction classes and the town on building work for park shelters.

#### CHAIRMANS REPORT

No report at this time.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

Copies of e-mail information sheets on internal trail construction (highway) and mountain bike trail information and plan for park shelter opening (Heling) were distributed by Mr. Marquardt.

#### NEXT MEETING AND AGENDA

The next Park Commission meeting will be held June 6 at the Town Hall. Members should contact Chairman VanBuecken with additions. The agenda will include the following:

- continued discussion of the visit to Lecker Park on July 11 (inviting Town Board members)
- discussion of staff providing more information regarding the ramifications of a 2% raise in room taxes rates
- the Canadian National Railroad Crossing negotiations, internal trail design and construction plan and cost estimate
- tourism organization grants
- Westfest grounds future use
- GC Softball dugout upgrade plan and cost estimate

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 6:40 p.m. Boeckers moved for adjournment. Petersen seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Martha Ward, Secretary

#### DATES TO REMEMBER

Softball Tournament: June 16-18

Westfest: August 20

Town Board Recognition of Tyler Much:

Summer Playground Program Start:

*Calendar information is also available on the town website [www.grandchute.net](http://www.grandchute.net)*