

Park Committee Meeting Minutes **October 25th, 2017**

The Park Committee meeting was called to order on Wednesday, October 25, 2017 by Chairwoman Sandy Thompson at 4:07 pm at the Onalaska Town Hall, N5589 Commerce Rd., Onalaska, WI 54650.

Members present: Supervisor Sandy Thompson, Chris O'Hearn, Al DeBauch, Ben Bockenbauer. Members absent: Josh Storaandt, Supervisor Jerry Monti, Annette Winchell

Motion by Ben Bockenbauer to approve the agenda. Second by Chris O'Hearn, Motion passed unanimously (MPU).

Motion to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2017 meeting by Al DeBauch, second by Ben. MPU.

Discussion and possible action regarding appointing a new Secretary to the Parks Committee

Secretary needs to get minutes to clerk within 5 days of meeting. Other committee members present both stated being new to the committee, they'd not be interested in taking on the additional duties at this time. Chris will continue at present, seeking interested members next month.

Status report on tree planting in Apple Valley Park

The town board accepted the committees recommendation, and to keep the amount near the recommended \$6,000 outlay, (including warranty and maintenance / watering contract), they selected 15 trees. Around 3 varieties of 5 types of trees. Bids were sought from Trees Today and Cottage Grove, Cottage Grove declined to bid, Trees Today quoted a higher amount of money, with smaller trees. Christian Farms bid of \$6,024 was accepted, with install this year. Trees are all around 2 inches in diameter, and around 12 feet tall. They are in-stock, to be installed closest to the ball diamond per neighborhood request. Town Crew has removed some mounds of debris from the removed trees, holes remain. Christian Farms will contact when trees are installed. Additional trees are hoped to be installed in the future.

Status report on any available grants, sponsorships or donations for parks equipment, trees or facilities

Nothing new to report. La Crosse Area Foundation Baseball Fund due in December. No report from Josh re: Altra Sponsor of Tennis Court. Members are asked to keep aware of available grants. It was noted the ball-field is size and usage is appropriate. Used by Holmen Youth Baseball program. The field size it suited for ten and under.

Discussion and possible action on contracting the hauling of sand from Swarthout Park

Town received donation of sand from Angry's Way Out former volleyball court. "New" sand is on site. Town Chair Rolly Bogert reported JDP Trucking estimate for removal and hauling of old sand \$100. Town crew will load, and can install "new" sand. Motion by Ben to contract for Swarthout Park volleyball court sand removal not to exceed \$200. 2nd by Chris. M.P.U.

Discussion and possible action on slide at Meadow Heights Park, W6073 Evergreen Way

Mower noted sharp edge on slide. Also noted previous mowing grass still on slide (show little use). Chris reminded committee of recommendation from previous study, repair vs. maintenance of older possible non-compliant equipment. Members will inspect, attempt to involve neighborhood residents regarding options for park.

Discussion and possible action on Park's Committee budget request for 2018

Current budget is \$39,000 annually. Not likely to increase due to levy limits. Currently \$29,000 spent as of Oct. 10th. Cemetery budget is \$2,000, \$187 spent as of 10/10. Sandy is requesting the YTD ledger of the Park Budget. Committee would like to know maintenance expenses (mowing, chips, Etc.) vs. available capital. Noted capital needs include tree removal and replacement at numerous parks, outdated equipment. Town has approximately 6 small cemeteries, by statues, must maintain if there are no caretakers.

Discussion and possible action on removal of 2 trees from Asbury Cemetery

Dave Gramling has a rental property on County Road ZZ, adjacent to the cemetery. 2 large trees on the lot line, extending onto his lot. Trees have been discussed before by Board, Dave is having pieces of the trees damage his property, and he has incurred expense. He is willing to contribute \$300 towards their removal. Trees Today will be working in Swarthout Park on ash tree removal, they would be able to remove these trees for \$1500, presumed to include restoration to the ground. Motion by Al to accept the \$1,200 outlay by the town (+\$300 by Mr. Gramling), provided the scope of work includes complete removal, unless another less expensive bid is found before the Swarthout Project. 2nd by Chris. M.P.U.

Adjourn

Motion by to adjourn by Al, 2nd by Ben. M.P.U.

Respectfully submitted by Chris O'Hearn, Secy. Parks Committee