

Park Committee Meeting Minutes  
January 31st, 2018

The Park Committee meeting was called to order on Wednesday, January 31, 2018 by Chairwoman Sandy Thompson at 4:04 pm at the Onalaska Town Hall, N5589 Commerce Rd., Onalaska, WI 54650.

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

Motion by Jerry Monti to approve the agenda, second by Chris O'Hearn, Motion passed unanimously (MPU).

Motion to approve the Oct 2017 minutes with any necessary corrections by Jerry, second by Sandy Thompson. MPU.

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

No action. Other committee members present stated 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 any available grants, sponsorships or donations for parks equipment, trees or facilities

No update. Sandy unable to get together with Mary in Dec. re: La Crosse Area Foundation/ Zielke Grant, presume no progress, but will check with Mary. Was due in Dec. No other word on any potential sponsorships.

Discussion and possible action on assessing tree purchase needs for town parks

Sandy: Assume Swarthout; Jerry: Sobkowiak trees are all ash, slated for removal; Al: Apple Valley adequate to skip a year to assess new plantings, no resident planting. Good feedback from residents re: new plantings; Chris: Lake Park has no trees, not heavily used. Sandy: Maybe Swarthout won't have a need, still many trees, Jerry, Sobkowiak may only need 3 trees to start with. Possible plan to establish schedule of yearly tree purchase, distribute to needed areas, possible deals with vendors with early request.

Discussion and possible action on development of long term schedule for tree maintenance / replacement

Again, working with a vendor, pick a number of trees to replace for the season, allow them to do at their schedule for a mutually beneficial arrangement. Motion by Chris to talk to tree vendors about establishing a potential long term relationship with a vendor for regular tree maintenance at times at places that are advantageous to the vendor and town. Second by Jerry. MPU. Noted that an appropriate deal would be entitled to sponsorship signage.

Discussion and possible action on information in regards to possible tree purchase from Green Tree Nursery in Plover, WI

Information from Mary. Noted working with an out of town vendor may present challenges. Postponed to future meeting.

Discussion regarding Park's Committee budget for 2018

Budget cut drastically. 2017 budget was \$39,000 annually. \$29k spent by Oct., likely spent by year end. Cemetery budget was \$2,000, \$187 spent as of 10/10. 2018 Budget \$25,000 for parks, \$1500 for cemeteries. Need to verify mowing is properly charged to cemeteries. 2018 will present real challenges to accomplish park improvements after mowing expenses. Possibly future discussion re: town may have too many parks. Noted during incorporation discussions, land area devoted to parks was barely adequate. Incorporation not a concern at this time. Process to vacate park in involved. Rental income from shelters should be coming into the park budget. Al: Committee needs to know "fixed costs", mowing, chips, etc. YTD ledger not obtained yet, Sandy will seek from Mary.

Discussion and possible action on creation of ice skating rink in Roth Park; including but not limited to installation, maintenance, removal, and cost

Great idea, Roth has water. Explore for next year, likely too late this year. Likely only need snow pushed up, water fill from spigot may be inadequate for fill, possibly fire department assistance for initial fill. Put on future agenda.

Discussion and possible action on possible creation of a dog park on Brice Prairie

Town Land at the end of Fox St. Also Landfill possible location. Expense would be fence and waste containers. Parking at the neighborhood possible issue- hard to tell use. Noted numerous requests, generated from public. Sandy to solicit public comment/ neighborhood input. Committee members noted other dog parks are frequently busy. Sandy also to contact La Crosse/ Onalaska to examine other needs not thought of. Possibly start with snow fence as temporary trial. Great opportunity for sponsorships. Will keep on schedule for future discussion.

Discussion and possible action on rental shelter amenities

Jerry: Refrigerators needed? Horseshoes or volleyballs provided as part of rental? Town crew inspects shelter before and after scheduled rentals, could plug in/ unplug. Jerry will look into obtaining a couple fridges at no cost.

#### Discussion and possible action on shelter rental rates for 2018

Chris noted review of provided list of surrounding municipalities rental rates shows town resident rates seem inline with surrounding areas, non-resident rates are low. Also possibly provide opportunities for reserving non-enclosed shelters. Crew could post reserved sign, verify tables are in place and reasonably clean. Website does mention availability of shelters. Jerry noted Holland rates are \$60, town should match? Chris noted keeping the resident rate static is a nice gesture, Jerry felt people would pay an additional \$10 if they want the shelter. \$75 may be too steep of an increase. Chris noted Onalaska rates with more amenities are \$50/\$60. Motion by Chris, 2018 Enclosed Shelter Rates of \$50 for residents, \$100 for non-residents. \$50 cleaning deposit remains. \$25 resident \$50 non-resident for open air shelters noted to have potential. Second by Al. Sandy: Additional discussion, obtain refrigerators for enclosed shelters. MPU.

#### Discussion and possible action on ordering of park playground chips for 2018

Circle Inc., Certified Playmat Chips \$26/ yard. No chips ordered in 2017. Usual order is \$2000. Jerry noted most chips in most parks have not been straightened out in years. With the displaced chips, unknown how much is needed. Just adding more chips without replacing doesn't accomplish a thing. Other chip products noted cheaper, likely need certified playmat chips for play area, unknown if required. If not, town has chips from brush pile. Jerry would like to see the existing chips straightened out before making an order. Minimum order is 80-110 yard loads. Sandy to inquire with vendor, and Holland. If committee has other vendor ideas, please provide.

#### Adjourn

Motion by to adjourn by Jerry, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Al. MPU at 5:23p.

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